

HEPPNER



35¢

VOL. 113 NO. 18 10 Pages Wednesday, May 11 1994 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Former Kinzua owners make donation

The former owners of Kinzua Corp. are donating \$250,000 to the community as a goodwill gesture, Kinzua general manager Frank Pearson announced at the Heppner City Council meeting Monday evening, May 9.

Pearson said that he went before the past owners and asked for a donation. The owners agreed with Pearson's request with the stipulation that the projects approved would be highly visible and that the donation be tax deductible. Pearson said that the donation gave the previous owners the opportunity to "put something back into the community."

A committee of George Koffler, Bank of Eastern Oregon president and chief executive officer, Larry Mills, Morrow County Grain Growers general manager, and Cliff Green, businessman, president of the Heppner Economic Development and former mayor of Heppner, was appointed. A fourth committee member, Dave Allstott, was appointed by the city council.

Requests for monies for worthwhile projects from the community, including Heppner, Lexington and Lone, may be returned to Heppner City Hall. In addition to being visible, the projects should benefit the community. No stipulations have been set concerning the amount of money asked. Applications should include the name of the group, the amount of money asked, the project and an explanation of its benefit to the community and a contact person. "I think people will come up with good projects," Pearson added. He said that he expects that it may take one to one and a half years to expend the money.

The city directed city manager Gary Marks and city attorney Bill Kuhn to draft ground rules for accepting projects.

In related business, the council heard a report from Pearson concerning the mill's operation.

Pearson told the group that part of the crew had started planning Monday and that logs have started rolling back in. He said that the sawmill will probably be started back up in a little over a week. He said that the mill is experimenting with "cutting logs a different way," and added that the new owners are "aggressively purchasing timber and timberlands."

Pearson said that while the mill doesn't need hog fuel to run the co-gen plant anymore, they will be bringing in chips for paper.

Pearson said that around 125 of the 145 employees are expected to be hired back, with the majority former Kinzua Corp. workers. As of Monday evening, not all the

positions had been filled, he said. He said that the new owners planned to run one and a half shifts.

Pearson told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Tuesday that about 100 loads of logs per day are being moved off the log yard and sold, but that there are now about 20 loads per day coming into the mill. The deck will stabilize with about one-and-a-half months supply in the yard. He said the company is currently buying logs to sustain operation of the mill.

"The new owners are out purchasing new timberland aggressively to replace the timberland that was sold. I have not seen a short-term approach on the part of the new owners," Pearson told the chamber. "It's like any other business. We will be operating as long as we produce profits." He said the new owners had some capital improvements in mind, but did not specify what they were. Pearson did say the mill was going to operate on a four day, 10 hours per day basis, and see how it worked out.

The Heppner City Council awarded the city street improvement project bid to Blue Mountain Paving, the only bidder.

The bid, at \$395,836.66, was over budget, but the city had stipulated that the project could be reduced if necessary.

The city will remove four streets from the plan, August Street, between Gilmore and Court; Barratt Boulevard; Aiken and Elder, because they have additional problems in getting equipment over the bridge; and Jones between Water and Church streets.

City manager Gary Marks said that because the contract is quantity based, some of the streets cut from the list may be able to be added back in.

A representative from Blue Mountain Paving said that he expects that the company can start pre-work within two weeks. He said that the project will be completed within a 60-day time period.

In other business, the city: -discussed acquiring property that will be abandoned by the Union Pacific Railroad;

-heard a report on the wastewater project. Although the project is "pretty much on schedule, representatives from Anderson Perry reported problems with the concrete on the sludge storing tank and cracks in the digester;

-heard a report from Dave Winters concerning problems with the instrumentation for the city wells. The instrumentation

failed to indicate problems with a well until the water level was severely depleted. The council approved researching solutions to the well problems.

-heard a report concerning a new type of cold mix to patch city streets.

-heard that the new city fire truck has been painted and is now curing, with delivery expected by May 25.

Heppner High to hold "Partners in Education" student-parent exchange

Heppner High School will hold its first "Partners in Education" exchange day Wednesday, May 18. Parents and interested community members will take the place of Heppner High Students and experience "a day in the life" at HHS. Any person living in the Heppner High attendance area who is over 21 is eligible and encouraged to volunteer as a "partner" to a high school student. "A number of parents have already committed to attend but there are still many students whose parents cannot," said HHS teacher Bob Sagely. Parents are encouraged to attend, even if for a half day.

The purpose is to acquaint adults with the current school program and to educate them about the changes schools will experience because of Oregon's 21st Century School Reform Act, House Bill 3565.

A "Partner in Education" will begin the day with an organizational meeting at the first bell in the gym. The "partner" will go through a regular, though shortened, school day for the student they are replacing. Classes will

Voters to decide fate of county tax base

Morrow County voters will decide whether to increase the county's tax base next Tuesday, May 17.

Voters have rejected a new county tax base since 1911 and the county must go for a one-year operating levy every year to appropriate the funds needed for operation of the county government. The recently passed operating levy asked for \$3.7 million over the existing tax base of \$831,986, established in 1911.

According to Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson, an increase to a \$4,540,435, base would create a more realistic tax base. Carlson said that the increase

would provide a basis for "good planning and dependable funding" and would build morale for county employees, who may not know from year to year if funds will permit their rehire. "I think we operate a darn good ship," said Carlson. "We're fiscally responsible and have as good a staff as any in eastern Oregon," he added.

Under the six percent limitation, the tax base could increase by the allowable six percent every year without a vote of the people. The next year after a \$4.5 million base is approved, the county could increase the base by over \$270,000 without voter approval. However, according to Morrow

County accountant Lisanne Curran, the county does not have to levy the maximum amount each year. If the county does levy the maximum amount, however, and then the next three years levies below that amount, the highest levy of the three years becomes the new tax base plus six percent.

If a new tax base is approved, the one-year operating levy monies would not be levied.

According to Carlson, if the new county tax base is approved May 17 and either or both of the medical district tax bases pass, the county would decrease the county tax base by the amount of money budgeted for medical services for that particular area.

Voters to go to polls Tuesday, May 17

Morrow County voters will go to the polls Tuesday, May 17, to decide the fate of national, state, county and local issues.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Polling places will be: Precinct no. 1, North Boardman-Greenfield Grange; Precinct no. 2, South Boardman-Lutheran Church; No. 3, Hardman-Morrow County Courthouse; No. 4, Lone-Lone City Hall; No. 5 North Irrigon-North Morrow Annex; no. 6, South Irrigon-Irrigon City Hall; no. 7, Lexington-Mormon Church; no. 8 Northeast Heppner-St. Patrick's Senior Center; no. 9 Northwest Heppner-Pettyjohn Building; no. 10, Southeast Heppner-Morrow County Courthouse; and no. 11, Southwest Heppner-new forestry building.

Candidates are as follows:

For governor-Democratic candidates, John Kitzhaber, Paul Damian Wells; Republican candidates, Craig Berkman, Jack Feder, Donald Goff, John E. Jewkes, Bradford William Nudd, Denny Smith.

For United States representative in Congress 2nd District-Democratic candidates, Pete

Hawley, Sue C. Kupillas, Mike (Mac) McLaughlin, David Marc Rogers; Republican candidates, Perry A. Atkinson, Jim Bradley, Peter M. Brockman, Wes Cooley, Dan Skotte, C.W. Smith and John DeZell.

For commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries-D, Rena Cusman, Michael Payne, Mary Wendy Roberts, Bob Shiprack; R, Jack Roberts.

For precinct 5 committee person, male-R, John D. Creason, David W. Barber, Carl F. Riley.

Superintendent of public instruction-non partisan, Jerry Cohen, Michael (Mick) Ewers, Elizabeth Hinchman, Norma Paulus.

Judge of the Supreme Court, position 6-non partisan, Wallace

P. Carson, Jr., incumbent, Morton A. (Mort) Winkel.

Judge of the Court of appeals, position 10-non partisan, Barry L. Adamson, Rex Armstrong, James J. Kolstoe, Jim Nass and Tom Sieg.

All other races are unopposed. Lone voters will decide whether or not to vote in a \$54,950 tax base and a \$41,350 one-year operating levy for the Lone Rural Fire Protection District.

Morrow County voters will decide whether to increase the county's tax base from \$784,892 to \$4,540,435.

Voters will also accept or reject a state-wide measure which would amend the constitution to allow new motor vehicle fuel revenues for dedicated purposes.

Health Department offers free immunizations for children under 4

The Morrow County Health Department will offer free vaccinations to children ages four and under this Saturday, May 14 in Heppner and Boardman as part of an Immunize Now program. The clinic in Heppner will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Health Department office and in Boardman at city hall from 2 to 4 p.m. Parents are asked to bring their children's immunization records.

Those who immunize their preschoolers or certify that their shots are current will be eligible to win a 1995 Hyundai Sonata to drive for one year from Braley & Graham Hyundai, a family vacation including golf and tennis at Salishan Lodge on the Oregon Coast; or a \$500 Mrs. Tiggy-Winkles children's wear gift certificate.

Thousands of infants and toddlers in the northwest lack adequate protection against measles,

mumps, rubella, diphtheria and other serious childhood diseases. To help solve this problem, Oregon Public Broadcasting is sponsoring Immunize Now, a statewide outreach project to immunize preschool children. The month-long campaign began April 14.

Immunize Now is sponsored in partnership with the office of Medical Assistance Programs, Oregon Health Systems in Collaboration, Oregon Preschool Immunization Consortium and the Summerville Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. Members of the Oregon Nurses Association, Rotary, Kiwanis, American Legion Auxiliary and other service organizations are providing volunteer staffing. Over 70 community groups, corporations and foundations are involved through volunteer service of financial support.

Job bank program begins



Tiffany Munkers (left) and Mandi Gutierrez (right) are two Heppner High School students participating in a new Job Bank pay-to-participate program started recently. Both students are currently working at the Gazette-Times.

Businesses or individuals wishing to use the program will pay \$5 per hour per student, into a job bank designated for that student. The program was started for students to help them pay for their participation in sports programs during the next school year.

To participate in sports next year students must pay \$50 per sport, per child, \$100 maximum or \$200 maximum per family.

Anyone wishing to participate in the program should call Darcy Robinson at the high school 676-9138.

Funds offered for EMT training

Grants of \$1,000 are being offered to county emergency medical service organizations in 10 northeast Oregon counties.

The grants are offered to provide volunteer and paid emergency medical technicians with local continuing education. The grant seed money is offered as an incentive for each county to develop cooperative education offerings for all EMTs. Only one award will be given per county, although the program may be offered in more than one location.

The goal of the incentive program is to make training available and accessible to as many EMTs as possible while encouraging a cooperative effort among all emergency medical service providers. Six counties received EMT training grants in 1993.

Grants are available to Morrow, Umatilla, Gilliam, Grant,

Baker, Malheur, Union, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler counties.

Application packets are available from the Northeast Oregon Area Helath Education Center in LaGrande. Completed applications must be postmarked by July 1.

For more information contact Northeast Oregon AHEC at 962-3801.



Shop here for
**Lawn & Garden
Supplies**

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington, OR • 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396