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Planners approve county's use of Annex

By Avon Melby

City planners approved a conditional use permit for county use of the former dental clinic building for juvenile services, Justice Court, and county mental health offices Monday.

However the city will have to follow the recommendation of the planning commission and change the ordinance to allow conditional uses for those purposes before the present building is legal.

No one appeared at the public hearing to object to the change. Fred Toombs, a neighbor who had objected last month, had been consulted by the county in drawing up the proposed changes he had suggested, covering several areas of county use in the hospital vicinity.

The county proposal includes screening fence and landscaping to incorporate the building better into the residential neighborhood. A vacant lot which had been partially built up, will be completed, and will be paved for more parking space. Because justice court will be held there and require additional parking. This was attached as a restriction to be met before the conditional use could become permanent. Also, the section of hill there has had flooding in the past, so draining the parking and yard into the storm sewer was added as another restriction. The conditional use will be reviewed in 90 days to see if requirements are being met.

The Planning Commission will notify the hospital that the requirements made when a conditional use permit was allowed for the helicopter pad at the hospital, are not being met. Condition of the pad area, including rocks, debris, and

weeds, must be cleaned up. County Planner Deane Seeger said the court was already looking into

re-locating the pad, but had not found a suitable substitute.



Truitt Greenup (left) and State Senator Gene Timms (R-Burns)

Extension visits Capitol

"How does it fit?" asks Sen. Gene Timms (standing) as 4-H'er Truitt Greenup, lone, tries the Governor's chair in the Capitol, Salem. Greenup, a fifth grader traveled with the group of 33 adults who toured the Legislature and Salem area last week. The tour was sponsored by Morrow County Extension Homemakers Council.

While Truitt would have enjoyed the company of another kid or two, he wanted to see his legislators in action so he decided he'd go it alone. He and the adults visited the Senate as the liability laws were under

discussion, had lunch with Rep. Ray French and his wife, Norma, and Sen. Gene Timms and his wife, Edna. Truitt also chose to sit in on the committee where the "safety net" for education hearing was in progress.

Art displays and visits to both Sen. Timms' and Rep. French's office along with a close look at both Senate and House of Representatives completed the day at the Capitol for Truitt and the adults.

Other stops along the way were the historic Mission Mills Village in Salem, and a dinner stop at Clackamas Town Center.

After a full and long day in Salem, Truitt volunteered to give a report to his fifth grade class, encouraging them to visit the Capitol and learn about government. After all, how many other Morrow County kids can claim they've "tried" the chair of the Governor of Oregon?

No one home when fire started

An estimated \$22,000 damage was caused by a Saturday evening fire at the Mike and Karlyn Stookey home on Linden Way. No one was home when the fire broke out in an upstairs storage area, a spokesperson for the Heppner Fire Dept. reported. The fire spread between walls and floor of the two-story wood house. Its cause is still under investigation.

Three trucks and 13 firefighters had the blaze under control within 30 minutes.

Easter egg hunt slated at lone

Lone Community Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. Preschoolers will hunt at St. Williams Catholic Church and grades K-3 will hunt across the street in the city park. There will be prize eggs and some money eggs.

Lone Extension Club sponsors the annual event.

School levy ready to go to voters

A total one-year special school levy of \$5,870,919 will go to voters for approval May 19.

The school board reduced next year's proposed budget by \$21,000 and the proposed tax levy by \$121,567 at a budget meeting April 6.

The school board was able to reduce the proposed levy by revising the beginning cash balance estimate and by reducing the budget \$21,000 more, school superintendent Doyle McCaslin said.

Young scientists show work



Raymond Corwin (left) and Bill Looney demonstrate how a volcano erupts.

County Planner, Deane Seeger said the City Planning Commission resolved the issue by agreeing to amend the zoning ordinance to allow for a permitted condition at that specific site. Additional conditions ask for landscaping, sufficient parking, adequate drainage of the parking lot, and signing and acceptance by the residents of the immediate area, Seeger said.

Final work on the project will proceed upon completion of the amendment to the zoning ordinance by the City Council, Seeger said.

Dinoseb meeting planned

A special hearing on April 16 in Washington, D.C. will consider use of Dinoseb in Oregon. Dinoseb is a selective herbicide used in beans, peas, potatoes, and other crops. It has recently lost its registration because of a possible teratogenic behavior.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is applying for an exemption to the ban at the April 16 hearing.

If Dinoseb is approved for emergency use here, it will probably be under conditions similar to those in Washington, said Morrow County Ag Agent Fred Lundin.

Washington law requires applicators to

Wear special, chemical resistant coveralls and gloves.

Use a closed loading system.

Apply it with a ground rig (no aerial application and in a closed cab.

Apply no more than 80 acres per day per person.

Have either a private applicator or a commercial applicator license.

Maintain special record keeping.

A special meeting on the use of Dinoseb will be held April 16 in Pendleton.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to call the Extension offices listed: Mike Stoltz, Pendleton, 276-7111 Ext. 235; Luther Fitch, Hermiston 567-8321; or Fred Lundin, Heppner 676-9642.

Yard sale to benefit China-bound youths

By Ashley Conklin

A yard sale and bake sale will be held at the Harley Sager residence in Lexington this Saturday to help raise money for three Heppner High athletes heading to China this summer.

The yard and bake sale will be held to help benefit senior Jason Palmer and juniors Jason Dougherty and Kim Sager who will be traveling to the Far East in June with the Amateur Sports Development Class "A" track team.

Among the featured items to be sold include a dishwasher according to Bertha Sager. Other items to be sold include clothing items and baked goods at the sale which begins at 10 a.m. and runs all day. Any donation of items for sale is also welcome according to Sager.

Anyone wishing to make donations may deposit with a special account at the First Interstate Bank, Heppner branch.

Easter egg hunt slated in Heppner

Grades one-four will hunt Easter eggs at a new location, at Hager Park in Heppner this year. Pre-schoolers will still find eggs on the Museum lawn.

The Elks-sponsored hunts will begin promptly at 10 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be at the Museum to visit with pre-schoolers.

Many attended last week's science fair at Heppner Elementary School.

Children from grades 1-8 began choosing general topics for experiments in December, teacher Sarah Carlson said. In January students did library research, and in February began experiments. During March the students learned techniques for log book writing.

Seventh and eighth grade projects were judged by high school students. Trent Harrison, Theresa Lindsay, Wayne Wilgers, Joe Taylor, Carl Martin Jr., and Jason Palmer. Experiments were judged on the basis of an oral presentation, the display, and log book.

In the chemistry project division, Scott Johnston's experiment on the effects of air pollution on fabrics placed first. Jodi Wilson's making toothpaste project placed second.

Eighth grade physics projects were awarded as follows: first-Jeanne Patterson, construction of a motor; second-Becca Wicklund, testing crystal growth in different kinds of water; third-Starla Marlatt, distillation of water.

Eighth earth science projects received these awards: first-Nikki Brisbois, identification of fossils; second-Kerry Bruch, glaciation.

Life science projects for eighth graders were awarded as follows: first-Rick Osmin, measuring damage done to water fowl in an oil slick; second-Brandon Pedro, green house effect; third-Bob Krein, diet comparison and contrast of town and country owls.

Seventh grade physical science awards were, first-Myriah Cushing, light through liquids; second-Nina Tucker, lenses and light; third-David

McCurry, solar energy cells.

Seventh grade life science awards: first-Sarah Clark, food preference of birds, and second-a tie between Ryan Adelman, the effects of fertilizer on barley growth, and Jerri Wheeler, the effects of different fertilizers on plant growth.

Heppner honor roll named

Heppner High School announced its third quarter honor roll this past week. Two students, sophomore J.J. Shaw and freshman Casey Pedro earned straight A's.

Seniors named to the honor roll were Ashley Conklin, Tina Davidson, Missy Eubanks, Trent Harrison, Theresa Lindsay, Jason Palmer, David Pedro, Sheri Piper, Christy Rathbun, Cindy Stroeber, Joe Taylor and Clark Wallis.

Juniors were Duane Ball, Kathleen Brazell, Mark Fishburn, Kirsten Green, J.J. Osmin, and Dan Struthers.

Sophomores named to the honor roll were Michelle Beck, Jill Conklin, Mike Mahoney, Bryan Padberg, Benji Pearson, Sue Plocharsky, Brent Temple, Sandi Turner, and Michelle Wallis.

Freshmen were Carri Brownfield, Jennifer Currin, Lana Schmidt, Kim Stookey and Kevin Tucker.

Nineteen students earned recognition as most improved students by improving their grade point average a half point or more since the first semester of the school year. Seniors named were Ed Hamlin, Sheri Piper, Arkie Smith and Kym Warren.

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Board Members answer School Budget questions

Why should I vote for a school levy when school costs seem to increase without letup?

Once again, we are going to the polls this year in May, to vote on the coming school year's proposed levy. Meetings will be held, questions will be asked and answered to the satisfaction of some but not all. I'm sure a few people have already decided and nothing said or written will change their minds. Still there are others who are undecided or just don't plan on voting. Regardless, when the votes are counted the decision will be split, unlike some of the other "countries" in this world where the party in power runs unopposed and gets 100% of the vote. I would like 100% of all the eligible voters in Morrow County to support the upcoming school levy, but I can't force you; I can only hope to persuade you. If not, I hope somebody else can, because we've got to maintain a quality education in Morrow County and frankly, it's gotten to the point where we could get into a long game of "catch up" which won't benefit anyone.

Many of you, like myself, have come to Morrow County from other towns, cities and states. Take a moment and look at your school taxes. When was the last time you paid less than \$10, \$12, or even \$15 per thousand dollars assessed value? I've resided here since 1979. My school taxes are lower today than they were 15-20 years ago elsewhere. I'm sure many of you can say the same.

So, where's the beef? Among other things, the Morrow County School District gets accused of being overstaffed of administrators and teachers, overpaid when everyone else is cutting back and any other reason that can be thought of to discredit the school district in regard to the misuse of the taxpayer's money. Let's look at some of these accusations.

We have seven principals for the seven elementary, junior high and high schools in the county or one per building. These schools are anywhere from one to 48 miles apart and handle from 135 to 380 students or a total of over 1800. Some high schools alone in the state have more students.

There is one superintendent and one assistant superintendent in the whole district. Considering the distances involved, the number of visits to each school, the meetings to attend, (school board, advisory boards, committees, parent groups, administrator and civic related and many, many more) in addition to the daily routine, it's quite a bargain, with only two to cover the bases.

The teachers will be working on the third year of a three-year contract. The raise they are getting is higher than the current rate of inflation. They negotiated the increase and therefore, they should get it. After all, 4-6 years ago when they were getting far less than the rate of inflation and several others in the area were doing much better, nobody said, "Let's raise the teacher's pay, because they're not getting as much as us."

In Morrow County, midst rumors of division, we can unite and show the doomsday prophets that our "beef" is really in our schools and although lean, it's prime and that's by choice.

(s) Joe Stevens

Position 1 School Board Member

(A school board or advisory committee member will answer your question in writing in this column; write: "School Questions," PO Box 368, Lexington, OR 97839 or call 989-8202.)



Good reason to shave

Cecil Rill ended his reign as Exalted Ruler for Heppner Elks Lodge No. 358 amid a flurry of scissors and shears. He consented to auction his beard on March 7, Old Timers Night, on the condition that the proceeds of the auction go to the Meadowood Speech Camp.

Judge Louis Carlson was the highest bidder and happily presented the club with a check for the camp. Rill was heard to say that "at least my mother-in-law would be pleased." Jerry Hollomon was glad to be of service with his barbering expertise.