

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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25¢

Heppner, Oregon



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	precip
Tues., April 3	57	41	.03
Wed., April 4	53	44	.17
Thurs., April 5	51	32	.07
Fri., April 6	58	33	Trace
Sat., April 7	59	38	.38
Sun., April 8	50	33	Trace
Mon., April 9	49	39	.03

## Hager Park asset or hazard (?)

### Neighbors of park vocal about need for fence



Willow Creek flowing through Hager Park

Parents living across from Hager Park cite extreme fluctuation of waterflow from Willow Creek Dam as the prime reason for their request to the Heppner City Council for a fence along the portion of Willow Creek which runs through the park. Marcia Anderson, one of the neighbors of the park, says that it was only coincidence that a girl fell into the creek near the other city park the same day that they presented their request to the city council. The two events, she says, were not connected. Heppner mayor, Cliff Green, explains that the Corps of

Engineers is calibrating the gates on the dam so that they will work automatically in the future. He says the surges of water pass through the gates making the water level in the creek suddenly very high. He understands that this process will continue for approximately two months. Green says that by the time a fence could be built, the Corps will have finished with the calibration process and waterflow would have returned to near normal levels.

Jerry Healy, one of the parents who presented the request for a fence along the 700 foot portion of Willow

Creek to the Heppner City Council a week ago Monday night, says that the dam is there, and when the gates are opened, water rushes through them. Since the Corps of Engineers will be regulating the gates for approximately two months, he is concerned the water level in the creek will change drastically within short periods of time all during the testing process.

Historically, the water level in the creek has been high for approximately a week to 10 days in the spring and then sufficiently lower the rest of the year. Now, with the dam, Marie Lane, another parent who was at the council meeting and who lives across the creek from the park, says that not only does the waterflow in the creek vary drastically now, but the possibility also exists that the waterflow may be high at other times of the year, not just in the spring. The creek is normally low in the summer; high water levels will not be expected at that time of year by visitors at the park.

Lane further points out that the creek bank is 30 feet from the park swings and that



Grass and weeds are overgrown along the banks of the creek.

while "No one will argue that parents have the primary responsibility to watch their kids, if you are watching several kids and take your eyes off one of them for an instant to push a swing for another one, it only takes a moment... why wait (to do something to make the creek less accessible to young children) until we lose a child?"

Marcia Anderson, who was also at the city council meeting says that the park's neighbors are not asking for an eight foot fence, but want "some sort of barrier to slow down younger children who are playing in the park." She emphasizes that they are concerned not only for their own children but for all who use the park. Anderson points out that children who live close to the creek are probably better informed of its possible danger than other children who don't live within walking distance but who come for the day and have not seen the swiftness and rapid changes in depth of the water, or who do not realize how easily the bank which is overhung with grass and undercut by the creek, can give way.

Both Anderson and Lane point to the park as an asset to the community which is pretty and is used by a large number of people. They are concerned that people who do not use the park regularly, but just come for an afternoon may not realize that the water level can change so rapidly. They say that the Corps of Engineers has considered fencing off a portion of the creek between the park and the dam and they have asked if the park portion of the creek can also be fenced.

If the Corps of Engineers is unwilling to fence the park, Anderson says that she thinks the city of Heppner should recognize its responsibility to help make the park safer for everyone.

Although other possibilities have been considered, such as asking the Corps of Engineers to release the large amounts of water in off hours or at night, Healy says that a cyclone type wire mesh fence which would be more expensive initially than other fence types but would require less future upkeep would probably be the best choice. He says that the parents requesting the fence recognize the fact that some kids will go around any kind of fence that is constructed, but anticipate that a fence in the "Four to Six Foot range would probably be an adequate barrier for most kids."

Green says that the city is still officially considering the matter of the fence. He is in the first stage of the process which is to contact the Corps of Engineers to see what they are able to do about the problem.

The city, he says, will consider the fence only if the Corps is unable to provide a solution to the problem. Green is not certain that a fence will deter children from falling into the creek because "a kid who wants to get to the creek will get there even if able adults are watching" and a "fence will only slow down" those adults trying to rescue a child who has fallen in the water.

## DeVito heads County Mental Health Services



Joseph DeVito

Joseph DeVito, Ph.D. is the new director of Morrow County Mental Health Services. His first day at the office in Heppner was Monday, April 2. DeVito's degrees are in the field of psychology. He received a Bachelor of Science at Manhattan College in New York, a Master of Arts at Columbia University in New York and most recently a Ph.D. in 1978 at Georgia State University at Atlanta, Georgia.

Just prior to coming to Heppner, he lived in Norfolk, Connecticut for eight months. Before that, he was employed for one year as the director of a private practice at Edina, Minnesota.

DeVito considers the two and one-half years he worked as the director of Mental Health at Worland, Wyoming, probably the experience which most qualifies him for his current position. He says that he came to tackle a job similar to the one he had in Wyoming at a time when the

mental health center here has increased in staff rather rapidly during the past year. He generally supports the direction which the changes in the mental health program seem to be going.

He describes the director's job as one of both counseling and administration; however, "nobody ever gets into this business because of administration," he says.

He states the goals of the mental health program as trying to help people to become more of the kind of person which they would like to be, with some control - for example, a counselor would not help someone to want to become a better criminal, but would try to suggest alternatives and help him identify good ideals.

DeVito describes his specialty as counseling psychology, both individual and family, which includes personality assessments testing and clinical interviews evaluations.

DeVito and his wife Gail, who has previously taught the handicapped, have three children, Jill, ten; Becky, eight; and Gary, one and one-half.

Although DeVito has only been in Heppner a short time, he says that already he "has noticed that Heppner is nicer when the sun is out," and that the "spirit of the people seems to be very friendly."

## McCaslin selected new Supt.

The Morrow County School Board has announced the selection of Doyle McCaslin as Superintendent of Schools to replace Matt Doherty, who will be leaving the district July 1.

McCaslin will assume his duties with the district on July 1.

McCaslin has degrees from Yuba College, California, and Southern Oregon College, and received his administrative training at the University of Oregon. He is currently the superintendent of the Glide School District in the Roseburg area.

He has been an English teacher at Riddle High School, curriculum director and assistant superintendent for the Glide School District prior to becoming superintendent. He has also served two years with the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C., and has received an award for excellence from that office.

McCaslin and his wife, Glenna, have three children, ages 18, 23 and 25.

In comments to the Board McCaslin has indicated that



Doyle McCaslin

he feels his broad range of work, including teaching, directing curriculum and administration as well work with

the U.S. Office of Education, provides him with the kind of background that he will draw on to lead the school district.

## Music Dept. spaghetti feed this Sat.

Saturday, April 14 the Heppner High School Music Department is sponsoring a spaghetti feed with a dinner show.

There will be three dinner seatings: 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. The entertainment will begin 20 minutes after each seating.

Reserve tickets are available from any high school band or chorus member. Some tickets will be sold at the door, but space is limited to the first one hundred per show.

Performers involved in the 13 acts to be presented are: Renee Struthers, Donna O'Neal, Matt Howard, Wanda

Riley, Beth Forrar, Christy Rathbun, Cindy Stroeber, Jay Love, David Florea, Jack Estberg, Leah Cooper, Merry DeSpain, Tom Hammon, Archie Lucas, Danny Fortenbury, Wendy Skillicorn, Steve Curtis, Trina Palmer, Don Christensen, Kitty Coon, Marion McMillon, and sixth grade volunteers.

Cost for the entertainment, spaghetti, homemade garlic bread, tossed salad, punch and coffee is \$3.50 per person or \$10 per family.

## Sheriff's office hires reserve deputy



Allen Burkenbine

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department recently placed a Reserve Deputy on active patrol duty. Allen Burkenbine, a Heppner resident, completed the required preparatory training and testing and spent his first night on patrol on March 24.

Burkenbine says that he will be on part-time active duty with the Sheriff's Office and continue as full-time produce manager at Central Market. He has been produce manager for five and one-half years. He

and his wife Raylene have a three-year old daughter, Amy. He is a 1976 graduate of Heppner High School.

Roy Drago, Morrow County Sheriff, said that to gain patrol status Burkenbine was required to complete Oregon Board on Police Standards and Training approved courses on Civil Liabilities, Report Writing, Use of Physical Force, Firearms training and qualification on the range. Reserve Deputies must also spend a minimum of 20 hours in the Dispatch Center to learn radio and teletype usage. Additional training will be required to maintain active status as a Reserve Deputy.

Reserve Deputies on patrol will ride with and assist regular sheriffs deputies in all phases of their work. At this time two additional reserves are in the initial training process. The Department is keeping the reserve program small at this time so that emphasis may be placed on organization and quality BPST approved training according to Drago. Anyone interested in joining the reserve program can obtain further information by calling the Sheriff's Department at 676-9910.

## Service clubs set finger printing clinics in Heppner & Ione

The Heppner Lions, Heppner Soroptimists and the Heppner-Ione AAUW in conjunction with Eastern Oregon Friends of Child Find are sponsoring a child fingerprinting project. On April 11 and 12, the above mentioned service clubs will conduct a voluntary finger printing session at the Heppner Elementary cafeteria rooms. The sessions will be held on school property, although the actual finger printing sessions will be conducted by the Heppner Lions and Soroptimists and the Heppner-Ione AAUW clubs. The program is strictly voluntary and the children must have their parents written permission to be finger printed.

The clubs ask that the children be brought in according to the following schedule: Children with last names ending in A-F from 5 to 6:30 p.m. April

11; children with last names ending from G-M from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 11; children with last names ending from N-S from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on April 12; and children with last names T-Z from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on April 12. It is requested that the children not be dressed in their best clothes or dressed in white. Finger prints taken will be given to the parents along with a child information packet to be filled out by the parents.

The Ione Extension Club and the Ione Lion's Club will be sponsoring a similar finger printing project in Ione, Wednesday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. William's Catholic Church basement.

Ione parents who are unable to bring their children at that time may call Jeri McElligott, 422-7257, for an appointment.

In the event that a child has disappeared or abducted it is essential that the police have as much clear and accurate information about the child as they can receive. Finger prints are a positive means of identification and a necessary part of each child's home identification file.

Prints taken and the information packet will be given to the parents of the child. Please understand that this packet and the finger prints are strictly for the parents - absolutely no finger prints will be kept by the police, school, or any other service clubs involved. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to assist in the project, contact Lonny Watne at 676-9125 or Bill Kuhn at 676-9141.