Irrigon sewer construction underway

by Joyce Hensley

Backhoes, excavators and other heavy duty equipment can be seen around Irrigon. Construction on the 1.5 million dollar innovative Irrigon sewer system has begun.

Trunk lines, lateral lines, lift stations and rapid infiltration beds are all terms being tossed around at the SCM Consultants Field Construction office in Irrigon.

SCM Consultants is the engineering firm hired by Irrigon in the late '70's after the Oregon State Health Division declared Irrigon an "imminent health threat" to the underground water supply. Several cases of hepatitis broke out in the south end of Irrigon due to contaminated water.

Until the Rapid Infiltration Basins and Small Diameter Gravity Sewer System is complete in July, the residents of Irrigon will be inconvenienced at times.

"We realize this is an inconvenience," said Leon Lindbloom, Construction Adminstration Group manager for SCM, "but, we are here to help".

"We have already re-routed one lateral sewer line on Third Street to minimize inconvenience to the property owners in that area," he added.

Existing septic tanks will be modified to accept the filtering system, and then will be connected to the new service line.

Any existing steel septic tanks will be replaced.

"Steel tends to corrode," said Lindbloom.

Out of the three-hundred septic tanks to be serviced, approximately two-hundred will require new septic tanks to meet the Department of Environmental Quality standards, according to Lindbloom.

The expense is covered by the $998,302 bid awarded by the city of Irrigon to the contractors, Fabricators, Inc. of Salem.

The contractor, by specification, is required to replace turf, landscaping, and fencing in like or better condition.

"The SCM staff, the city staff and the contractor will be working with the land owner to insure that installation is satisfactory," said Lindbloom.

"We don't want to cause undue hardship," he added.

In small unsewered communities, conventional sewer systems often are not economically feasible because of the high costs of installing the collection sewers. Small diameter gravity sewers developed out of the need to reduce the costs of central sewerage.

They were first used extensively in Australia.

Although they have been used in other parts of the world since 1961, and have proven much less costly to construct and maintain than conventional sewers, it's considered an Innovative Alternative Technology project in the United States.

Because the Rapid Infiltration System and Small Diameter Gravity System is considered an Innovative Alternative Technology, the city of Irrigon will receive approximately $700,000 from an EPA grant.

The plan of action after the installation of the service lines, lateral lines and lift stations will be the completion of the 20 rapid infiltration beds and the start and completion of the sewer connection services.

There are five monitoring wells installed. One well is located upgrade of the rapid infiltration beds; three monitoring wells are located downgrade of the beds, and the fifth monitoring well has been placed further down grade from the beds.

"There is a complete quality evaluation schedule," he added.

Because the entire waste treatment in this type of a sewage system is a natural process, there was much time spent testing the soil in various areas around Irrigon. The soil had to meet certain DEQ requirements.

"Because of the lay of the land and the natural soil type, the soil is very efficient for treating waste water," said Lindbloom.

There will be a one year performance evaluation.

Photo by Joyce Hensley

Irrigon Mayor, Don Eppenbach, and Project Superintendent, 'Butch' Dixon check to see how the installation of a trunk line is coming for the new Irrigon water system.

Boardman • Irrigon News

Call 676-9228, 567-7873 or 481-3274 With News Items

Area students listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students

A total of 29 students from this area have been included in the 22nd annual edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1987-88.

Who's Who, published by Educational Communications, Inc., Lake Forest, Illinois, is the largest hgih school recognition publication in the country. Students are nominated by high school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches or by the publishing company based upon students' performance in scholarship award contests or extracurricular activities.

Final selection is determined on the basis of criteria which include high achievement in academics and leadership in school activities, athletics or community service. Traditionally, 99 percent of Who's Who students have a grade point average of "B" or better and 97 percent are college bound.

The 22nd edition of Who's Who, published in 12 regional volumes, features 573,000 students or 5 percent of the nation's 12,000,000 high school students. They represent 18,000 of the 22,000 public, private and parochial high schools in the country.

Who's Who students also compete for over $65,000 in scholarship awards and participate in the publication's annual opinion poll of teen attitudes. The book is distributed to 15,000 high schools, colleges, universities, and public libraries throughout the country.

Local students selected for last year's volumes are:

Boardman: Gale M. Bailey, Lisa Diane Erickson, Terri L. Moore, Melissa R. Richmond, Shauna R. Bates, Lisa Mark, Daniel W Peck.

Heppner: Craig K. Angell, Carri Brownfield, Eric N. Connor, Angie M. Currin, J J Osmin, J J Shaw, Kim Stookey, Nance E. Wright, Duane Ball, Jill Conklin, Mary E. Connor, Oliver Devin, Lana S. Schmidt, John J Shaw, Michelle L. Wallis.

Lexington: Kathleen Brazell, Dean Munkers, Karla M. Davison, Bryan Padberg.

Ione: Kim Logan.

Irrigon: Steven Hulen, Jay Marlow.

Hamilton sentenced to 10 years for arson

A 67 year old Boardman man was sentenced to ten years in the Oregon State Penitentiary for his part in the arson-caused fire which destroyed the Hitching Post Restaurant in Boardman last February. Jay Hamilton of Boardman received the sentence from Morrow County Circuit Court Judge Pro-Tem Ralph Currin on December 6.

In imposing sentence, Judge Currin also required Hamilton to serve a mandatory two-year term before being released on parole. He also ordered Hamilton to pay restitution in the amount of $150,000 to the victims. As part of the negotiated plea, charges of Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Arson and Attempted Arson I arising from the restaurant fire were dismissed by the State. A co-defendant, Bobby Hamilton, son of Jay Hamilton, had previously plead guilty to Attempted Arson in the First Degree as a result of the fire.

RHS and HHS to participate in Citizen Bee

Riverside High School and Heppner High School students will have the opportunity to participate in a unique social studies academic competition which could lead to a scholarship and a study trip to Washington, D.C. later this year. The schools have registered to participate in the Close Up Foundation Citizen Bee.

The Citizen Bee is an academic competition that focuses on social studies and progresses through school, regional and state events. Finalists compete for the national title in Washington in June 1989. Three Riverside students and three HHS students will advance to regional competitions with top students there going to the state finals.

Each of the schools registering for the event is permitted an unlimited number of participants and each school will receive copies of a source book from which most of the questions will be derived.

State winners earn a trip to Washington where they will participate in the Foundation's government studies program as well as the competition. Winners of the national event receive college scholarships of $7,000, $5,000 and $3,000. The Milken Family Foundation is the national sponsor of the Citizen Bee with additional support provided by RJR Nabisco, Inc.; Peat Marwick Main & Co.; Kraft Inc.; and the Monsanto Fund.

Bob Deeter, an educator at Riverside will be coordinating the Citizen Bee at Riverside.

Linda Dutcher, an educator at Heppner will be coordinating the Citizen Bee at Heppner.

Quarter-a-dip dinner to show support for Irrigon officers

by Joyce Hensley

A Quarter-a-dip dinner will be held in Irrigon to "help get the town together and to show support for our officers," said Donna Eppenbach, secretary for the Chamber of Commerce.

December 8, between 5 and 7:30 p.m. at A.C. Houghton, residents of Irrigon will bring dishes of food to serve at 25 cents a dip. The meat will be provided by the Irrigon Watermelon Festival, Irrigon Crime Watch and the Irrigon Chamber of Commerce.

"It used to be dime-a-dip," said Donna, "but everything has gone up."

"This really isn't a benefit, it is just to show our officers we are behind them," she said. "Besides, the whole town has the doldrums. We thought this dinner would get us together."

Officer Brad Winkler and Police Chief Steve Mackey will not be patrolling the streets of Irrigon during the month of December after a city operating levy failed for the third time.

The operating levy will again go before the city, December 29. If the levy passes, both officers will be back in their patrol cars, but not until January 1. There is no way of re-instating them until the levy has again been put before the voters.

Pasco man sentenced on drug charges

An 18 year old Pasco man was sentenced in Morrow County Circuit Court following his conviction on drug-related charges. Jamine Gonzalez plead guilty to Delivery of a Controlled Substance and Possession of a Controlled Substance charges before Morrow County Circuit Court Pro-Tem Judge Ralph Currin. Gonzalez was arrested in September along with another Washington man, Ignacio Hernandez in Irrigon. Hernandez has also plead guilty to Delivery and Possession of a Controlled Substance charges as a result of that incident, and is awaiting sentencing.

Judge Currin sentenced Gonzalez to three years to the Oregon State Penitentiary, but suspended imposition of sentence and placed Gonzalez on five years formal probation and imposed a range of drug-related probationary conditions.

Tillicum Club sponsors lighting contest

The Boardman Tillicum Club is sponsoring a Christmas Lighting contest for the city of Boardman. Residences and businesses will be judged separately for best over-all Christmas display.

The two categories will receive a cash award of $30 each for first place and $15 each for second place.

The judging will take place Wednesday evening, December 21, from 7-8 p.m.

Meeting Notices

Town and Country

A Town and Country meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Extension Conference room.

Trauma Advisory Board

The regularly scheduled Area Trauma advisory Board (ATAB) for Area #9 will be held Thursday, December 8, at the Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston at 5 p.m. in the Conference room. The meeting is open to the public.

Health Dept

The Morrow County Health Nurse lists its following schedule for the month of December:

Tuesday, Dec. 13-blood pressures and immunizations, 1-4 p.m. at the Irrigon County offices.

Friday, Dec. 16-blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Heppner office.

Tuesday, Dec. 20-blood pressures and immunizations, 1:30-4 p.m. Boardman City Hall.

Wednesday, Dec 21-blood pressures, 2-3 p.m. Bank of Eastern Oregon kitchen, Ione.

Friday, Dec. 23-blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Heppner office.

Tuesday, Dec. 27-blood pressures and immunizations, Irrigon County offices, 1-4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 30-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

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6:00 Pre-game program

7:30 First Game

SATURDAY

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