

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather

	High	Low	Prec	Snow
Tues., Dec. 11	40	30	13	1/4"
Wed., Dec. 12	43	29	TR	
Thurs., Dec. 13	44	33		
Fri., Dec. 14	48	29	.03	1"
Sat., Dec. 15	36	22		
Sun., Dec. 16	38	21		
Mon., Dec. 17	30	-1	.11	1/4"

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Heppner, Oregon 25 12 PAGES

by the City of Heppner

School Board hears of problems with \$19,000 septic system

The Morrow County school district is continuing to have problems with the installation of its new \$19,000 septic system at the schools in Ione, the school board was told Monday night.

Superintendent Doyle McCaslin reported to the board that the system was not inspected by the Department of Environmental Quality as required, and that the electrical system to power the pumps is not up to district standards. He said the district is withholding 20 percent of the contractor and engineering fees until the system is "done right."

The new system was ordered by the district after severe overflowing problems last spring proved that the old septic system for the high school and grade school had quit working.

He said Monday that the contractor on the project, El Coyote of Irrigon, has received a violation notice from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) apparently for covering up the septic system before it could be inspected. McCaslin said the contractor will apparently have to dig up a portion of the project so DEQ inspectors can see it in operation before giving final approval that the system can be used.

McCaslin also said that Coyote installed an electrical system for operation of the underground pumps that did not meet state requirements

for hazardous areas. McCaslin said methane gas in the septic system requires special types of underground electrical connections, which the contractor had not done.

Coyote has since moved the electrical boxes above ground, satisfying the electrical code, but this is not acceptable to the district, McCaslin said. He pointed out that the boxes are located in areas where they could be easily vandalized or hit by automobiles.

Representatives from El Coyote were not at the meeting, but have apparently indicated to the board they expect extra money if the electrical boxes are to be moved underground.

"We are rapidly getting somebody between a rock and a hard place," McCaslin told the board. He said the DEQ is giving El Coyote until Dec. 20 to uncover the system for inspection, and that the whole construction project which was started Sept. 4, was supposed to have been completed in 60 days. "Unless you tell me otherwise I'm going to insist that it be done right," he said.

He pointed out that both the contractor, and the engineer, had been paid only 80 percent of the agreed upon price, and that final payment would be withheld until the system is done to the district's satisfaction.

In other business the board approved a wrestling program at Columbia Jr. High to start next school year. This will be the first wrestling program in a Morrow county school.

Principal Vic. Marchek asked the board to approve wrestling at his school because of overcrowding in the basketball program, and the inability to schedule enough basketball games this year.

Marchek said the cost of the program would be minimal since the school already has the wrestling mats, and other costs for uniforms and gear would be paid for by the student body.

Some students at the school are already participating in a wrestling "club", however, there hasn't been competition with other schools through the club, Marchek said.

Columbia Jr. High has a qualified wrestling coach in one of its shop

teachers, he said. "I guess were kind of fortunate there because he is very well qualified."

The board expressed concern over adding wrestling to one of the schools in the district, feeling that this would put pressure on the district to add the sport at other schools, especially the high schools.

"If Riverside (Boardman high school) enters into double A, there will be pressure to add wrestling at that high school, because wrestling is offered in the AA league," said board chairman Jerry McElligott.

Riverside high school is presently competing in single A athletic league, however, depending on this spring's enrollment figures, could move up to the AA league.

McElligott said, however, that Columbia has a unique problem because of the large number of kids wanting to compete in sports, and

said he was in favor of adding wrestling.

Boardmember Bob Mahoney also spoke in favor. "These kids need an outlet for all that energy they have, and if they don't get it in these sports programs they will be out on the streets causing trouble. I think he's (Marchek) got a lot of merit in this."

The board approved the wrestling program on a four to one vote, with boardmember Pat Wright voting no.

"If we offer wrestling to the boys, will we then, by law, be required to offer a new sport for the girls?" she asked.

When told that girls have been offered drill team, Wright responded, "Will the girls be satisfied with drill team?"

Marchek said activities have in the past been weighted towards the girls, because boys were not offered a similar activity.

In other business, the board accepted bids to sell used equipment as follows: 1973 Chev. Impala to Jack Gayman for \$151.60; 1969 66-passenger bus to Eric Dick for \$1,169.69; 1974 66-passenger bus to Eric Dick for \$388.69.

voted to sign a contract with Columbia Basin Electric for three new 20 watt sodium vapor yard lights, with two to be placed outside the high school and one outside the district offices in Lexington. District administrators felt the extra light will help cut down on vandalism and other problems at night around these buildings.

read letters from two employees, Edith Munkers purchasing agent, and Alice Vance Deputy clerk, saying they might take early retirement next year. The letters are required if the two wish to receive insurance benefits upon earlier retirement, should they decide to retire.

Carlson recognized by OSU



Pictured from left: Extension Director O.E. Smith, Clint Carlson, and Oregon State University President John Byrne. Carlson was accepting the outstanding service award for his father, Louis Carlson.

By BOB COSTA
OSU Extension Agent
Morrow County

Louis Carlson of Ione was presented with an Outstanding Service Award by the Oregon Extension Association in Corvallis on December 12. Clint Carlson accepted the award for his father.

Six Outstanding Service Awards were presented during the Association's annual banquet. The awards are given for recognition of long-time involvement and support of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Carlson was a 4-H member for ten years and served as a 4-H club leader for twenty years. He served on the Morrow County Extension Advisory Committee for 14 years. Carlson has supported Extension budgets at both the state and local levels.

Carlson is a past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League and is currently chairman of the Port of Morrow Commission. He recently returned from an agricultural market development trip to Japan and Korea.

Governor awards Kinzua

Kinzua Corporation in Heppner has been named one of the 10 recipients of outstanding business awards presented by Oregon's Governor Atiyeh Tuesday, Dec. 8.

The governor's office had requested that city and county government officials nominate business-

es in their area which had made outstanding contributions to the community in the past year. Both Morrow County Judge Don McElligott and Heppner Mayor Cliff Green nominated Kinzua for the award.

G-T news & ad deadlines moved up

Next week the Gazette-Times will be published as usual on Wednesday, Dec. 26; the deadlines for that week's paper, however, have been moved up to the preceding week.

The news deadline for the December 26 issue will be 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. The classified ad deadline will be noon Saturday,

Dec. 22, and the display advertising deadline will be 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.

The Gazette-Times office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25 so that members of the staff may be with their families for the holiday.

The office will be open as usual Wednesday, Dec. 26.

Marine Board lists proposed restrictions for use of motors on Willow Creek Lake

The Oregon State Marine Board invites input concerning the proposed use restrictions for Willow Creek Lake.

Proposed restrictions include: 1) limiting motorboat operation on the Balm Fork arm of the lake to boats propelled by motors of "30 pounds thrust or less"; 2) restricting motorboat speeds to five miles per hour on the Willow Creek arm of the lake, and within 200 ft. of the launch ramp and 100 feet of the dam; and 3) operating motorboats in a counter clockwise direction only in the main body of the lake.

Written comments should be received prior to December 31, 1984 by: Paul Donheffner, Director, State Marine Board, 3000 Market St. NE No. 505, Salem, OR 97310. The Marine Board will schedule a public

hearing to adopt the proposed restrictions on or after January 17, 1985.

Christmas Services

First Christian Church
December 23-10 a.m., carol sing followed by refreshments and regular Sunday morning worship.

Valby and Hope Lutheran Church
December 24-6 p.m. Candlelight service at Valby 9 p.m. Candlelight service at Hope.

Ione United Church of Christ
December 24-10:30 p.m. Holy Communion and Candlelighting; choir anthem: "This is the Night of Love."

All Saints Episcopal
December 24-10:30 p.m. sung Mass; the Rev. Ed Watts officiating.

*Yes, Virginia,
there is a Santa Claus*

One of the most famous newspaper editorials of all time has to do with Christmas. It first appeared September 21, 1897, in the pages of a leading newspaper of the day, the New York Sun.

Virginia O'Hanlon, eight years old, was torn between the doubts placed in her mind by playmates and her own sincere belief that each Christmas a jolly old man came to help spread joy through the world. To settle the matter, she posed the question to the editor of the Sun.

Francis Pharcellus Church replied as follows:



"Is there a Santa Claus?"

"We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear editor:

"I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West 95th Street

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable their existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

