

City sewer project proceeding

Heppner's beleaguered sewer project, beset by Department of Environmental waffling, may see some smooth sailing ahead.

Heppner city manager Gary Marks told the Heppner City Council Monday night, Nov. 9, that an Oregon Economic Development Department grant may bail out the project. Marks said that the community's designation as a severely impacted timber dependent area may open up grant possibilities for up to half of the shortfall required to complete the project. The shortfall is now estimated to be around 240,000, but officials say it could increase as more time elapses.

The sewer project, required by the DEQ to reduce the effluent dumped into Willow Creek during low stream flows in the summer months, has met with problems almost since its onset. Problems with DEQ requirements, landowners, county and state regulations and engineering have lengthened the process and boosted project costs.

According to Marks, Yvonne Addington, manager of the OEDD Community Development project, said that besides the grant, the city may borrow the remainder of the shortfall through a 20-year low interest loan. The loan may be deferred for up to two years.

Marks said that only a six-week

turn around period is expected between application and receipt of the grant monies.

Project cost estimates four years ago, when the project began, were over \$1.5 million, with a 932,000 Environmental Protection Agency Grant and a \$625,000 sewer bond. Project estimates are now \$1.7 million.

The DEQ earlier indicated that they might grant the city additional monies to complete the project, but at a recent meeting in Heppner reversed their decision.

At the Heppner meeting, DEQ officials also said that they might approve a scaled down version of the project, because of the shortfall. The project now involves pumping effluent to the Willow Creek Golf Course where an underground sprinkler system would be used to water the grounds and to the Hoskins place, where it would be used to irrigate alfalfa. DEQ officials said that they might agree to the elimination of the golf course portion of the plan.

The council members Monday night opted for the entire plan, however, saying they fear that if the golf course plan is eliminated, the amount of the original grant for the project would be decreased. They also say that they have no guarantee that the DEQ won't again reverse its decision and re-

quire a more extensive project sometime down the road, or that the scaled-down project won't soon become obsolete. A third option of taking no action was rejected because of earlier threats by the DEQ that they might come and take the project over, building a state-of-the-art sewer project at the city's expense.

Marks told the council that they will still "have to look at a sewer rate increase."

Marks also reported that costs for work by Anderson Perry & Associates engineering firm, earlier capped at around \$100,000 (less a \$19,000 grant) for the entire sewer project, now exceed \$160,000 (less the grant) and the project has not yet entered the construction phase. The firm is expected to complete the project design by the end of the year.

In other business, the council passed an ordinance allowing owners of visiting recreational vehicles 30 days before they are required to apply for permits with the planning department;

authorized the city to let bids for a new roof for city hall. Monies for the roof, which had been budgeted, will come equally from the water, street and sewer budgets;

heard a report from the city administrator on the proposed renovation of the fire hall.

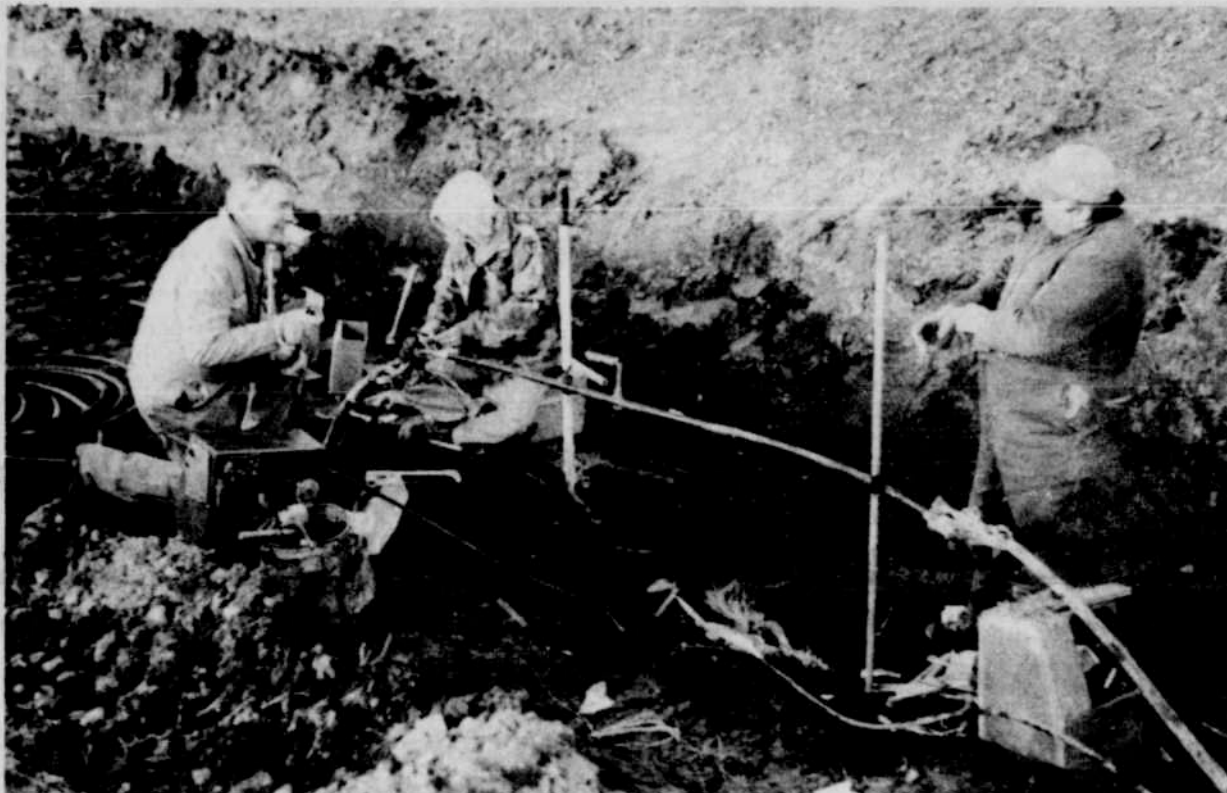
HEPPNER

Gazette Times

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VOL. 111 NO. 44 8 Pages Wednesday, November 11, 1992 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Local phone service disrupted



Pacific N.W. Bell workers repair severed phone line

Phone service to south Morrow County was disrupted Tuesday, when workers widening the road near Kinzua Corp. cut a phone

cable with a backhoe.

People in the north end of the county were not able to call in and Heppner, Lexington and Lone

residents could only call within their prefixes for around two hours. Service was re-established around 4:45 p.m.

IHS volleyball team advances to district playoffs

Ione Cardinals volleyball team will be playing in the District 1A volleyball tournament Thursday, Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. in Dufur. The Lady Cards, going in as the number two seed, are hoping for a spot in the state playoff games

Nov. 20 and 21, and need to win both the games on Thursday.

Coach Greg Likens says he feels going to district will be a good experience for his young volleyball team.

Tables still available for Artifactory

The annual Christmas artifactory is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Artifactory is a craft fair sponsored by Soroptimist International of Heppner. The intent is to provide a marketing opportunity for Columbia Basin crafts people. Eight-foot tables are rented to individuals who wish to sell their handmade crafts or home baked goods.

Additional features include a wreath and holiday greenery workshop conducted by the Heppner Garden Club, visits and photos with Santa, lunch served by the Heppner Soroptimists, free admission and convenient parking.

There are still a few table spaces available. For information contact Carol Michael-Bennett, 1992 artifactory chairperson, at 676-9642, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parents' club plans annual Pony Pride School Carnival

The Parents' Club will hold their annual "Pony Pride Carnival" November 20 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the fairgrounds pavilion. "This is their biggest event of the year," said a spokesperson for the event.

This year the carnival will feature a few new games; a putting green, a bowling pin throw and a jail, just to name a few, along with the old favorites. Game tickets are 25 cents each.

Hot dogs, popcorn, caramel apples in a dish and more, will be available from the concession stand.

The Parents' Club will offer

family portraits in December. These will be taken by "Portrait Images". Students Kindergarten through eighth grade will bring more information home on November 25. For more information contact Ginny Nairns, 676-9252.

The Parents' Club has been working on different fund raisers throughout the year. Their goal is to replace some of the playground equipment at the elementary school playground. So far this year they have painted a map of the United States and put in several large tires.

Safety rodeo set in Irrigon

Friday, Nov. 13 is the first Sara Erickson Safety Rodeo at A.C. Houghton Elementary school in honor of the memory of the A.C. Houghton student who was killed in an accident this summer. This safety rodeo will be devoted to emphasizing safety and is sponsored by the Morrow County Sheriff's Dept., McDonalds, Wal-Mart, Columbia Junior High students, the Irrigon volunteer fire dept. and other volunteers.

Instruction in bicycle, pedestrian, water and fire safety will occur. In addition, students will learn more about the Block Home program, horseback safety when on a street or a road, and what happens when medical assistance is given.

A fun part of the bicycle instruction will be the participation in a bike rodeo for those with bicycles. These students will also have a chance to register their bikes and this information will be retained by the Morrow County Sheriff's Dept. in the event of bicycle theft.

Boosters donate \$5,000



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Martha Munkers, (r), representative of the Heppner Booster Club, presents George Koffler at the Bank of Eastern Oregon with a check for \$5,000 toward the lighting project at the fairgrounds and the baseball field. The Booster Club has been working to raise money for many years, saving enough for the donation. Of the \$85,000 that needs to be raised, \$42,000 is in donations.

Mustangs host playoffs this weekend

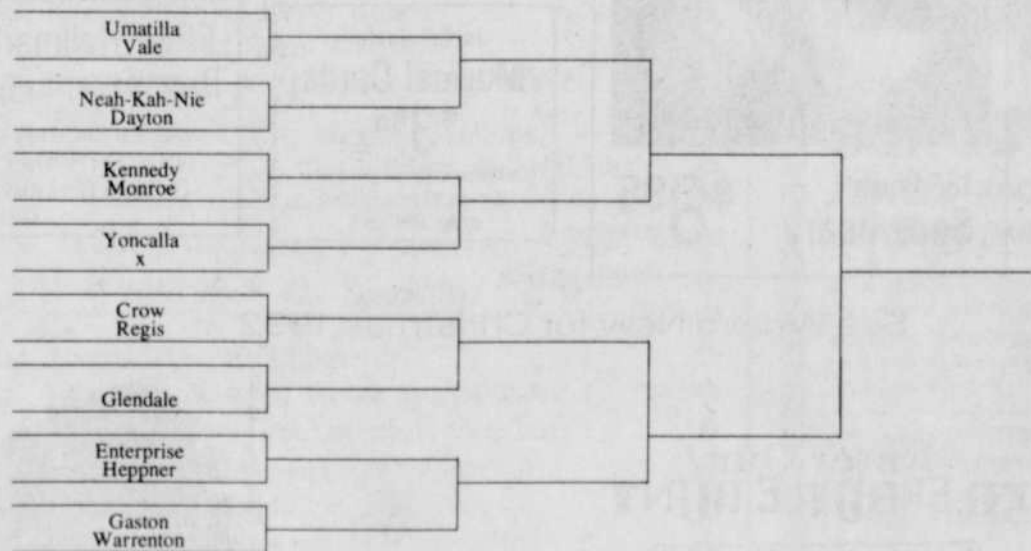
CBC League champions the Heppner Mustangs will host the first round game in the class 2A State Football playoffs Saturday, November 14 at the fairgrounds in Heppner.

The Enterprise Savages, the number-two team from the

Wapiti League, will tee up against the CBC champs, the Heppner Mustangs, beginning at 12 noon.

Tickets are on sale at the Heppner High School office and will be available through Friday.

Prices are set by the Oregon School Activities Association at \$4 for adults, \$3 for high school students with student body cards and \$3 for children. No passes, including senior citizen passes, will be honored at any state football playoff game.



Regional volleyball playoffs for Fillies in LaGrande

The Heppner Fillies will travel to LaGrande to a regional volleyball tournament similar to the basketball playoffs.

Weston-McEwen and Vale, the first place teams from the CBC and Wapiti League, will play for a trip to the state volleyball tour-

namment next weekend.

The Fillies will battle the Imbler Panthers at 6 p.m. Saturday for the right to play the loser of the first place game. That winner will go to the state tournament as the number two team.

Community pep assembly planned

The Heppner High School cheerleaders will hold a community pep assembly on Friday November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Heppner High School gym. The pep assembly will honor the Fillies and Mustangs as they will both play in state playoff rounds on Saturday. The Fillies travel to LaGrande to play the Imbler Panthers at 6 p.m. and the Mustangs take on the Enterprise Savages at home at noon.

The cheerleaders invite everyone to come out and help show their support to the teams.

Advisory committee member sought

Boardman residents who wish to be considered for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory

Committee may obtain an application at either Sam Boardman Elementary or Riverside High School. Applications will be accepted until Nov. 30.

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