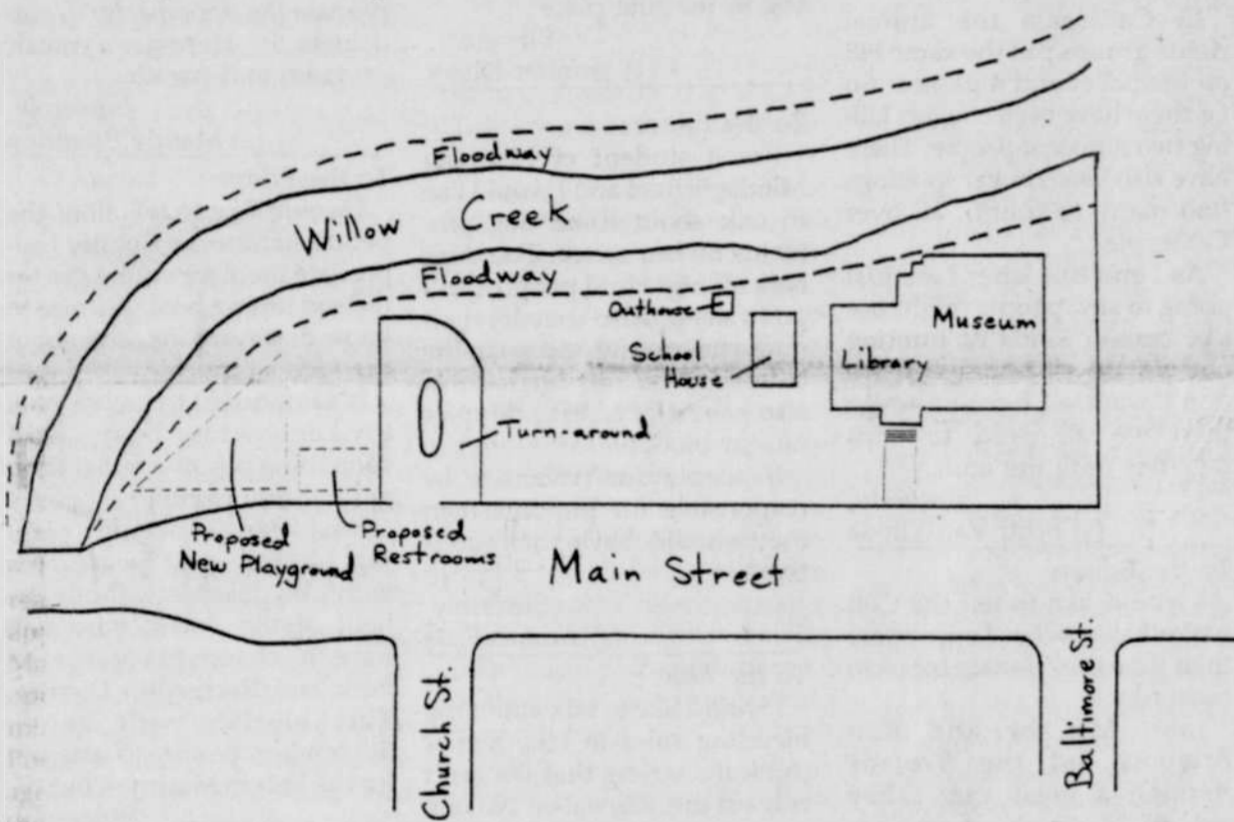


HEPPNER



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Projects planned at city park



The city of Heppner opened bids this week on a restroom facility to be constructed at the city park on Main Street. The project is expected to be completed by this summer.

The restroom project will be funded through a \$20,000 grant from Kinzua Corporation, the former owners of the mill and a \$12,000 tax settlement with the Union Pacific Railroad.

Monies not required for con-

struction of the restroom will be used to help fund new playground equipment at the park. The city hopes to raise an additional \$7 to \$8 thousand in donations so they can install two portions of the playground equipment at the same time. City manager Gary Marks says that having both phases of the playground equipment installed at the same time will cost the city less money. The play-

ground project will cost around \$19 thousand if both phases are installed at the same time, and around \$20 thousand if they have to purchase the two parts separately.

Soroptimist International of Heppner has already pledged \$1,200 for the playground project. Marks says that he is available to speak to clubs, organizations and individuals about the project.

Pool could be in operation next year

The new Willow Creek Recreation District swimming pool, approved by voters in the March 28 election, may be in operation by next year's swimming season, said Gary Marks, Pool Commission project manager. Marks said, however, that there are too many variables, including the weather, to be certain.

Marks said that the city must sell the construction bonds, employ an architect, obtain necessary permits, let the project out for bid and award a bid before construction can get underway.

Voters approved a \$975,000 bond for a basic pool, with swimming lanes, a zero-depth fan for small children and handicapped access, a water slide and changing rooms, to be located at Hager Park in Heppner. Extras in the plan, however, such as an indoor mini-therapy pool and a meeting room, are expected to cost an additional \$250,000. To offset the additional costs, Kinzua

Corp., the former owners of Kinzua Mill, has pledged \$45,000 to People for the Pool, which is the fund raising group for the pool project. People for the Pool has also raised an additional \$15,000 through bake sales, benefit dinners, raffles and other fund raisers. Marks says that between the sale of the bonds and when construction costs are paid, the bond monies will be placed in an interest bearing account, which will also generate funds. Still, Marks anticipates that an additional \$150,000 at least will be

required. He said that fund raising options could include a State Department Outdoor Recreation Grant, grants from private foundations and donations. The indoor mini-therapy pool may avail the project to grants concerning therapy, exercise or senior citizens, Marks added.

Marks said that there will be an opportunity for volunteer efforts and People for the Pool is expected to step up their fund raising efforts. They are still selling inscribed bricks to be installed at the pool.

BEO holds stockholders meeting

The Bank of Eastern Oregon held its annual stockholder's meeting March 29 at Arlington City Hall. Fifty-six stockholders and employees attended the meeting, bank president George Koffler announced.

A year-end summary was reported showing a net income for the bank of \$605,432 in 1994 or \$4.18 net income per share.

Return on assets was recorded at 1.63 percent and return on equity at 15.26 percent, according to Koffler.

Other highlights of the meeting included announcement of the opening of the bank's Condon branch in May, as well as reports on the new BEO Financial Services and BEO Mortgage departments.

School district will fund fall sports

Despite earlier announcements to the contrary, the Morrow County School District said Monday there will be enough money to fund sports and other extracurricular activities next fall.

School Superintendent Chuck Starr said because of recent passage of the school bond issue, and increased funding from the state level, the district now has the \$140,000 necessary to fund the extra activities fall term only.

Prior to the bond issue the district had said there was no money for sports and extra activities, and that these programs would be cut. This short-fall prompted local people to work for creation of a county-wide recreation district, separate from the schools, to provide funding for these activities. The recreation district has been formed, however, a vote to provide funding for the district was not able to be held in time to provide money for fall activities. Consequently the district agreed to fund fall activities until the recreation district could begin collecting taxes to be turned over to the school district. Voters will have to approve funding for the recreation district in September. Starr said the district could not

fund activities after the \$140,000 is used up.

Also in his budget message Monday, Starr said, "Ballot Measure 5, combined with the 'Oregon Legislature's failure to adequately fund schools in this state, has forced the Morrow County School District into a pattern of budget reduction and program cuts over the past two years.'"

Starr said that in two years the district has reduced the general fund budget by \$745,948, while inflation has increased by six percent. The 1994-95 budget was \$602,744 lower than the 1993-94 budget and that year's budget was \$143,204 lower than the 1992-93 budget. Next year's budget will be increased \$89,712 over the current year.

Starr told the audience of board members, budget committee members, administrators and two observers that the district will continue to see a need for budget reduction, despite passage of a bond levy and a projected increase in state school funds.

The budget calls for \$50,000 to be spent on food service. The food service program is approaching self sufficiency, said business manager Shirley Landauer, but still requires additional funds. Lunch prices will

be increased next year.

Also included is \$138,000 for bus purchases. The district approved a recommendation to contract bus services, but it is not certain that negotiations for bus service will occur, so the district is planning accordingly. Starr said that a contract for busing services cannot be worked out until negotiations with classified employees are completed.

Kindergarten county-wide will see a move to all day every day classes. Kindergarten students had previously attended every other day and before that attended half days every day. While the district proposed a cut of 11 full time equivalent (FTE) teachers, it will add 1.5 FTE at Sam Boardman Elementary to implement the all-day every day kindergarten, which will result in a reduction of 9.5 FTE. If the bond measure for capital construction had not been approved, the district proposed a cut of 25 FTE.

Other budgeted changes this fall include a move to a 7-12 grade configuration at Heppner High School and a move to a 6-8 configuration at Columbia Junior High.

Following is a budgetary breakdown:

Summary of School District General Fund 1995-96

Center	Instruction	Support Service	Community	Other	Total
District Office	766,063	679,211		1,434,000	2,879,274
Transportation		588,089			588,089
Maintenance		1,656,847			1,656,847
A.C. Houghton	924,972	139,917			1,064,889
Sam Boardman	951,037	138,926			1,089,963
Heppner Elementary	746,657	189,937			936,594
Ione Elementary	309,017	70,645			379,662
Columbia Jr. High	761,300	200,937			962,237
Heppner Sr. High	885,790	204,020			1,089,810
Ione Jr. High	119,434	17,973			137,407
Ione Sr. High	280,650	66,724	15,869		363,243
Riverside Sr. High	1,095,351	291,539			1,386,890
Total	6,840,271	4,244,765	15,869	1,434,000	12,534,905

Salem testimony to-air on Heppner TV

The taped testimony of Morrow County residents at the February 10 meeting of the State School Finance Committee at the Oregon Legislature will be broadcast by Heppner TV on Friday April 7 at 6 p.m. Heppner TV will broadcast on designated public access channel 3, interrupting the Learning Channel for about an hour.

"Area residents are encouraged to watch this programming to see the effect that concerned, committee citizens can have in the legislative process," said a Heppner TV spokesperson. Sonja McCabe contacted Representative Lyn Lundquist to arrange testimony

from the Morrow County delegation. The committee was so impressed with the presentation that it allowed much more than the originally scheduled 30 minutes, McCabe said. McCabe says she believes that the testimony was very important in the current attempt in the legislature to add \$180 million to the funds available for education.

Heppner area residents presenting testimony were Bill Kuhn, Molly Rill, Greg Grant, Olivia Sagely, Tony Greenup, Phil Spicerkuhn, Steve Dickenson, Doug Drake and Bob Sagely.

HHS students nominated for award

Ethan Burnside and Jenny Krein, both Heppner High School seniors, have been named Tandy Technology Scholars nominees. Burnside was nominated for the Outstanding Math/Science/Computer Science award and Krein for the top two percent academic category. Each received a certificate.

This is the sixth year that the Tandy Technology Scholars program has made awards to teachers and graduating seniors at American high schools. Currently 15,476 public and private secondary schools have been certified to participate in the awards program. That is more than 72 percent of all secondary schools in the United States.

The academic top two percent of graduating seniors are eligible to receive certificates recognizing their academic achievements. This year the Tandy Technology Scholars program will honor 26,946 meritorious seniors. Each school may nominate a senior who is outstanding in mathematics, science or computer science. These students receive a certificate recognizing them as a Tandy Technology Scholar. In addition they are eligible to compete for the 100, \$1,000 scholarships awarded annually.

Maben wins Lions rifle



Jack Maben (left) accepts the rifle from Lions Club secretary Steve Rhea. Maben won the \$500 Ruger M77R Mark II 300 Magnum rifle during the Lions Club annual rifle raffle.

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