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HEPPNER

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The elk season, labeled "bad" to "spotty", is turning up very few large elk this year.

Janet Taylor, who works in the meat department at Central Market, says they are seeing mostly spikes this year, "no big ones."

And no wonder, the Bennett's took them both. Judy Barber shot her five-point elk opening day and Sandy Matthews shot her five-point elk on Friday. They were hunting in the Heppner Unit.



L-R: Sandy Matthews and her daughter Whitney and Judy Barber show their trophy five-point elk.

Local businesses dress up for Halloween



Murray's Drug received best business I-R: Rita Bergstrom, Jenny Bingham, Irene Plocharsky, Rose Bergstrom and Ann and John Murray



First Interstate honorable mention: Jackie Allstott, Andrea Mortimore, Sharon Harrison, Ralph Crum, Florene Robinson, Carrie Connor.



Merry Brannon was individual winner



Ginger Keithley was honorable mention

Murray's Drug Store won the "Most Spooktacular Business Participation" award at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Halloween costume contest Thursday, Oct. 29. The contest was held in conjunction with the downtown Moonlight Madness sale.

Honorary mention business went to First Interstate Bank. Individual costume winner was Merry Brannon, "Miss Cotton Candy" at the Country Rose. Honorary mention went to Florene Robinson, "the Pole Cat" at First Interstate Bank and Cindy Schmidt, "The Nerd" at Country Rose.

The "Cat's Meow" award



Lynnea Sargent, Jean Ball and Molly Day received the "Cat's Meow" award

went to three "Cool Cats" at Gardner's Men's Wear, Jean Ball, Lynnea Sargent and Molly Day.

Ginger Keithley ran away with the "Bowser" award with her "This Is My Costume" t-shirt and bowser feet.

Judges "Bowser" and the "Cat" said that area businesses

had great participation and commented that it was a tough decision to choose the winners. The contest was based on total participation, creativity and enthusiasm. "A good time was had by all involved and businesses are to be commended for their excellent costumes," they said.

Farewell party set for Fr Condon

Members of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church will hold a farewell potluck for Fr. Gerry Condon at the parish hall on Sunday, Nov. 8 beginning at noon.

Anyone in the community who wishes to attend is invited.

Father Condon is leaving for Ireland and this will be an opportunity to wish him well. "Father Condon has touched the lives of many people in the community, and he will be greatly missed," said a spokesperson.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to bring a hot dish and a salad or dessert. For further information, contact Bettie Doherty, 676-5188.

DEQ leaves city in the air over sewer system

Last week city representatives heard some confusing statements when they met in Heppner with three representatives from the Portland office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Dropped on the tale were some surprising proposed alternatives concerning the construction of a new city waste treatment system.

Senator Wayne Fawbush, Hood River, moderated this meeting which was arranged when city officials asked state representatives for help in getting specific answers from the DEQ agency. Until recently, city officials said that they were led to believe that \$220,000 in additional grant funding would be allocated for the current sewer system design that is estimated to cost \$1.7 million dollars.

In the initial planning stage four years ago it was projected that a \$932,292 EPA grant plus \$625,000 from a sewer bond, that was approved by voters in 1990, would finance the project.

The original design would have piped effluent water from the plant to a large lagoon where it would be used on 40 plus alfalfa crop acres. Regulations at that time said that effluent water could no longer enter Willow Creek during low stream flow periods.

But without using the condemnation process, the city was unable to find adequate land for that system due to unsuitable locations, unwilling landowners and flood plain restrictions.

The game plan changed when Heppner declared that they could not meet the specifications. The DEQ finally concurred that the lagoon could be replaced by a holding tank from which water would be fed to an underground sprinkler system on the Willow Creek Golf Course. Additional plans were to put water, using wheel lines, on the adjacent property belonging to Fred Hoskins.

Engineering costs continued to climb as the design was reworked while another time-consuming environmental assessment review is still in progress. Because the project was scaled down, the additional grant funding request of \$440,000 was cut in half.

"It's highly unlikely" that Heppner will receive any additional grant funding," said Dick Nichols, manager of Oregon's DEQ municipal projects. He explained Heppner was low on the list of dwindling grant allocations because the project was not underway.

"You're not at a point where additional funding could be considered, even if it were available," said Martin Loring, DEQ official. He expressed concern that the project wasn't even valid without additional funding. However he assured city officials that the environmental assessment process has not been slowed down for the current plan.

Nichols explained that there were two major things wrong with the present 30 year old system. It does not have a very effective disinfectant system, he said and chlorine levels must be reduced to prevent toxicity to fish and wildlife per federal requirement.

The next bombshell fell as Nichols suggested that the project could again be reduced. "Nine acres may work very well," Nichols said after suggesting that the holding tank be eliminated and only the Hoskins property be used for effluent water irrigation.

According to Nichols there are now "water quality tools" that were not available in 1989. He said the city can now discharge 150,000 gallons per day into Willow Creek (about the current daily rate) year around after the water is treated to lower the chlorine content.

But project engineer Alan Rieke, LaGrande, said that based on studies the city sewer flow rates have been suppressed during the recent drought years. He said that 180,000 gallons per day is not unrealistic based also on a modest one percent future growth rate. For that amount of discharge, he said it would require 19 acres of irrigatable land to not exceed the daily allowable discharge rate into the stream.

"Not building a holding tank isn't going to save enough money," Rieke said. "There are already a lot of fixed costs."

"How do we know that DEQ won't come back in a few years with a different set of standards?" asked Larry Mills, Heppner.

"Maybe the city needs to consider spending more money now to take less risks for later," Loring responded. Nichols added that although grant money is drying up the agency isn't "trying to play hardball with the city." Whether the city gets additional funding or not, you have to go ahead with the project, he said.

Different ways to finance the current plan were discussed including low interest loans, plans to build the current design in stages or just scaling back on the project.

"Loans have to be paid back," city manager Gary Marks said. "Rate payers have already done their share. Monthly sewer rates have increased from \$7.50 to \$19.80, one of the highest in the state. We have to go ahead with a plan that will work for now as well as the future; we've already spent a lot of money just getting to this point."

I don't think you've given the city much of an option," city attorney Bill Kuhn told DEQ members. "We'll lose a lot of good faith if the golf course is eliminated from the project." In negotiations with the golf course board, the city agreed to pay the board \$50,000. In addition to the expenses incurred for the installation of an underground automated sprinkler system that was scheduled to be built during the 1993-94 winter months.

"We could have closed our minds" in keeping any effluent water from entering the stream, Nichols said. But the agency tries "to do our level best" in being equitable in the distribution of grant money that is reallocated back to the state from the federal. Most small towns have cost overruns for this type of project and at this point we don't know how much money will dribble back into DEQ resources, he said.

"It looks like we're being punished for having to rework the process," Marks said. The city must comply with sewer improvement mandates, he said. In a worst case scenario, in addition to fines the DEQ could prevent the town from receiving state revenue funds that support street improvements and other services. And the DEQ could probably put in place a state-of-the-art sewer system regardless of cost, he added.

Local woman featured in USA Today article

Mary McElligott, daughter of Don and Eunice McElligott of Ione, and her family were featured on the front page and an inside story in the October 5 issue of "USA Today".

McElligott, 38, a cardiac care nurse, her husband, Minot Cleveland 43, a physician and their two children, Erin, four and Ben, seven, were featured in a story concerning family fitness.

Labeled "one of America's fittest families," the McElligott and Cleveland jog and cross train and get involved in their children's sports.

"If you spend time walking, bicycling or hiking with your children, they sort of learn from

your example. You don't have to spend a lot of money, just time," says McElligott.

According to the USA today article, "Part of their initiative for healthy living comes from their occupations. They're haunted and challenged, by the vision of a seemingly endless parade of unhealthy patients filling exam rooms." More personally, her father has had bypass surgery and has had a heart attack.

Also in the article McElligott and Minot offer advice for families who want to improve on their home's health foundation, including exercise, diet and habits.

St. Patrick's committee sets meeting

The initial planning meeting for the 1993 St. Patrick's weekend celebration has been set for Tuesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Basin Conference Room. Dates for the '93 celebration will be March 12-14, 1993.

Chairmen would like to get the schedule set up and all chairmanships assigned, as calls have already started coming to the chamber of commerce office.

The singers and dancers from County Cork, Ireland are anxious to return to Heppner and would like to stay longer if the trip can be arranged. They are looking

forward to sharing their culture in the schools, teaching dancing and being more active participants in the celebration. Additional donations and fundraisers will be needed for this to happen.

New faces are always welcome at the committee meetings. Ideas for youth and family activities for Saturday and Sunday afternoon are requested.

If you are unable to attend but wish to contribute ideas, you may send them to St. Pat's Committee, Box 1232, Heppner, or call 676-5536, Tuesday or Wednesday.

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