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Swimming pool water too cool, parents tell Heppner council

By Avon Melby

Operation of Heppner's municipal swimming pool will be discussed at a meeting at city hall Thursday at 3 p.m. with council members and representatives of the public working on the problem.

The meeting was set by Mayor Cara Costa at Monday night council meeting, in response to citizen's efforts to have some changes made for the upcoming season.

Vicki Birkby, saying she represented a large group of parents, asked that the water temperature be kept warmer than the 68° it occasionally was last year. She said 98.6 degrees is body temperature and much lower was not healthy for the kids. She mentioned the several times last year when she had tried to work with the lifeguards about that and said there had been no changes.

She also said there was broken glass on the sidewalks at the pool, and the restrooms were not kept clean. The floor of the pool was slippery from not being kept clean. She said kids were not watched closely enough by the lifeguards.

She blamed the lack of utilization of the pool in recent years to the possible cold water keeping kids away.

She also thought there should be some adult supervision at the pool.

Councilman Bob Ployhar said the same problems had been going on for the last four years. He wanted a citizen's committee formed to address the problem.

Marcia Anderson also complained about the low temperature of the water, and the small amount of time allowed for lessons, particularly for the beginners. She said the lifeguards do not cover the pool every night as they are supposed to keep the warm water from getting so cold.

The mayor and a representative of the city crew will also take part in the scheduled meeting.

On request Marsha Sweek was assured the Blue Mountain Community College sponsored swimming use of the pool would be allowed the same rates as last year.

Permit to keep 200 pheasants in fully covered cages was granted Chuck Holt. It will be rescinded if complaints from neighbors are received at city hall.

Request of the county for repair of the museum city library roof was tabled for further information. The county pays two-thirds and the city one-third for upkeep of the building. City Administrator Marshall Lovgren said the building had a new roof five years ago. The Council said it wanted to know more about the cost before authorizing the repair.

On Lovgren's request a resolution that allows each user on the same service line to be billed for sewer

and water use was approved.

A sum of \$200 transfer to the supply section of the police budget from another unspent account was authorized. Police Chief Doug Rathbun said the cost of moving the police department into the new section of city hall ran more than expected.

City ordinances 462 through 466, all pertaining to the requirements created in the updating of the city's Comprehensive Plan, were adopted.

The council voted to continue operating under State Workman's Compensation rather than going with some other cities into a private insurance carrier.

Bill Kuhn, city council, reported Port of Morrow Engineer Brian Johnson had looked at the city landfill and made suggestions which should keep it in operation with DEQ approval. He said the county had money to close the landfill and since some work needs to be done

Zone change for county annex held up

By Avon Melby

Though the city planning commission last month approved the county's use of the former dental clinic on hospital hill for offices for the Justice Court and the county juvenile services, the city council decided not to approve changing the city zoning regulations to accommodate the change.

Monday night both Mr. and Mrs. Fred Toombs were at the council meeting and stated they wanted to be sure all changes outlined by the court would be met. Mr. Toombs said the county seemed to be proceeding with correcting the numerous items included in objections he had filed against the county's application for a conditional use of the property. But he added he wanted to notify the city he would not lift his protest until all work was completed. He said he was requesting a periodic review of the county's use in his neighborhood because the county had not lived up to its previous commitments. He said he would lift his objections only "when everything is intact, and plans are completed."

At the time the planning commission approved the conditional use County Planner Deane Seeger told the planners he had met with Toombs, and another neighbor, Ron Forrar, and told them of plans the county had to clean the area, and address their complaints. Seeger said they were satisfied.

The planning commission approved the conditional use permit on conditions that (1) the county meet all requirements in the proposed plan; (2) that the county make an overflow parking lot for the Justice Court

on filling originally made when the county operated the site, some of that money should be available to the city. There is a problem of seepage from the county's filling, and the city must now recover that section to meet DEQ specifications. He said the landfill should last about two more years, with changes made in operation, but planning for a future site should be made.

Rolling Hills Run will be sponsored by EMTs this year, Mayor Cara Costa said. They have asked for permission to use the city park as starting place.

Paper work involved with starting the hotel project of converting it to a retirement home and Senior Citizens Center is going along, Kuhn reported. He said by the end of May he expected to have calls out for architects, and funding for the city's portion of the cost settled. There is a lot of interest on the part of architects, he said. "I am getting three or four calls per day on it."

trials near the hospital where the fill is presently located; and (3) a drain be placed in the lower lot and tied into the storm drain. The county was to enlarge the drainage capacity if necessary to absorb additional run off from the parking lot paving. The Conditional Use was also conditioned to the council approving the zone change, allowing justice court and juvenile services in that R-1 residential area. The county was also instructed to return to the planners with report on work done in 90 days. Council Monday said it wanted the county planner to meet with it and explain exactly what was planned in the area. Action on the zone change was held over.

Diamond contest continues

There's still time to win your favorite mom a quarter carat diamond valued at \$300.

Once again Heppner businesses are sponsoring a special Mother's Day drawing for the diamond to be given away Saturday to some lucky person.

Enter between now and May 9 at any of the following businesses: Murray's Drug, Central Market, Peterson's Jewelry, Gardner's Mens Wear, Shoe Box/Talk 'n Tops, Coast to Coast, R & W, Case Furniture, and Charlie's Pizza.

No purchase is necessary, however, you must be 18 years or older to enter.

Enter now and win mom a diamond.

Wastech president finds no opposition to landfill siting

The president of Wastech Inc., the company that would operate a proposed landfill in Morrow County, said last week that he has not encountered any opposition to siting the dump here.

Wayne Trewitt, Wastech's president, was in Morrow County to attend to public hearings regarding the location of a landfill at Finley Buttes north of Lexington.

If established, the dump would take residential and commercial garbage from communities located on the Columbia River.

Trewitt said that Wastech is a family-owned business based in San Francisco that has operated similar landfills in other communities around the west.

He said his father started Wastech in 1933 and the company handled

waste disposal for the city of San Francisco for 50 years.

The company also operated the St. John's landfill for five years and a landfill in Sparks, Nevada, for 15 years, as well as others in the west.

The proposed site in Morrow County is located about 16 miles south of Boardman one mile off Bombing Range road on property presently owned by Lexington farmer Larry Lindsay.

Under the proposal the garbage would be barged up the river by Tidewater Barge Co., off-loaded at the Port of Morrow unloading dock, and trucked to the landfill. The garbage

would be sealed in containers until it reached the site, Trewitt said.

He said there would be some problems with paper and other materials blowing around when the garbage is dumped; however, he said, a fence would be erected and the garbage would be covered with six inches of soil every day.

The Department of Environmental Quality and the county planning commission need to approve the project before any dumping can begin.

Trewitt said his company plans to begin drilling holes at the site soon to test for dirt and rock formations. "Wastech plans to spend about \$100,000 on the site," he said.

Trewitt emphasized that there will be no pest, rats, etc., problem at the landfill. He said once the waste is covered, it is not what rodents like to eat.

He also said that the landfill would be open for use by the public; a consideration, he pointed out, with the high cost of opening and operating a dump for cities in Morrow County.

"We've been in this business a long time, and we know what we are doing," Trewitt said about Wastech's ability to run a landfill.

Although no timetable has been established for locating the landfill, Trewitt said he hoped to have application into the county by May, "but the DEQ takes a little longer."

Lovgren reported city well No. 7 is now on line and will have a pump hookup soon, to expand the city's water source for the summer.

Kuhn was asked to draw up an ordinance to change the city's water line size requirement. The state only requires three-inch line in its code, the city is requiring larger and at least one new home is already hooked up with the state-approved size. Lovgren said DEQ had notified the city a lot of filtration was getting into the sewer line. He said the city, some time ago, looked into placing a smaller line inside the present system, but did not do the work because of the expense involved. "We will have to be doing it soon," he stated.

School levy ready for voters

The amount voters will see on the May 19 ballot—a one-year school operating levy—will be \$5,870,917.

With the levy, property taxes will increase \$558,127 (7.3%) over last year to \$7,609,999. A three-year serial levy of \$366,736 per year (approved last year), the district's bonded debt payment, and tax base also are included in the district's total tax asking, but do not appear on the ballot because the amounts have already been approved. A tax base automatically increases 6% each year, a serial levy stays the same. This year's budget includes the final payment for the November, 1975 bond issue and a scheduled payment on the July, 1978 bond issue. The levy is needed to balance next year's budget.

The school district's general fund budget, \$9,635,749—a balance of revenues and expenses—is \$615,239 more than last year's budget of \$9,020,510.

The estimated tax rate necessary to collect the needed property taxes is expected to be \$9.16 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It's important to remember that the rate is an estimate, based on an expected decrease in the county's total assessed value. School Superintendent Doyle McCaslin said. At this time last year, we estimated the tax rate at \$9.66 and the actual rate came in

at \$8.01. We can surely hope for a similar situation this year; but, he cautioned, this may be the year that the tax rate comes in at the estimated amount.

Increases in the budget can be found in wages and benefits. McCaslin said because of negotiated

wage increases, a serious increase (almost double) in the state industrial accident rate and increase (10-15%) in medical insurance premiums. Wage and benefit increases were negotiated in good faith by the board and obviously must be honored, he said. The board has no control over insurance rate increases.

The board and budget committee are holding the line on staff increases. "We're not adding any new staff positions next year," the superintendent said. All building principals have been instructed to look for more efficient ways to use current staff, he said.

All that we're getting new—capital outlay—is classroom computers and some replacement copy machines, he said. Computers were taken out of the budget last year because we had used some federal money and were ahead of schedule in buying computers for classroom use, he said, but without buying them this year, the district will fall behind its schedule. The new copy machines will replace those which would probably not last through another year's use. They were scheduled for replacement last year, but were cut from the budget, he said.

"It's a very tight budget," the superintendent continued. "It has been scrutinized by both the school board and the budget committee. It will have us close to the bone in our ability to maintain a standard educational program. "It was the board's decision," he said. "to maintain educational and co-curricular programs although it means having to let some of the maintenance projects wait. I don't feel good about it, but the board did beef up maintenance

a little in order to patch leaky roofs, but not enough to allow major repairs of the type needed. Water damage is the sort of thing that needs to do some catching up in roof repair," he said.

We will also need to do some catching up in equipment repair and purchase, he said. Teachers, especially in the sciences, have requested, and been denied, some types of equipment necessary for a modern program preparing students for college and work force.

The superintendent said the district may be able to accomplish some of the catching up the following year when he expects salary and benefit increases to level off. The current increases were necessary, he said, because Morrow County was offering salaries below those offered around the state. Negotiated salary settlements coming in now leave Morrow County very competitive statewide, he said. Teachers salary negotiations will not start until October, so we won't know for sure until later, he said.

Budget information handouts are available at the district office and at each school building.

Specific questions about the budget may be addressed to McCaslin at the district office, school board members, budget committee members or budget information chairpersons Karen Pettigrew and George Koffler.

Rep. French to discuss proposed hunting legislation Saturday

Rep. Raymond French will be in Heppner this Saturday to hold a townhall meeting on bills recently introduced to the state legislature that many local hunters feel will restrict hunting on private land, and establish fee hunting in many areas. French will meet with concerned citizens Saturday May 9, at 10 a.m. at the multipurpose room of the Heppner grade school building. Everyone is invited to attend.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

April 28 - May 4
 High Low Prec.

Tues.	84	49	15
Wed.	77	52	01
Thurs.	63	44	48
Fri.	55	35	24
Sat.	62	43	03
Sun.	70	46	0
Mon.	76	48	0

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

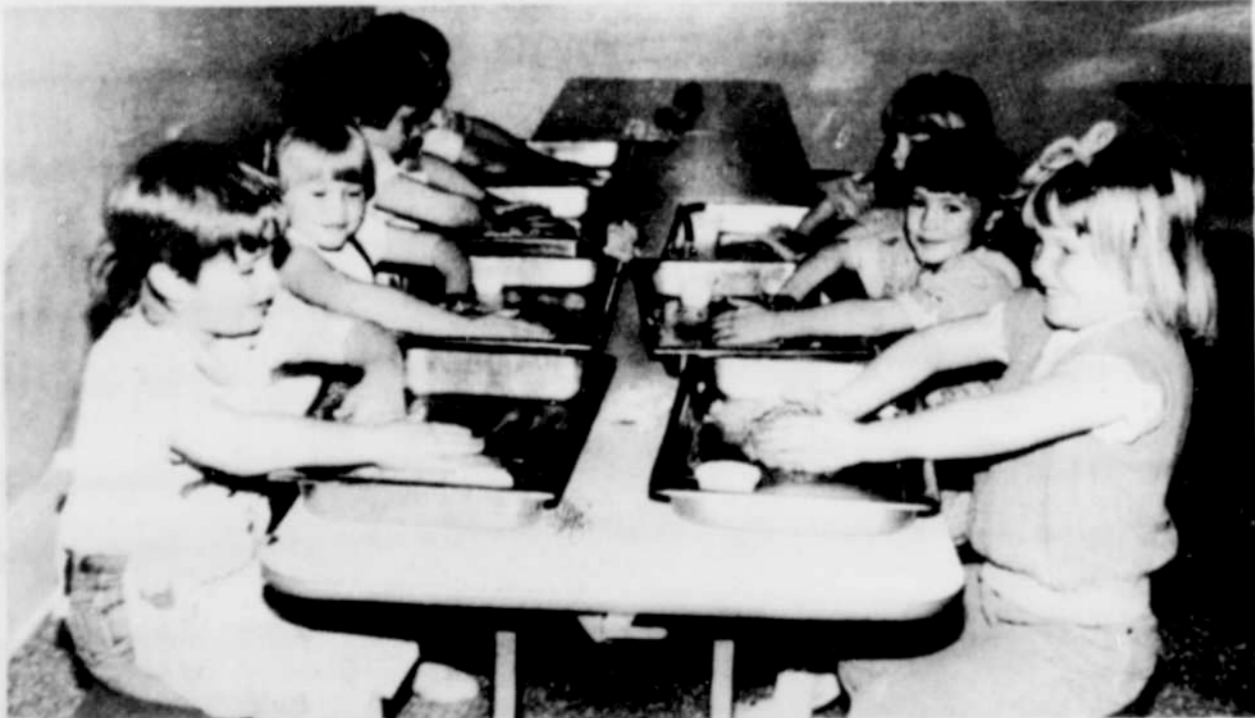
Tuesday, May 5
 Soft White

May	\$3.13/3.11
June	\$3.06/3.04/3.01
July	\$2.98/2.97
August	\$2.96
Sept.	\$2.96/2.97

Barley

May	\$90
June	\$89
July-Sept.	\$87
Hard Red Winter Ordinaries	
May	\$3.17
July-Aug.	\$3.13

PIK
 Generic Certificates 103% cash



Meatloaf Makers

Mrs. Betty Christman, Cook manager of the Heppner Elementary Schools, helps first graders prepare meatloaf for the school lunch. This culminates a recent nutrition unit

covering nutritious snacks, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. The unit included filmstrips and several hands-on experiences.

