

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL 103 NO 46

Heppner, Oregon 25 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985 5 PAGES



Weather

by the City of Heppner

November 5 - 11

| | High | Low | Precip | Snow |
|-------|------|-----|--------|--------------|
| Tues | 50 | 41 | .01 | |
| Wed | 56 | 44 | .01 | |
| Thurs | 56 | 33 | .20 | |
| Fri | 49 | 30 | .14 | |
| Sat | 43 | 23 | .21 | 2" |
| Sun | 27 | 19 | .24 | 4 1/2" |
| Mon | 31 | 7 | .0 | 4" on ground |

Signatures needed on petition to form park district

Approximately half of the necessary signatures have been collected on a petition which would form a park district in all of Morrow County that is included from the Boardman Irrigation districts, says Bob Kahl, president of the Heppner Economic Development Corporation.

The H.E.D.C. drew up the petition after conferences with the Corps of Engineers confirmed that the Corps' task was to build a dam for flood control. The viewpoint, boat ramp, rest rooms, and park area in the shape of a ball field are attempts to help the dam become an integral part of the area. The Corps has no responsibility for future maintenance of the areas, according to Kahl. The caretaker at the dam is responsible only for maintenance and operation of the dam itself.

As things stand, says Kahl, if a park is not developed at the dam, the Corps has the option of closing the entire area to public access. The county or the city of Heppner, could develop the area, but seem not to be interested. It seems only fair, he continues, that since parks at the north end of the county are maintained by park districts and not by the county, that a park district should be formed at this end of the county.

The H.E.D.C. has begun action to form the district by drawing up a petition which includes representatives from Heppner, Lexington, Ione and rural areas to serve on a Board of Directors. When the petition has the necessary signatures it will be presented to the County Court which then has the authority to form a park district.

The petition forming the district does not automatically levy a tax. To levy a tax, the Board of Directors would need to follow a budget

process similar to the cemetery district or other government agencies before submitting a levy to the voters. "Creation of the district does not create a tax," emphasizes Kahl, however, "the Board will have the authority to ask for a tax."

No development at the dam can begin until a district is formed, according to Kahl. Once the district is formed, it will be able to determine its own direction. The petition is written in such a way, he says, that the Board is allowed to pursue development not only of the area behind Willow Creek Dam but also park projects in other parts of the county not already in a park district.

People may not realize, he continues, that the situation with the park at the dam will not remain as it is. H.E.D.C. understands that something will have to happen or the Corps of Engineers will exercise its option to close the area. "It's been

along time coming to this point," he describes as pivotal. "If there is no interest and people don't want a developed, then this is the opportunity to have that happen."

developed, then this is the opportunity to have that happen."

Petitions have been placed at Bristow's Market in Ione, at the V & G Tavern in Lexington and at Central Market, Coast to Coast, and The Shoe Box in Heppner.

Since resubmission of the Parkers Mill project, the judge reports that it has been number 12 on a list. The first six projects are guaranteed for 1988-89, and the next 11 projects are under consideration.

Chamber sponsors coupon book

The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Welcome to South Morrow County Coupon Book" featuring coupons which will give a "discount on services or merchandise to familiarize new members of our community with the local businesses," said Chamber member, David Sykes.

Businesses which are not Chamber members may also include coupons in the book but must contact The Heppner Gazette-Times before November 15. For more information call the Gazette-Times, 676-9228.

County road projects in line for state, federal funding

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott has announced that the county may be in line to receive some state and federal funding for designated road projects. The judge received word in the form of a letter from the East Central Oregon Association of Counties executive director, Lewis "Tony" Barnhart, that the ECOAC is supporting two of the projects which he presented to the state Highway Commission in July in hopes they be included in the governor's modernization projects.

Road projects which the E.C.O.A.C. endorsed are the Cecil-lone project which is estimated to cost \$3.8 million and the Lexington-Echo project on Hermiston-Butter-creek road estimated to cost \$2 million. Both projects meet the criteria for the governor's modernization project and are currently listed on the Department of Transportation's six-year plan.

E.C.O.A.C. has included these two projects in their recommendation because, says Barnhart, a critical problem which must be faced is providing needed transportation access to the interior part of the rural counties in order to facilitate

movement of products and re-sources into them and to aid their future development potential. "The above projects do impact direct jobs and economic activities occurring in these areas. Some improvements will enhance greater movements of ag and timber products into and out of local areas. These projects also enhance tourism into these counties. And, some of these projects do have specific industry expansions or locations that will occur as a result of the project."

Another source of funding which the county receives for road projects is the Forest Service which has recently announced payment of \$208,470 to Morrow County for projects during this year.

Forest Highway money is funding the road project on upper Willow Creek road. Previously, said Judge McElligott, the Willow Creek project and a section of road from Parkers Mill to Sperry Springs Jct. had been submitted. When the Willow Creek project was accepted, the county withdrew the Parkers Mill project, but has recently resubmitted it. Roads must meet the following criteria to be eligible for these

funds: must be a school bus and mail route, must have people living along them, must be used to carry logs from a federal forest to a mill town.

Since resubmission of the Parkers Mill project, the judge reports that it has been number 12 on a list. The first six projects are guaranteed for 1988-89, and the next 11 projects are under consideration.



First snow

The first snow of the season fell this last weekend in Heppner and many happy kids, taking advantage of the long weekend, tromped, sledged, tubed, and threw snowballs.

There's another aspect of the season's white stuff that is not so much fun. Tom Green, above shovels snow in front of the Heppner Neighborhood Center, Green, from Prineville, is in Heppner for elk season and decided, said brother Cliff Green "to help Mom with some odd jobs."

Normally finding reluctant subjects for photographs, the Gazette-Times photographer was surprised when Tom Green was not only willing to be shot but anxious to have his photo in the paper because, "My family doesn't believe I do this kind of work."

Sports fans: a greater value than sum of the gate

Coaches, athletes, and even sport fans themselves may not agree just what makes a sports fan, but they all know who they are and how important they can be to high school athletes.

Some fans come to the games because they like the games, says Heppner coach of 18 years Dale Conklin, others have a son or daughter or someone else they know on the team.

Longtime Ione coach Gordon Meyers differentiates between parents who come to support their kids and fans who don't have kids in school but still support the team. The community has been supportive of the teams, he says. Many times at away games we would have more fans than the home town. "We've been fortunate to have been winners for a long time, and losing some games may be difficult to accept, but we can't abandon them (the team)," he says.

"Some fans are fair weather fans," he continues; everybody likes to win. It was especially rewarding to the team and to him, he says, in 1978 when the football team won the state title, to see the fans completely surround the field. "Every school should have a chance to win the

title," he says, "to experience being the best."

There's always more support when you're winning agrees Conklin, "nobody likes a loser." But when you're losing, it's important to know that people do support you. Kids will try harder if there is support from the fans.

If not many people come to a game, the kids begin to think that maybe nobody cares, agrees Meyers. The number of fans does increase as the team wins more games. "When the crowd comes into the game, though, it can make a kid reach back and find a little extra adrenalin and do better than he ever thought he could."

A large crowd at any game, he continues, gives kids the feeling that "somebody cares." It's more enjoyable, too, when the gym is full than when the ball bounces and you hear it echo off the walls.

The athletic department is very dependant on fans support, continues Conklin because the athletic budget is determined by the gate receipts at home games. Those gate receipts go directly into the athletic program and help the year's budget.

Heppner fans are excellent to

with, he continues. During his time in Heppner, he has seen no problems with fan control, which he says may be partly characteristic of "A" level competition. During the 60s, Heppner received sportmanship trophies at both district and state tournament games.

Fans may not attend all events, says Conklin, the first Elk season always decreases the number in attendance. There's a diversity among fans, too, some know and understand the game and others don't. Some come to watch opponents who are especially good, but most just enjoy watching the competition.

One other mark of a true fan, both Meyers and Conklin agree, is if they follow the team away from home. It's relatively easy to attend home games, but away games are time consuming, and sometimes expensive.

One year Jerry Samples was honored as an outstanding Heppner fan, and Albert Connor has also been at a lot of school functions over the years continues Conklin. Of course Lee Padberg, president of the Boosters club and all of the Boosters are recognized as special fans.

Ione High School has designated Mike Matthews its "No. 1 Fan." The title was given to him, said former Cardinal football coach Gordon Meyers, because he's always at all of the high school and junior high games. The only lapse was when he was not healthy and was, therefore, unable to attend. Other than that time, he's always been there.

At the time Matthews was singled out from among the many loyal Ione fans, Meyers recalls much discussion among coaches and school personnel because they didn't want to offend anyone.

Ione has many loyal fans, he says. Ruth McCabe, Hugh Salter, Clell and Norma Rea, and Bob Hubbard are a few. "And I'm sure I'm leaving somebody out, not because I intend to, but because you can't always think of everyone. Everybody always talks about Mike as our No. 1 fan, but his wife, Edith, is at as many games as anyone. She's the only one other than parents that I've ever seen at a high school tennis match. Now, that's fan support."

Mike Matthews is perhaps more visible than the other fans because during the 14 years he worked as the school custodian, he drove us for all

the games except those where he'd have to be in two places at once. He stopped driving bus about the time he retired, 1974, but continued to attend the games and was given permission to ride the game bus whenever there was an extra spot for him.

"When I was coaching, I didn't always know who was at the games, but Mike was there-win or lose. He even went on some scouting trips with me. He was always supportive. When a coach calls the wrong play, he knows it, and feels at least as badly as the fans and the team; the last thing he needs to hear is a put down from the stands, and Mike never did that."

"Mike is very kid oriented. He just likes kids and he's loyal. He's always been 100 percent behind every kid on the team and that's a help to the coach, too. There's not anything Mike wouldn't do for you. When we won the title, Mike enjoyed the victory as much as anyone. We had been so close several times, but it had slipped away."

"Everybody pats you on the back when you win. Fans become special when they support you even if you don't win," Meyers continues.

"Mike never turned his back because we lost. He is the same, win or lose."

"I'd rather win," Matthews says about the games, but somebody has to win and somebody has to lose. "Kids should be taught to accept defeat as well as victory." They're all winners though nowadays. A mature kid himself, Matthews says he's able to get to the games because the "kids keep me informed," when the little league games are as well as the school sponsored events. "If there's three games and I have to choose one," he says, "I'll go to the baseball game and that's not just because my team won the series."

Kids need a pat on the head now and then; Meyers continues; we (adults, parents, teachers, coaches) are always on their necks when they don't do well and sports seem to be a way we can tell them they've done a good job.

They expect to hear a good word from their coach—that's his job—but when a fan tells a kid after a game, "You did a good job out there," the kid gets a special smile on his face and you know the brief praise did more for him than anything the coach could say.



Mike Matthews (left) and Gordon Meyers in 1978 when Cardinal football team is on the state title.



Heppner fans at last weekend's State volleyball tournament