

## Park District hears lone

So far 60 petitions have been filed at the Morrow County Courthouse by property owners who want out of the Willow Creek Park District. Many of those on hand at a meeting in Lone Monday night were ready to tell the park district board of directors why.

Dick McElligott, who farms near Lone, said that since the planned swimming pool and completed RV park are located in or near the city of Heppner the park district has given no service to him or many other property owners, and he called for another election on the park district, this time excluding Heppner voters.

"The fairest way to resolve this problem would be to establish a boundary containing all of the Willow Creek Park District's physical assets including the day park and the income producing RV campground plus the city of Heppner and any contiguous property which the owners might wish to have included. An election of all areas outside the boundary should then be held to see if they wished to withdraw," he said.

Previous elections have been held to establish the park district, which includes Heppner, Lone and Lexington as well as outlying farmland, and to issue bonds and levy taxes to build and operate a swimming pool in Heppner and a RV park at Willow Creek lake.

Property owners who have filed petitions to withdraw from the district say they gain no benefit from these projects, and therefore should not have to pay. Voters in the lone precinct in March overwhelm-

ingly voted against both the new pool construction bonds and the operating levy, however, both passed with support from the Heppner area.

Park district board members said Lone was approached before the election about possible projects to be funded through the district, but no interest was shown from the area.

Morrow County School Superintendent Chuck Starr had earlier pointed out that the lone swimming pool, which is owned and maintained by the school district, is in need of repairs and that the school district had no money to make those improvements. Starr said that according to engineer's reports the repairs could cost around \$324,000.

Some at the meeting Monday said the park district wasn't needed to make the repairs and that the money could be raised from the lone community.

Further complicating the withdrawal petitions is the fact that \$975,000 in bonds to construct the swimming pool have already been sold, and even if property owners are withdrawn from the park district, they may be liable to repay those bonds.

Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek said that taxes to pay for the pool project and all of the park operations would total \$81 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Sweek said that because of measure 5, the property tax law, Heppner taxpayers would not see an increase in taxes to pay for the three year, \$36,000 per year operating levy. Lone and Lexington taxpayers would see an increase for operating

funds, because they have not yet reached their taxing limit. Heppner taxpayers, however will have to pay additional taxes for the pool construction levy, which does not come under ballot measure 5.

The Morrow County Court has the authority to grant withdrawal requests, but after two public hearings on the matter has taken no action. A third hearing is planned. The court is bound by Oregon law which describes when property owners may be released from a taxing district.

Park District chairman Kenney Turner asked the crowd Monday to give the district 60 days to further examine the lone pool situation. "If we can get a couple of people to participate from Lone and listen to the engineer's report, then if you want to go to court and get out of the park district then let it be," Turner said.

McElligott said earlier he had already consulted an attorney.

Don Bristow said that even though the community was approached before the last election about projects to be funded, he saw the offers as no more than a carrot to get the levy passed. "We're getting frustrated because we're not getting ours," he said of Lexington and Lone. "We haven't seen any sharing and it's getting frustrating."

Board member Skip Mathews said he was afraid that if the county court grants the withdrawal petitions it could lead to other withdrawals in other districts. "What's next? The library, the rural fire district or maybe the medical district."



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## David Green buys local disposal service



L-R: Greg Smith, David Green, Cliff Green.

David Green of Heppner has purchased the Heppner Garbage Disposal Service from his father, Cliff Green, with the help of a \$40,000 Regional Strategies loan.

The Heppner Garbage Disposal Service is a family-owned business that has been serving Heppner, Lexington and surrounding areas for over 44 years, spanning three generations.

David's grandfather, Herman Green, bought the business in 1951 from Roger Conner and turned it into a regular pick-up and delivery route. He started out with a 1942 Ford truck with a plywood bed. Then then moved to a manufactured side-loader and then eventually went to a side-loading packer unit.

David's father, Cliff Green, bought the business in 1973. He later upgraded the truck to a rear-load packer. In 1989 he started hauling to Finley Buttes Landfill and then went to a larger rear packer with a diesel engine. Cliff says that he paid \$2,500 for his first truck and \$31,000 for his last one, which was used.

"There has been lots of change," said Cliff. "There used to be a lot of salvage, but not any more." Cliff says that they used to be able to salvage scrap iron and other metals, but now they can't. He says that now appliances can no longer be salvaged and repaired. Cliff also notes the increase in plastic and paper packaging. The biggest change, however, is the huge increase in transportation and disposal costs. "It used to be next to nothing," said Cliff,

"but now it's a major part of the operation." Part of the expense is driving 35 miles to Finley Buttes to dispose of the garbage.

"Heppner is a special place to live," adds Cliff. "I've appreciated the opportunity to serve my customers over the last 25 years. I thank them for their patronage." Cliff, 52, continues to operate the Coast to Coast store in Heppner he purchased in 1984.

David Green began working part-time for the Heppner Garbage Disposal Service while he was still in high school. After receiving his associate degree in business management from Blue Mountain Community College, he returned home and began working full time. "It's a privilege to live and work in Heppner," said David. "For a lot of people it's just not possible."

David has been operating the business for about the last five years. "He's virtually been doing it all," says Cliff. "He's well versed in the operation."

"I'm looking forward to serving the residents of Heppner and Lexington in their waste transportation needs," said David. "The only thing that's going to change is where you send your payment."

When you talk about David's purchase of the business, you can't leave out his partner. David is faithfully accompanied on his rounds by Mandy, his dog. Mandy, now 11, is a "Heinz 57", a border collie, dingo and Carter dog mix.

The loan approval came from the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation's loan committee.

This business not only provides a service to the local community but it also helps the North Central Oregon Regional Strategies Board achieve its strategy of developing businesses based upon environmental services," said Greg Smith, loan officer for the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC).

The loan is part of a larger project financed by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and GEODC.

The Regional Strategies Loan Program was created by the North Central Oregon Regional Strategies board to assist small to medium sized businesses with their fixed asset financing needs. This program, partnership with local financing institutes, serves the counties of Morrow, Gilliam, Grant, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler.

With the change of ownership, customers should now send their correspondence and payments to: Heppner Garbage Disposal Service, Attn: David Green, P.O. Box 782, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Customers may contact David directly at 676-5364. Payments and messages may also be left at the Coast to Coast store in Heppner.

## Site chosen for M.C. picnic

The annual Morrow County potluck picnic will be held at Mt. Tabor Park, S.E. 60th and Salmon, Portland, on Sunday, August 6.

Anyone now living in, or who has lived Morrow County is invited to attend the picnic from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

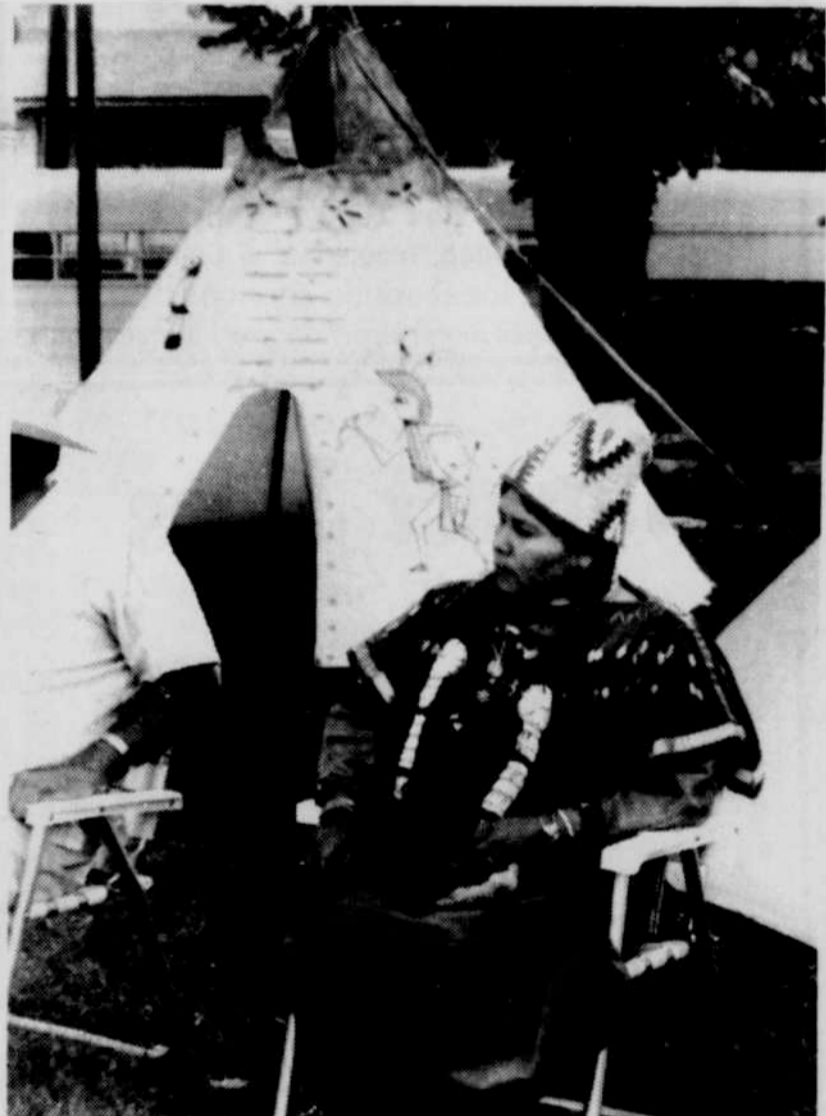
## Summer Youth Program underway

The Summer Youth Program is underway in Heppner, with activities and field trips for youth, 7-13, through August 3. The program is held Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On field trip days, the day is extended.

On the first day of this year's program, American Heritage Day, 109 kids and adults learned what it was like to experience life "in the olden days". Some of the activities included washing clothes with a wash tub and scrub board, ironing with an old fashioned iron, playing jacks, shooting marbles, sewing quilts, repairing shoes and of course, enjoying fresh butter, fresh-squeezed lemonade and homemade ice cream.

The second day the group went to Pendleton to visit the sights and sounds of the Pendleton Underground. Wednesday and Thursday of the first week, the children learned first hand about Native American folklore and culture from Native Americans Jesse Jones, Jr., chief of the Umapima, and Mildred Quaempts who encamped at the junior high school grounds.

Other activities throughout the program include visiting Cutsforth Park, seeing an actual courtroom case, swimming, a behind-the-scenes peek



Mildred Quaempts encamped at the Heppner Junior High School grounds.

at a television station, a visit to a commercial airport, kick ball and bowling, among many

other activities. The Rev. Stan Hoobing is coordinator of the program.

## Wheat harvest begins with average yields

The wheat harvest is just starting to get underway, with "average" yields expected.

John Ripple, grain department manager for the Morrow County Grain Growers, said that most of the people who have already started harvest experienced hail damage from the storm that swept through parts

of the area Sunday, July 9. While the hail missed the Heppner area, some growers in Lone, Condon and in the north Lex area, especially along the Bombing Range Road, were devastated.

"It's going to be an average to slightly above average harvest, running 35 to 40

bushels an acre," said Ripple. Ripple said that while there was plenty of rain this spring some farmers had to reseed because it was so dry last fall. Ripple added that cheat grass and disease also figured in the projected yield.

Ripple said that harvest should be well underway by the end of the week.

## Harvest Hours

Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Wasco Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396