

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Heppner, Oregon 25 PAGES



Weather  
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., June 19	77	53	.12
Wed., June 20	59	48	.39
Thurs., June 21	61	43	.13
Fri., June 22	75	48	
Sat., June 23	83	54	
Sun., June 24	86	51	
Mon., June 25	89	55	

## Currin takes 1st in nation



Mike Currin

Mike Currin, son of Ron and Judy Currin, Heppner, won first place in steer wrestling

event at the College Nationals Finals Rodeo at Bezman, Montana last weekend. He earned the honor by accumulating more points in that event than any other competitors during the year.

For his efforts, he won a saddle, a silver buckle, a \$1,000 scholarship, a scholarship for \$1,500 for Blue Mountain Community College, and \$1,600 for himself from the jackpot event.

Mike, 19, a freshman at BMCC was "unaware that he'd won until they called his name," says his mother, Judy.

She says that it was a close event. "Mike's excited; the national championship is what they work all year to win. I'm thrilled. We have gone to quite a few rodeos and we always think they're champions, even if they don't win," she concludes.

(Several other local youth competed at the C.N.F.R. last weekend. Details about their performance will be published as they are made available to the Gazette-Times.)

## CBEC Board of Directors met June 21

months. Then, after approximately another month of government processing, the contract can be signed and Lopez Paving can begin subcontracting the right of way clearing and the fence building on the project.

The subcontracted work could possibly be done this fall and the crusher moved in to make the gravel for the project. It is hoped, McElligott concluded, that the actual construction can start next spring although it had previously been expected to begin this summer.

The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Inc. Board of Directors met Thursday, June 21, and approved a change from the auditing firm employed last year which had moved its office from the Hermiston area to a firm in the Pendleton area.

Also discussed at the meeting was the necessity of hiring a replacement for co-op attorney, Herman Winter. It was decided to interview several candidates to be certain to avoid any conflict of interest.

## North fork of Willow Creek Road Work may start in fall

Work could possibly begin this fall on the north fork of Willow Creek Road to Cutsforth Park said Morrow County Judge Don McElligott. The road has deteriorated and is full of chuck holes; it has been in very poor condition for the past several years.

The final design conference with the Public Works Director and the Bureau of Public Roads was held Tuesday, June 12, and contract negotiations are currently underway with minority contractor, Lopez Paving of The Dalles.

McElligott estimates that the contract negotiations will continue for about two

## Council approves testing of well

At a special city council meeting Tuesday, June 19, it was reported that drilling at the well on Pete Lennon's land has gone to more than 1,000 feet deep with apparently no more water coming into the well than the 135-150 gallons per minute which was tested at 893 feet.

"The decision was made to test pump and see what we have. If there is 150 gallons per minute or better, we will develop the well; if not, we will abandon it," reports Heppner Mayor Cliff Green.

Councilman Warren Plocharsky said the recently completed 24-hour test was not long enough. Jerry Branton, city engineer handling the project, said it would cost approximately \$4,000 to \$4,500 for a 48-hour test.

A one month extension of the option on the land cost an additional \$1,000. Buckner Pump Service will try to complete the additional test before the end of the month so the land purchase can be completed. The five and one-half acre site is costing the city \$15,000.

The new well will be for emergency use, but in a drought season it will add about 12 percent to the capacity of the present water system.

## Summer story hour scheduled

Story hour will be held this Thursday, June 28, 10:30 a.m. at the Heppner Library. All children are invited to attend.

Story hour is scheduled for the last Thursday of each month during the summer. It will resume its regular schedule of every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the fall.

## Park at Willow Creek Dam Construction will take longer than expected

Construction of a recreation park on the Willow Creek Lake near Heppner will take longer than anticipated, the US Army Corps of Engineers said last week.

Corps officials said construction of the campground and park facility, planned for the upper end of the lake, could possibly start in summer of 1985, however, they weren't making any promises.

The Heppner Economic Development Corporation, a non-profit group working toward development in the Heppner area, has been working on the park project for over a year, and members were not pleased with delays on the project by the Corps.

"Our patience is kinda running out," development cor-

poration President Jim Hayes told the gathered Corps officials. "We don't want to ridicule you, but we find it difficult to get anything done in a reasonable amount of time. We don't want to be put off."

Col. Bob Williams of the Corps' Walla Walla district office said the reasons for the delay are that a master plan for the park must now be developed before the corps can do anything.

Williams said his office originally tried to move ahead with the project without the plan and cut out some of the red tape, which he says didn't work.

"A year ago when economic development corporation came to us it was thought a campground would be beneficial," Williams told the crowd, which included Morrow County Judge Don McElligott, Hayes, Fish and Wildlife official Glen Ward, Heppner Mayor Cliff Green, and Tom Imeson of Sen. Mark Hatfield's Portland office.

"We discussed cost sharing, and you all agreed to share the cost. We did a rough layout to get a fix on costs, which looked to be around \$180 to \$200 thousand."

Williams said not much planning had gone into the park project, and that now a

long-range plan requiring public hearings and meetings in Heppner would need to be completed before the Corps makes any advances on the park.

The plan, which is expected to take four months to complete, would address all aspects of the project.

"We thought because of the cost sharing (The county agreed to provide labor for construction of the park) we could short cut that (long-range plan)," said Williams.

"We were over exuberant and we got stopped in our tracks. It caused some confusion here (in Heppner)," said Williams.

"We got stopped, not because we tried to renege on it,

but because we probably pushed to hard on your behalf," he said.

Work in the master plan for use of the lake has already begun, with a study group from the corps meeting at the courthouse in Heppner Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Concerning other aspects of the dam project, Corps engineers said the dam is still "seeping" at the rate of four cubic feet of water per second, down 95 percent following grouting work now completed.

The engineers said the leaking should slow down more as the dam calcifies over the years. "Structurally it's fine," said Williams.

On the irrigation subject the corps indicated there won't be any irrigation for at least two irrigation seasons. The irrigation issue will be held in abeyance while local farmers decide about forming an irrigation district, thus preventing anyone else from filing on the available water.

About rules for use of the lake behind the dam, Corps officials admitted there are no rules now limiting the size of boats or motors on the lake. Water skiers have been seen using the lake; however, this may change if rules against motors are adopted later.

Corps officials said by the end of September several contracts around the dam, including replacing the Alpha St. bridge, building a parking lot and boat ramp on the lake, completion of decking on the dam, and the flood warning system, will be completed.

The flood warning system will include 17 precipitation and temperature gauges and five stream level gauges, strategically located on Hinton, Shobe, Balm and Willow Creeks.

## New minister arrives at Heppner United Methodist



The Rev. Susan West

Thursday, June 21, the Rev. Susan West arrived in Heppner as the 40th pastor of the Heppner United Methodist Church.

The Rev. West was appointed to the church here during the annual conference of the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Churches held at Willam-

ette University, Salem, during the first week of June, where she was ordained as an elder and granted full membership in the conference.

She has recently completed probationary status with the conference serving the United Methodist Church at Warrenton as pastor and at Astoria as assistant pastor. She also did some work at the Astoria radio station, giving programs on religious news and folk music.

The Rev. West is a native of Owensboro, Kentucky, on the Ohio River. She is the second of the five children of Ann and Bill West, having an older brother, two younger brothers and a younger sister. After high school she attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington from which she was graduated in 1976. She was employed at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. She has become the first clergywoman in her family. Her seminary training was completed in 1981 in Denver at the Iliff School of Theology.

During her time in seminary she served as a student pastor at churches in east-central Kansas in three small wheat-

area communities: Lost Springs, Hope, and Lincoln. She experienced a big summer wheat harvest during this service.

Her hobbies and special interests include her cats, amateur photography, sewing and outdoor sports (she is particularly looking forward to some cross-country skiing.) The Rev. West is not occupying the Methodist Parsonage alone. Twin black and white male cats, Jesse and Frank (the James brothers) and a choice purebred, blue point Siamese female named Zosa keep her company.

Last Sunday, June 24, she occupied the pulpit in Heppner for her Hello sermon and met some children and adult members of the congregation who agree that she has a good clear speaking voice. She is looking forward to visiting with people throughout the town and surrounding area.

Asked about plans and hopes for the church, the Rev. West stated she expects to serve folks of all age groups, but is "especially hopeful of strengthening the children's and youth programs and of involving as many people as possible."

## Lions to sell fireworks

The Heppner Lions will be selling fireworks on Main Street between the Country Rose and the office of Abrams, Kuhn & Spicer from June 29 through July 4. Fireworks will be sold in the evenings on June 29, July 2, July 3 and all day on June 30, July 1 and July 4.

The selection of fireworks will be bigger and better than ever said a spokesperson for the Lions. Proceeds received from the fireworks sale will go toward the retirement of the Heppner Swimming Pool Solar Heating Project debt.

"Your past patronage of the fireworks has been appreciated. We look forward to doing business with you this year," concluded the spokesperson.

## G-T closed July 4th

Since next Wednesday July 4, is a holiday, the Gazette-Times will be printed and mailed on Tuesday, July 3 instead of Wednesday. News and classified ad deadlines will be 5 p.m. Friday, June 29 for this week only. Deadline for display ads will be 5 p.m. Monday, July 2 for this week only.

## Look for color insert

Central Market's grocery ad will be a flyer in this week's paper.

Look for the 8-page full-color Family Grocer insert for many specials.

## County budget reduced by \$125,000

This year's Morrow County budget has been cut by \$125,000 says Don McElligott, Morrow County Judge. Voters had approved this amount for the construction of a park-campground above the Willow Creek Dam; however, since construction of the park has been delayed, the amount budgeted for its construction has been cut from the budget.

Since \$100,000 of the amount was to have been received by the county from the Army Corps of Engineers, the actual amount of the tax-funded spending cut from the budget is \$25,000.

McElligott further explains that because three percent more taxes than expected have been collected, the carry-

over, into the next fiscal year will be greater than expected. Because of larger carryover, it is hoped that the tax rate will be no higher than last year. (\$3.50 per \$1,000 assessed property value). The exact amount will not be known until all calculations are in, but McElligott concludes that voters approved a higher rate than will be levied.

## Gospel concert set at Christian Life Center

The "First Edition", one of the Northwest's newest gospel groups will be in concert at the Christian Life Center, 335 Morgan, Heppner, Friday, June 29 at 7 p.m.

The 38 musicians who make up the "First Edition" are Junior and Senior High young people from Puyallup, Washington. They are an outreach ministry of the First Assembly of God, Puyallup.

Thirty-three vocalists are supported by a rhythm section including, piano, Rhodes, and drums, plus other musicians who play trumpets, flutes and percussion instruments.

Their music is gospel, middle of the road. The concert will present some of today's significant gospel tunes with a fresh touch.

The Rev. Leroy Warnell of the Christian Life Center says everyone's welcome to attend the concert.

## Big trout caught at Willow Creek Dam

At least two Heppner residents have had good luck fishing the lake behind Willow Creek dam during the past couple of weeks.

Max Harris reports catching a 23" trout that weighed "close to 10 pounds" on Friday, June 15. The same day, he caught another fish which was only 19 inches long.

Roy Quackenbush who was trolling in a boat with Kenny Marshall June 19 caught a 21" 6 lb. trout. It was "quite a thrill," he said. I had "a lot of fun getting him in. Every

time he went out of the water I thought he was lost. The net was hardly big enough."

Quackenbush says he has only been fishing on the lake a couple of times, but that the fish he has caught have averaged 10" - 11".

## 2 Heppnerites on EOOSC honor roll

Cindi Bergstrom and Sandra J. Ward both of Heppner are among 221 students who were listed by Eastern Oregon State College on the spring honor roll.

According to Glen Ward of the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, there were 1,600 legal trout and 16,000 sublegals (which should reach legal size near the end of July) planted at the dam.

To qualify for the honor roll students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on 12 graded credit hours for the term.