

County's alternative school awarded Summer basketball camps slated

Morrow County's alternative school has been selected as an exemplary model program by state officials. Gary Olsen, director of The Learning Center received word of the honor last Friday from Dr. Michael Bullis, Oregon Department of Education.

The State Department, increasingly concerned with drop out rates among Oregon youth, is funding a project to search out and locate exemplary programs throughout the state. Those programs will be included in an Oregon State guide for other school districts who are in the process of developing alternative programs of their own. Dr. Bullis congratulated Mr. Olsen on recognition by officials of the quality of this alternative school program, and the contribution The Learning Center makes to youth of the area.

Asked to comment on the State Department's praise, Olsen replied, "Well, of course we are delighted with this honor. We have had real concerns about the Center being closed as a result of the budget defeat and are hoping that cuts might be made elsewhere first."

The Learning Center which is located on Boardman Avenue, presently serves 28 students, including junior and senior high school age youth.

Olsen encourages visitors and likes to have clubs and organizations meet at the Center as part of his goal to acquaint the public with The Learning Center and what it does. "There are many myths about alternative education," he said, "like: Only bad kids go to alternative schools."

When asked about such comments, Riverside counselor Sharon Barrick replied, "Yes, I have heard statements like that. Other examples are: 'Those losers need to make it on their own' or 'Let'em conform to the regular school or drop out.' But the truth about alternative schools is that they reclaim high-risk youth and provide the extra attention and help for some to complete an education who otherwise never would."

Statistics from the Center support Barrick's observation. Three students completed G.E.D.s this

year through the Center, and some graduating seniors were able to earn necessary required credits through the Center.

Another added bonus, according to Olsen, is that The Learning Center receives Basic School Support funds from the State for each student enrolled at the center. "As other districts in Oregon are just begin-

ing to focus on the concern of early school leavers, Morrow County has taken decisive action to keep students in school who would otherwise be on the streets," Olsen stated. "We are providing a basic service to kids that is cost-effective to our public, and will pay off in the long run for them and society too."



Director Gary Olsen (right) and student Eric Bunce completing the weekly contract required of each student by the Center.

Olsen credits a significant part of the Center's success with the written agreement. "It's the core of our program," he said.

Streamflow forecast

Water supplies are forecast by the Soil Conservation Service to be below average during the next three months. April precipitation was 50% of average throughout the area.

March 1961-80 Avg.	% of Avg.
Ukiah 0.77	1.34
Heppner 0.66	1.20
	57%
	55%

The May 1 snowpack at the Ar-buckle Mountain Snotel was 17.7" of water equivalent. Snowpack at Madison Butte Snotel site reported 0.0" of water equivalent.

Forecasts of streamflow, assuming normal weather conditions occur for the rest of the season, are as follows:

Butter Creek near Pine City, 3.2 thousand acre feet which is 86% of the average May-July streamflow of 3.7 thousand acre feet.

Rhea Creek near Heppner, 1.8 thousand acre feet which is 81% of the average May-July streamflow of

2.2 thousand acre feet.

Willow Creek at Heppner, 2.4 thousand acre feet which is 82% of the May-July average streamflow of 2.9 thousand acre feet.

Rock Creek above Cayuse Canyon near Condon, 2.1 thousand acre feet which is 88% of the average May-July streamflow of 2.4 thousand acre feet.

Heppner High School's basketball coach Mike Royer will conduct two basketball camps this summer for boys and girls ages 10-16. Members of the state champion Heppner Fillies and the Region 7-8 champion Heppner Mustangs will assist Royer.

The goal of the camp is to learn and develop the basic fundamentals of basketball. Players will be involved in game competition daily. Shooting, individual and team defense, ball handling, passing, and rebound stations will also be held each day. Defense will be stressed.

Tentative dates for the camp are June 16-20 for girls, and June 23-27 for boys. The camp will be held daily 9 to 12 noon. Each player will

receive a camp t-shirt. A pizza feed will be held at the conclusion of camp on Friday. Cost is \$25 and enrollment is limited to 30 players.

Pre-registration forms can be picked up at the high school, the junior high office, the Shoe Box, Coast to Coast, or by calling 676-5475.



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Advanced circus tickets on sale

Advance tickets for the Ford Bros. Circus are available from Heppner 4-H Teen Club members. The circus is scheduled to be at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner Friday, June 13 for one show only beginning at 7 p.m.

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