

The Heppner

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## Council hears enthusiastic review of minibus program

By Avon Melby

Enthusiasm was high Monday night among those who had inspected a minibus program similar to one proposed for Heppner. Representatives from the county court, Heppner city council, and County Planning Director Deane Seeger looked over the LaGrande minibus program and reported to Heppner City Council at the October 5 meeting.

At the suggestion of City Attorney Bill Kuhn the Chamber of Commerce will be asked to participate in a public meeting to explain how the proposed transportation plan would work.

The county has made an application for a grant to purchase the bus Planning Director Deane Seeger said. A second grant to operate the program has also been included in the request. "You've got a tremendous program going in this hotel," Seeger said about the proposed restoration of Heppner Hotel into Senior Citizen apartments and suggested the bus be kept there and the city tie the Senior Citizen program there in with the bus. He explained that Senior Citizen programs were much less apt to be cut under other federal administrations than were direct grants to cities and counties. "They have too many votes," he said.

Terri Denton said insurance on the bus would be only \$1,000 to \$1,500, from estimates given. It would be a new bus and have low maintenance. If the city does not want to run the program, the county could, or the Seniors might take it over, Seeger said, and if it isn't working out, it can always be dropped.

Council decided to work with other organizations and see if enough interest can be raised through explaining the program, so the public will be interested enough to use the bus.

The road owned by the Corps of Engineers which borders Ken Key's land is available from the Corps of Engineers, Seeger said. He said if

the city does not want to take it over as a city street, the county would take the road so there could be development in the future.

City Attorney Bill Kuhn said the Corps would not improve the condition of the road when it was given back and it is not usable as a city street. Seeger said possibly county equipment could be used to bring the road up to standards, so it could be back on the tax rolls. Or the cemetery district might want part of the road, and land the Corps has there which is also available.

Kuhn said the city has been working for months on this with the Corps and though the Corps now says it is available, it will take them two years to "get their paper work done."

City Crew Foreman David Winters was recognized with a certificate for "doing a good job" by Mayor Cara Costa. She said it was just the first of a new Employee Recognition Program going on within the city.

A change in city personnel policies requiring second opinions for employees who are off due to illness came up for discussion with city police wanting to know how long one would have to be ill to require it. Kuhn told the council if a second

opinion was going to be required by the city on any illness the city would probably have to pay the costs involved, which now, at least, would require transportation out-of-town to another doctor.

After some discussion Kuhn was instructed to draw up a policy requiring a second opinion for an employee off more than 30 days.

Only Kevin Dick, out of the four property owners notified to clean up their property after last council meeting, has failed to reply, said City Manager Marshall Lovgren. Others are all completing work by set dates. The council decided to schedule a public hearing for the November council meeting to condemn the property since Dick has been notified several times to clean it up.

Police Chief Doug Rathbun turned in a list of changes he wants for training police. Council woman Denton questioned the costs, and who would pay for the revolvers used in the training. She was told those receiving the training would be required to provide their own guns. The suggested policy changes were to be examined by attorney Kuhn before being presented to the council at its next meeting, the mayor said.

## Preliminary floor plans posted

By Avon Melby

Preliminary floor plans for the changes to be made in rejuvenating the Heppner Hotel into a senior citizen apartment complex are on the wall at city hall in Heppner.

A change has been made by the architect so the apartments will range from 470 square feet to some over-700 square feet, making better use of the space, and more spacious apartments.

Senior Citizens will have most of the ground floor for their center consisting of a conference room, office area, kitchen area, and dining/meeting room.

Bill Kuhn, who is working with the architect and Seniors on plans of the building for the city, said the

Senior who have seen the plans are quite pleased with them.

A parking area, with 11 to 12 spaces, and some "green spaces" for grass and trees, will be included at the back of the building.

"The project is progressing as fast as expected," Kuhn said.

The architect is now starting to draft specifications for bids, he said.

## Dates needed for regional calendar

Regional Winter Events Calendar is being compiled by North Central Oregon Tourism Committee for distribution to Chamber and City offices in the three-county area, says Chamber Manager Claudia Hughes. She asks that within the coming week all special events scheduled for November through February as well as pre-scheduled annual events be in her hands. This calendar will prevent major events in Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla counties from being scheduled at the same time. It will also serve to publicize the events in the other counties and will be out quarterly.

North Central Oregon Tourism Committee (NCOTC) is currently involved in creation of a colorful three-county brochure, exhibit for the League of Small Cities Convention in Portland, and hospitality training. Next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. in Milton-Freewater, October 14. Heppner is represented by Joyce Hollomon and John Edmondson of the Tourism Committee, and Claudia Hughes, Board member.

## Historical Society asks information

The Historical Society and the City of Heppner are planning to clean up and restore the fountain at the fairgrounds parking lot, historical society member Delpha Jones has announced.

When finished, she would like to attach a plaque, she said, but we need additional information. We have discovered that the Gentry family donated the land for the fountain and that it was built circa 1916-1918, but we're not sure who built it.

Anyone with information may contact Jones, 989-8189.

## Concern for watershed expressed

By Avon Melby

Concern for the Willow Creek watershed was expressed at Heppner city council Monday. All city wells are at risk because of Forest Service practices, George Stillman, a city employee, told the council.

Forty years ago there was enough water in Rock Creek that Indians caught salmon there, Stillman said. Now there is not enough water there for the state to stock fish in the stream, Stillman said. "They are punching wells into Hell's Half Acre, there are 22 of them there now, and it's not a big enough area. Most of the drainage from there goes to the John Day watershed, with a small balance making up the watershed for Willow Creek. The Forest Service has stripped a grade slope of 60 percent in clear cut which could plug up our watershed."

Stillman referred to an editorial in Monday's East Oregonian saying there was money available for protection of watersheds and encouraging people to start working to save them.

"City councils of South Morrow County should let the state know of their interest in saving the water sheds, County Planning Director Deane Seeger said. Cutsforth Park brings in about \$3,000 to the county per year in usage fees, and "it is very possible that there could be no

water there," he said. Seeger said the county planning department would ask the cities to work together and let the state know of their concerns.

Council persons Angie Pedro and Rick Curtis were appointed by Mayor Cara Costa to work on the project.

Seeger said there would be a meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the county office in Lexington on October 14 to

decide where money for city parks should be spent this year. All cities in the county and all park districts are to have representatives there.

The money is for small parks and is available each year. Amount will be about \$1,600.

Seeger said Lexington has never benefited from the money and maybe should get it this year. The mayor said Heppner needs funds for rest rooms at its city parks.



## At the Fire Hall

Cherry Webber's morning and afternoon Kindergarten classes visited the Heppner Fire Dept. last week. They tried to fit into firefighters' boots, coats and helmets; then sat behind the wheel of a real fire truck; and (above) climb onto the back of the fire truck where grown up firefighters ride.

## Soil Conservationist joins county office

Soil conservationist Randy Franks has been on the job in Morrow County since July 20. He filled the vacancy created when Jon Tunburg was transferred.

Franks, his wife, Linda, and their sons, Eric, 15 and Nicholas, three months, live in Lone.

Franks, a native of Arkansas, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He worked for the SCS in four different Arkansas counties before coming to Oregon by way of Washington state.

Franks is currently working with District Conservationist Bob Adelman to determine erodibility of farmland in the county. "By 1990, farmers must have a conservation plan on all highly erodible land," he said. We are working to determine which lands meet the highly erodible criteria. Our office also suggests conservation methods and helps farmers map out a plan for their ground at no charge, he said. Farmers of course, have the option of hiring a private consultant, but must then pay for the service.

Land bid into the Conservation Reserve Program currently is under a conservation plan, but if the land is returned to cropland after 10 years, it will still need a conservation program, he said, whether a tillage practice, terracing, or a new method used in some areas of drilling three inch deep holes a foot square at intervals in the field to hold

moisture from rain or snow melt in puddles so it can be more readily absorbed into the field.

Both water and wind erosion are considered, Franks said. The Soil Conservation Services uses six criteria to determine water erodibility: 1) rainfall, 2) a factor for soil texture, 3) slope, 4) length of slope, 5) cropping practice—mold board or no-till—, and 6) contour farming. For wind erosion, they consider tillage practices and soil cover as well as ground cover and wind velocity.

Conservation practices can prove economical, the conservationist continued, without effecting a farm's productivity. Funds are available in high erosion areas through the national food security act. Morrow County has one of the highest erosion ratios in the state, he said.



Randy Franks

## Community education program begins

Pioneer Memorial Hospital has announced a new Community Education Program. Meeting the second Tuesday of every month, this series of classes will be on Diabetes Mellitus.

The first class entitled "Diabetes-An Overview" will be October 13, 1987 at 2 p.m. at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Future classes the hospital plans to offer will include: Heart Attacks, Strokes, Cardiac Risk Factors, and Cancer Prevention.

For further information, transportation, or suggestion of topics, please contact Molly Rhea at 676-9133.

## Committee forms to clear confusion about landfill

Dewey West, Boardman City Councilman and former mayor, and Harry O'Donnell, Heppner, were elected co-chairmen of Citizens of Economic Growth at its organizational meeting last Friday evening. Morrow County residents formed the political action committee to overcome widespread confusion about the upcoming initiative election concerning solid waste landfill siting in Morrow County, Tidewater Representative Ed Glenn said.

By initiative petition, Morrow County voters will consider a measure that would require a vote of the people before a solid waste landfill could be sited, developed or operated. The measure applies only to landfills to be used for disposal of refuse imported from outside the county. The vote to approve a landfill could only be made at a general election and a majority of registered voters would have to approve.

Tidewater Barge Lines has proposed to open a solid waste landfill on Finley Buttes, 10 miles south of

Boardman. Glenn said, "The passage of this initiative would delay Tidewater's project for a year, until the next general election. That delay may very well kill the project altogether since the Portland metropolitan area plans to write a 25-year contract with someone early next spring." He added that if Morrow County isn't ready then, there may not be another chance for 25 years, if at all.

West remembers that, "there was some reservation that the PGE coal-fired plant would be an unbearable polluter of our environment. That hasn't happened because of the various governmental controls and the plant and its employees have become a very valuable part of our community. The solid waste landfill will also become an important part of our economy."

Glenn said that the committee's goal of ending confusion on the issue would be simplified by remembering

Continued page 2

## Weather Report

By City of Heppner

| September 29 - October 5<br>High Low Prec. |       |
|--|-------|
| Tues.                                      | 79 46 |
| Wed.                                       | 83 46 |
| Thurs.                                     | 85 47 |
| Fri.                                       | 84 48 |
| Sat.                                       | 74 43 |
| Sun.                                       | 73 44 |
| Mon.                                       | 77 43 |

## Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

| Tuesday, Oct. 6<br>Soft White |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Oct.                          | \$3.07/3.09 |
| Nov.                          | \$3.11/3.13 |
| Dec.                          | \$3.15/3.17 |
| Jan.                          | \$3.19/3.21 |
| Barley                        |             |
| Oct./Nov.                     | \$87.50T    |
| Hard Red Winter               |             |
| 11 protein.                   | \$3.08/bu   |
| PIK                           |             |
| Certificates                  | 104%        |



## Early Harvest

Brad (left) and Donnie Papineau bagged their forked horn and five-point opening weekend of general deer season in the Ditch Creek area.

They were among about 15% of hunters who were successful the first weekend of the general season, Assistant Wildlife Biologist Bob Krien said. Many hunters had difficulty finding bucks because of the hot, dry conditions in the forest. Most had to be satisfied with 1½-2 year olds, he said. The outlook for next weekend is even more bleak unless some rain comes to hunter's aid. Deer will be found near water sources, he continued, with foothills probably yielding the fewest animals.