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The Heppner

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November 1988 set for completion of hotel project

By Avon Melby

A time schedule for planning and construction of remodeling Heppner Hotel into a Senior Citizen housing complex and center was outlined at Heppner City Council last week.

Max Koepfer of Hanson, Dunahaugh, Nicholson, Portland architect firm, said the bids would be let April 4, 1988, with construction to start April 20. Completion date was set at November 8.

Design work will take until the end of January, and any changes required will be worked out by the end of February. Bids will be called March 3.

Payment by the city is scheduled to run between \$73,000 and \$76,000, Bill Kuhn, city attorney, told the council. There will be a \$5,000 "up front" payment which will come out of the state grant the city has been promised. Additional payments will be made by percentage of the work done on a continuing basis.

Right now, and until about Nov. 21, the architect is reviewing ideas with the Senior Citizen and Council building committee. Application for approval of those plans will be presented to the State Historical Commission on October 22 with a response expected by November 4.

Kuhn said an agreement between the city and Seniors for a 99-year lease for the Senior Center, which is to take up all the first floor except for an entrance hall, has been worked out. The Seniors will manage their portion of the building. The city/senior committee will meet once a year to work out any problems which might develop.

Kuhn said the contract with the Seniors will be drawn up and ready for signatures soon.

David Sykes asked the council for water to serve a day picnic and swimming area now being developed by Willow Creek Park District. There is a three-inch main through the area. Domestic water will be needed for sinks, toilets and irrigation. The District has operating funds and will pay commercial rates to the city. He said the location has been changed from south of the Balm Fork bridge because the water in the lake itself was better quality than the site chosen earlier. It will be near the boating ramp but cut off from it on a new access road. Landscaping and trees will cut off wind for picnickers and swimmers. Plans also call for a new fishing platform and trail for the handicapped, and a new boat courtesy dock. There will be a new sandy beach installed, and a sizable parking area. Buys and

Boardman man will go to trial second time

Jon Thomas Starke, 36, Boardman, will go to trial again on charges of Attempted Rape I, Assault IV, and Burglary I, Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace said Tuesday.

A new trial date will be set by the presiding judge of the circuit court, the district attorney said. Starke was tried earlier this month on the same charges, but the trial resulted in a hung jury, so it's as if no trial had taken place. We had the options of trying the case again or dismissing the charges, he said.

rope will keep boats away from the swimming area. There will be improvement to the existing road, and a connection to the paved boat ramp.

His request was granted. Water cost per month for the RV park on Main Street was reduced to \$18. Owner John Skow said it had

actually no usage and he was only keeping five spaces open for hunters or construction workers who might come in. If the business picks



Away they Go

Commissioner Jerry Peck helps Tony Beckett tie a message to a balloon to be released during ceremonies honoring the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution Tuesday. Commissioners and students from Heppner Elementary school planted a red maple on the back lawn of the Courthouse before releasing the balloons.

Commissioner Peck read the preamble to the constitution, County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth read a summary of the articles of constitution, and Commissioner Irv Rauch presented a history of the writing of the constitution to Heppner Elementary Student Body President Nina Tucker. County Judge Louis Carlson read a proclamation honoring the 200 years of the Constitution.

Farmers learn they must identify impure seed before it's planted

Local farmers have been left holding the bag—full of weeds—because some grass seed planted on CRP ground has come up infested with noxious weeds. There's not much they can do about it either except fight the weeds.

Heppner rancher Paul Brown was only one of nearly 60 local farmers and ranchers who showed up at a meeting last Friday at the fairgrounds. Farmers explained problems they have had with seed purchased for planting on Conservation Reserve Program acres.

Brown planted 360 acres of pubescent wheat grass last March. Now that the grass is waist-high, so are the Yellow Starthistle. Brown has lived his life on the same Heppner farm. He called Morrow County Weed Supervisor Jim VanWinkle to help identify the weed because he had never seen it before. The weed must have been in the seed because it's growing in the same furrow as the grass planted beside it, he said.

Yellow Starthistle is an "A" list weed in Morrow County which means that landowners are responsible for its eradication. Those who refuse to control "A" list or noxious weeds may be cited. If a landowner chooses to ignore a citation for failure to control an "A" list weed, the weed supervisor has authority to

spray the weeds, or to hire it done at the landowner's expense.

Brown and his wife Betty have been combing their field for the weed. They are digging it out by the roots, storing it in plastic bags, and hauling it back to the barn. He intends to burn the weeds when they dry. They're difficult to burn, but Brown thinks that by incinerating them in a barrel the flames will get hot enough to consume the stalks. Another problem presented by the weed is that the seed pods dry and send out chutes similar to those of a dandelion.

Because Yellow Starthistle is listed on the state's noxious weed list as well as Morrow County's, Bob Brown, program supervisor for Noxious Weed Control for Oregon said state law does give farmers some protection. The law states that there is no tolerance for noxious weed seeds in grass seed. The problem, County Weed Supervisor Jim VanWinkle points out, is that the lab only tests 150 grams of seed for noxious weed seeds. "Just because a sample tests clean does not always mean that there are no weed seeds there," he said.

In addition, not all of the seed farmers received was what they paid for. Brown, and some of his neighbors purchased Pubescent

Wheat Grass for \$2.40 per pound. Yet his field is nearly half Tall Wheat Grass which sells for \$1 per

pound. The root system of the pubescent variety spreads faster and sends up shoots for quicker ground



Betty and Paul Brown tie flag on a Yellow Starthistle seeded with Pubescent Wheat Grass.

Enrollment down at Boardman schools

Although enrollment at county schools has increased by 40 pupils since the first day of school, the count at the end of two weeks is still down 11 from the same time last year. Most of the decreased enrollment is at Boardman schools with Riverside High enrollment off 38 and Sam Boardman Elementary enrollment down 30.

The decreased enrollment has surprised school officials who were expecting enrollment in the district's schools to continue to increase, especially at the north end of the county.

Some decline in employment at Lamb-Weston and Portland General Electric's coal fired plant in Boardman are bound to be influencing the declining enrollment. School Superintendent Doyle McCaslin said, "Those are the only things I know of that could be influencing it."

Crowding at Boardman and Irrigon schools prompted a study last spring by a committee comprised of members from school board, advisory committee, and administrators from throughout the county. The committee recommended building additional classrooms and moving teachers to the north end to handle the growing number of pupils in the north county.

The school district architect has been informed of the current enrollment figures, McCaslin said. His study is proceeding and I suspect the current enrollment figures will have an effect on his building proposal. I'm not suggesting that the work done by the population research center at Portland State University is wrong, he said, because in the long term, population may increase as much as we anticipated. We also are depending on the agriculture and processing industries as well as PGE to bring in students.

Enrollment at Irrigon schools has increased by 22 at the elementary school and by two at the junior high school which is consistent with the

district's expectations. An increase of 29 students at lone since this time last year also came as a surprise.

Crowding conditions have not changed much in spite of the decreased enrollment, the superintendent continued. If the decline continues, which we don't think it will, the crowding will decrease, he said. No changes in district staffing are foreseen at this point.

School Enrollment

	9/1/87	9/11/87	9/13/86
A. C. Houghton	318	333	311
Sam Boardman	319	332	362
Heppner Elementary	334	334	328
June Schools	163	164	135
Columbia Jr. High School	163	169	167
Heppner High School	157	157	181
Riverside High School	287	291	329
Total	1741	1780	1781

Boeing plans to expand space park near Boardman

By Avon Melby

Boeing Co. has applied for a zone change on land south of a space research park established by the company last year near Boardman. An additional 14,500-acres would be included, allowing testing of a variety of exotic space hardware.

Morrow County Planning Commission will act on the application at a regular meeting September 28 at

7:30 p. m. in the school board room of the Lexington School Office building.

Deane Seeger, Morrow County Planning Director, said he was not aware of plans the company has for use of the expanded site. He said it is not required that explicit use be revealed in order to obtain a zone change. However, a story on the front page of the Portland Oregonian last week quoted Elizabeth Warman as saying the tract may ultimately be used for the development of trans-atmospheric planes, space chamber, lasers, missiles and other high-tech hardware. Warman is public affairs manager for the Boeing Commercial Airplane Co., a subsidiary of the aerospace firm at Seattle.

Boeing leased 96,000 acres from the state on a 99-year lease in the early 1960s. At that time, the company was planning on building and testing aerospace hardware which could be shipped down the Columbia River and east to Florida. Those plans did not develop, but the tract was known as Boeing's Space Age Park. Much of the land eventually returned to agriculture with cattle and corn raised on it. Some has been sub-leased to farmers.

Last year the company built a laser research complex on 6,000 acres it had zoned as space research, just south of I-84. Work has been underway there for some time. The complex is under tight security, is fenced, and closed to the public.

Seeger said the location of the Boeing land is such that nothing it would be doing there would affect the possible location of a superconducting super-collider proposed by the state. The Navy's 47,000-acre bombing range is between the two locations. Anyway, the proposed super-collider would only come into Morrow County about eight miles on the east side.

"I can't see adverse effects," Seeger said. "Anything that Boeing does on that land would only improve the economy of Morrow County."

To develop disaster plan

County emergency personnel met in Boardman Monday night to begin developing a county-wide plan of action to follow if a major disaster should occur. Accidents involving hazardous materials are the primary concern. Boardman Assistant Fire Chief Milt Reynolds is in charge of drafting the plan which will involve all city and county police and fire departments in the whole county. The plan, required by the Department of Environmental Quality, must be completed by October, 1988.

cover. The tall variety also requires more moisture than the pubescent creating another problem for dryland farmers.

Seed dealers faced a sudden demand for grass seed that was so great that there were inadequate sources of pure seed, a wholesaler pointed out.

From the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Dave Turner, assistant administrator of the Commodity Inspection Division, told farmers that the truth in labeling law was the main protection they had against getting something other than what they purchased. "If a label says 100% peanuts, the bag must not contain kumquats," he said. He warned farmers not to buy seed without a tag attached stating what kind of seed was inside. Unopened bags of seed,

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Weather Report

By City of Heppner

September 8 - 14
High Low Prec.

Tues.	87	52	0
Wed.	90	53	0
Thurs.	89	52	0
Fri.	88	51	0
Sat.	84	47	0
Sun.	77	44	0
Mon.	80	45	0