

Gazette times

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Fairgrounds plan unveiled to public

Public reaction was favorable Tuesday night, for a plan to substantially change and upgrade the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo grounds in Heppner.

Pieced together by a citizens committee of interested groups, the plan calls for major improvements and expansion at the fairgrounds.

If the necessary funding can be obtained, moving the high school baseball field off the fairgrounds to a site near the high school will most likely be the first step in the fairgrounds renovation plan.

The almost complete redoing of the fairgrounds was prompted by general agreement in the community that the facility needs major work. Morrow County put up the money for the study, which backers hope can be used to obtain grants and other funding for

renovations.

Included in the finalized plan is an outdoor amphitheater, new rodeo separate from the football field, an antique museum, more roads and parking, a new little league baseball field, better football lighting, and maybe someday an events and activity hall. The plan also calls for expanding the grounds east into what is now the school district bus sheds, and west into what is presently a county maintenance area.

Proponents emphasize that changes will be done piecemeal, and could stretch out over a 10 year period, depending on the availability of funding. No dollar amount was given for the entire project, however, grant expert Stan Foster said the first phase of moving the baseball field, adding

new lighting to the football field, and improving the entrance to the fairgrounds, could cost "about \$150,000."

The Morrow County school district has decided to level an area behind the shop near the high school for a new baseball diamond. It has received commitment from a heavy equipment school in Boardman to do the leveling, and except for some minor fuel costs, this work would be free. Other sites to move the baseball field, including one in Lexington, were looked at and rejected.

The committee appointed to formulate the new fairgrounds plan is now seeking public comment about the ambitious project, which committee chairman Larry Mills says is a good one.

A gust of wind around 12:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, knocked down a section of the U.S. Forest Service building now under construction on Main St. in Heppner. There was no damage and the wall was uprighted.

Christmas tree permits available

Christmas tree permits can now be purchased at all offices of the Umatilla National Forest for \$2 per tree. There is a limit of one tree household, although friends, relatives and neighbors may pick up permits for others.

A Christmas tree permit is required for each tree cut. Douglas fir, Engelman spruce and blue spruce are the most popular trees,

though insect infestation and disease have left these species a little bedraggled. Ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine make unique and fragrant alternatives.

Permits can be purchased during regular office hours Monday through Friday at the Heppner district office and at Miller's Mini-Mart and Chevron in Heppner.

Grade school to hold book fair

A book fair sponsored by the Heppner Elementary school media center will be held at Heppner Elementary School December 3-6.

The fair will be set up on the stage area of the multi-purpose room and will be available to the public from 8:10 to 9 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and 2:30 to 2:55 p.m. each day.

Colt basketball tryouts Dec. 7

Colt Basketball tryouts have been scheduled for Saturday December 7 at the Heppner High School gym. Tryouts officially begin at 9 a.m. but players and parents should arrive by 8:30 a.m. to register. Registration cost is \$5 per player with a \$7.50 per family maximum. Boys and girls grades four through sixth are invited to play.

Registration forms will be passed out at school prior to December 7 and will be available that morning. If a player cannot make the tryouts, he or she must pre-register and let Dave Gundersen, Bob Ployhar or Jerry Healy know they intend to play.

Players who sign up will be

placed on one of the eight teams. The first practice is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 14. Five games are planned with a tournament at the end of the season. Games will be played Saturday mornings at the Heppner high school and junior high gyms.

Coaches ask that basketball shoes be clean before walking on to the court. The gym floors have been refinished and are in excellent condition. This years teams and coaches are: Gary Schonbachler-Bruins; Barry Munkers-Cougars; Gary Watkins-Trojans; Al Scott-Cardinals; George Waterland-Huskies; Bob Ployhar-Ducks; Rick Johnston-Bears; Jerry Healy-Bears.

Punch out winners drawn



Cindy Green, owner of Coast to Coast draws out the first week's lucky punch card winners.

There were five lucky winners this week in the Christmas Punch Out.

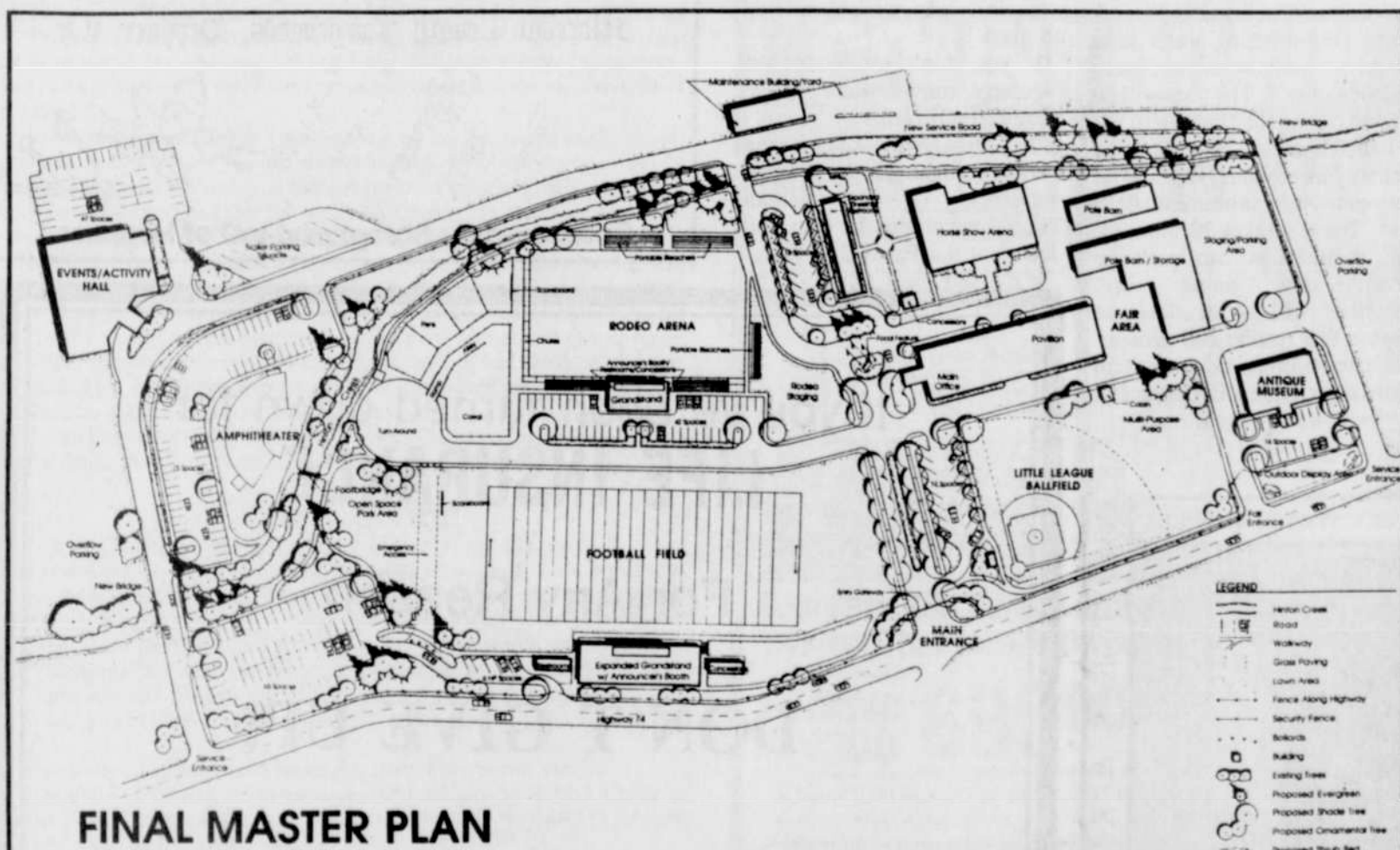
Ola Mae Groshens, Bob Kahl, Ned Clark, Gene Orwick and Darrell Harris were all winners of \$25 gift certificates from local businesses.

There is still plenty of time to pick up your punch card at participating businesses, get it punched and enter for next week. You could be the lucky winner of a \$25 gift certificate.

And remember everyone who

enters during the next four weeks will be eligible for the grand prize drawing of \$550 in gift certificates to be given away to one lucky person on Dec. 23, just in time for Christmas.

Businesses participating in the Christmas Punch Out are: Morrow County Grain Growers, Green Feed & Seed, The Country Rose, Murray's Drug, Gardner's Men's Wear, Peterson's Jewelry, Shoe Box, Coast to Coast, Les Schwab Tires, Heppner Bowl and Kates Pizza.



Morrow County Fair & Rodeo Grounds
Master Planning Study

PMH administrator Ernest Wick resigns



Ernest Wick

Pioneer Memorial Hospital administrator Ernest Wick submitted his resignation, effective Dec. 26, to the Morrow County Medical Board at their meeting Tuesday, Nov. 26. Wick, who stated only that he was resigning for "personal reasons" has been PMH administrator for the past four and a half years, initially as an employee of St. Anthony Hospital while St. Anthony provided management services for PMH.

The medical board unanimously accepted Wick's resignation

"with regret" and agreed to negotiate a short term contract with Wick after Dec. 26 during a transition period until a new administrator is named.

According to Stan Berry, of Western Health Resources, a hospital management firm under contract with the medical board to provide management services, Wick was not asked to resign. Berry said that WHR will first look within its organization to find a replacement for Wick. Wick said that he "was looking to secure other employment."

Santa to visit this Saturday

Santa will be in Heppner this Saturday November 30. At 1 p.m. he will be at the Senior Center to take requests for Christmas.

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