

HEPPNER



VOL. 113 NO. 47 6 Pages Wednesday, November 16, 1994 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Ione Lady Cardinals win state title



Front L-R: Asst. coach Anne Bedortha, Bridget McElligott, Dawn Boor, LaRee Anderson, Jessica Stefani, Kim Bedortha, Lynde Minster. Back l-r: head coach Charity McElligott, Becky Picknell, Mary Jane McCarty, Angie Ball, Suzie Heideman, Melissa McElligott, Becky Wagenblast, Allison Sullivan.

By Anne Morter

The Ione lady Cardinals surprised everyone but themselves by taking the State 1A volleyball championship last weekend at Springfield High School. Entering the tournament unranked in the last poll, the lady Cards played the Cinderella role to perfection, knocking off Adrian in the opening round, outfoxing and out-

lasting the physical Powers Cruisers in the semi-finals and finally blowing past Dufur in two games in the championship round.

First year coach, Charity McElligott was understandably thrilled with the outcome. "The girls went there with only one thing in mind," she said of their quest to bring home the title. "We played good team

ball the whole tournament."

Along with the first place trophy, two Ione players, junior Melissa McElligott and senior Mary Jane McCarty were named to the first team all tournament team.

The lady Cardinals finished their dream season with an overall 18-4 undefeated in league play and with a district championship in hand.

Park districts could fund school extra-curricular programs

There still may be a way to get around school district budget cuts which next year threaten cuts in sports and other extra-curricular activities.

While the school district does not say that all sports will definitely be out, the district has targeted sports and other activities, such as school clubs, for elimination in the 1995-96 school year. "Co-curricular activities is one of the targeted areas," said a school district spokesperson. "It is a strong consideration for elimination."

A group of people has proposed that park districts in the county be a funding source for sports and other school ac-

tivities. There is a park district for the Boardman area, one for the Irrigon area and one that encompasses south Morrow County.

School Superintendent Chuck Starr said at the school board meeting Monday, Nov. 14, that he hopes that all three park districts unite to put together funding for extra-curricular activities for all schools in the county. He said that this would eliminate problems which could arise if different park districts fund different co-curricular activities. Starr said that the proposed park district program would function in a fund raising capacity, and that

the school district would still be in charge of running the programs.

Starr met with Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek, George Koffler, Heppner, Rick Minster, Ione, and Willow Creek Park District chairman Kenny Turner, secretary Nancy Brownfield, and members Bob Kahl, John Ripple and Robin Baker earlier to explore the possibilities.

Minster says that the proposal is just in the planning stages and that the group is in the process of putting facts and figures together. A meeting is planned for next week concerning the issue.

Final General election results released

Results of the Nov. 8 election, including absentee ballots have been released by the Morrow County Clerk's office.

Following are election returns: -County Commissioner: Ray French, 1,413 with 48.9 percent of the vote; Art Keger, 876,

30.3 percent; Jackie Bergstrom, 599, 20.7 percent;

-Morrow Health District Director Zone 3: Robert Mc Kinley, 258, 56 percent; Roger Trueax 203, 44 percent;

-Morrow Health District

Director Zone 5: Cara Osmin 493, 65 percent; Tom McElligott, 263, 34.8 percent;

-Formation of Extension District: 1,451 no; 1,408 yes;

-Formation of Morrow County Health District: 1,527 yes, 1,262 no.

City sewer renovation project in final stages

With a major city streets repaired, the meter is still ticking on the final stages of the sewer renovation project. Final adjustments and the installation of a methane gas burner are part of the count down. The city council is now focussing on restroom facilities at the city park on Main Street.

This project will be primarily financed from a \$20,000 gift awarded to the city as one of the recipients of a \$250,000 donation to community projects by former owners of Kinzua Mill Corporation.

Tentative plans envision a concrete block building along the street side of city park property between the turn-around and a proposed new playground site to the west. Pending costs, new playground equipment was discussed by council members.

The council also approved specifications to be written for an automated water supply system monitor. Estimated at \$30,000 funds for this project were included in the city's current building and maintenance bond. This machine, housed in city hall, has not been functional for some time and parts are no longer available, city officials said.

Early detection of a malfunction at one of the city's wells, such as a blown fuse or a burned-out motor, can avert a serious water shortage. Manual inspection at the well sites is now necessary on a daily basis. There are no warnings available if a shut-down occurs during off hours, according to city for-

man David Winters.

The city council also agreed to sponsor the Heppner summer youth program, that formerly was handled through the Neighborhood Center. This program for grades K-6 was instituted three years ago to provide summer activities for children. Council members agreed to continue with liability insurance for this five day a week program during July.

The city agreed to handle the receipts and disbursements for this program, but declined to provide monetary assistance. According to Pastor Stan Hoobing, a proposed budget of \$11,000 includes funding for lunches, transportation and bus driver costs. Formerly the project has been self-supporting through grants.

A proposed youth activity for older youths, ages 14-20, is part of an ambitious project as presented by Joe Wilhelm. The council endorsed this project according to Wilhelm, 22 local youths have expressed interest in a sailing club. However volunteer adult leaders are needed.

Liability insurance will be covered at a minimal cost, Wilhelm said, for those Sea Explorers part of the Boy Scout Explorer program. Exposure to related career opportunities plus recreational quality time creates a spin-off. Activities will be at the Willow Creek Lake.

Currently Wilhelm is attempting to establish a boat yard at the Port of Morrow, which would give employment for three people. With more than

200 boats now docking in the Columbia River upper region, Wilhelm said the only boat repair facilities are in Portland. This is very time consuming and an expensive way to facilitate pleasure boat repairs, he said.

In other business: The council declined a plea from Janice Skaggs, director of the Neighborhood Center for funding. According to Skaggs a shortfall in funding is expected when it comes to providing Christmas baskets for around 60 needy families. The annual budget for the Neighborhood Center is proposed at \$8,000 with \$800 funded through the county's general fund. Grants have been sought to provide additional funding, she said.

The council agreed to a request that would transfer the Heppner Garbage Disposal Service ownership from Cliff Green to his son, David Green. A 10 year extension of this solid waste franchise was approved.

The council agreed to upgrade Garriques Street, a dedicated city street, by graveling this road that gives access to property owners Phil and Shirley Landauer.

Heppner High School counselor Barbara Hayes agreed to work with a council member committee to formulate guide lines for a \$500 Heppner High School scholarship offered by Perry and Anderson Associates, LaGrande, engineers of the city sewer system renovation.

ASCS office reorganized

"The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service or ASCS office, officially no longer exists," said Skip Matthews, acting director of the newly formed Farm Service Agency.

The 1994 USDA Reorganization Act has reorganized certain phases of the local USDA offices and services including ACSC, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and Federal Crop Insurance.

"One of the goals of the current administration in Washington, D.C.," says Matthews, "was to consolidate field offices, reduce bureaucracy and bring more efficiency to USDA programs through a complete restructuring of USDA on both the national and local levels."

This act allows the Secretary of Agriculture to do that by reducing staff by 7,500 positions, cutting the number of USDA agencies from 43 to 30 and closing approximately 1,100 field offices nationwide. These actions are expected to save the tax payers \$2.5 billion dollars, \$61 million as a result of the new Farm Service Agency alone.

Matthews explained that he doesn't foresee any drastic changes in the local office or the surrounding counties, but he added, "at this point all we know for sure is the name change. No one in authority has actually come out and said what is going to happen for certain. It is pretty early in the process to know exactly what changes, if any, are in store for our office here in Heppner."

Deadline set to order wreaths

November 28 is the last day to order wreaths and swags from the Heppner Garden Club Greens shop. Call Ida Farra, 676-9446 to order.

Extensions' future to be discussed

The future of the Extension in Morrow County will be discussed in coming weeks by local people and officials of the Oregon State University Extension Service following the narrow defeat of the proposed Morrow County 4-H and Extension Service District in the Nov. 8 general election.

The proposal, to establish an Extension Service District with its own tax base, failed by 43 votes. Local contributions to extension work are part of the Morrow County government general fund. The service district proposal came after the Morrow County Court said that it could not guarantee support for Extension beyond the current fiscal year.

The Morrow County Extension office and its staff of extension agents and secretaries is secure until June 30, 1995, points out Roger Fletcher, extension associate director for county programs.

"What happens after June 30 is still to be decided," Fletcher emphasized. "We will be talking with county extension advisory council, the Morrow County Court, and others about avenues of support."

Extension will try to maintain the Morrow County office as long as there is a possibility of

local support, he added. Although state and federal funds pay the salaries of Extension agents working in the county, local support is necessary to pay the operation costs of the local office.

Carol Michael-Bennett, extension agent and county staff chair, expressed the appreciation to all the volunteers who worked on the proposed district. "They were tremendous. They have been working since last January when they started passing petitions to form the district and raising funds for election expenses."

Don Eppenbach, Irrigon, chair of the county advisory committee, said that many people may not have realized "that this was not an additional tax. People were already supporting Extension through county budget. The proposed district simply shifted the location of local funds for Extension from the county to the district."

Fletcher said that he does not expect a final decision about the future of Extension in Morrow County to be made for several weeks. Extension educational programs in agriculture, home economics and 4-H have been offered in the county since 1918.

Surveyors begin work on city roads

A team of surveyors is at work on the streets of Heppner in preparation for reconstruction of Main and May streets scheduled to be let in 1997.

The survey team arrived this week and is expected to remain in the area until March because of a complex mapping job. While the main part of the mapping process will be downtown, some work will also be done on the outskirts of town. In addition to mapping the elevations of the existing road and sidewalks, the team of around three or four people will map the water lines, water valves and water meters, sewer lines, property pins and business entries.

Dick Baldwin, engineering specialist with the Oregon

Department of Transportation out of LaGrande, says that in addition to satisfying people's curiosity about the survey crew, he is concerned about the crew's safety and asks that people be extra careful when driving near the surveyors. "In the last five months," says Baldwin, "five Department of Transportation people have been killed."

The reconstruction project will involve rebuilding Main and May streets and will also include work on side streets and sidewalks. After the survey has been completed the information will be turned over to a designer in the Department of Transportation who will design a new highway and then the design will be sent to Salem.

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