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HEPPNER



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VOL. 116 NO. 5 8 Pages Wednesday, January 29, 1997, Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Willow Creek Park District Survey awards swimming pool bid planned in Heppner

The Willow Creek Park District (WCPD) Board, at a special meeting Jan. 22, awarded the swimming pool construction contract to low bidder Wayco of Spokane for a base bid of \$968,468. The contract is expected to be finalized the first week in February.

The bid will include a basic six-lane pool with a zero-depth fan (which slopes out like a beach), a bath house, waterslide, concrete and landscaping.

Apollo, Inc. of Walla Walla was second low bidder with a base bid of \$987,600; Ramsay-Gerding third at \$1,030,383; and Tomco, fourth, at \$1,043,000.

WCPD Board member Skip Matthews said that the board expects to be around \$60,000 short of funds with the cost of the pool and attorney's fees, but expressed confidence that the additional monies could be raised. He said that some additional interest will accrue from the bond monies before construction begins and some of the work may be able

to be done by volunteers to reduce costs. Matthews said that construction will begin as soon as the frost goes out of the ground. He said that in an ideal situation, the pool could possibly be open as early as June 15, but added that it could be July or August before completion.

A four-lane pool was discussed earlier, but Matthews said that adding the additional two lanes would be more cost effective and would increase the pool's capability to draw swim teams to competition in Heppner. Bids also included additional options not included in the basic pool package. Wayco's optional add-ons for the pool are as follows: therapy pool-\$55,409; building to house therapy pool-\$51,500; swamp cooler-\$2,454; lane markers-\$14,469; kiddie turtle slide-\$7,028; metal roof material-\$24,995; Willow Creek Park District signs-\$3,012; deck umbrellas-\$8,699; and two special filters-\$20,475.

Reward offered



Section cut out of Wilkinsons' fence

Local rancher Dick Wilkinson found a little surprise at his place recently. Someone cut whole sections out of his fence at the log corral next to the guard station at Ditch Creek.

Wilkinson surmises that the

fence was cut up for firewood by snomobilers about the time of the recent high water.

Wilkinson is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Shrove Tuesday supper, Feb. 11

Saints Parish Hall.
Tickets are \$2.75 for adults, \$1.50 for students and \$8 for a family.
Everyone is invited to attend.

NEWS DEADLINE

Monday.....5 p.m.

Search at IHS, HHS, fails to turn up drugs



Morrow County Sheriff's Deputies Harper (left) and Myren with police dog BAK.

A surprise drug search, complete with police and drug sniffing dogs, failed to turn up any drugs at either Heppner or Lone high schools Thursday, Jan. 23.

Members of the Blue Mountain Narcotics Enforcement Team (BMNET) which included Morrow County Sheriff's deputies, Hermiston Police officers and representatives from the Oregon Corrections Department conducted the search, along with dogs trained to sniff out cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana.

At Lone High School, students were called to the gym at 9 a.m. to attend an assembly, the subject of which had not been disclosed to teachers, students or principal Dick Allen. Heppner High School's assembly was at 1 p.m. that day. When the students assembled in the gym, Deputy Steve Myren of the Morrow County Sheriff's Department and a member of BMNET told the students that while he and two other officers and their dogs were presenting the program, other officers and additional dogs were searching lockers at the schools.

At the conclusion of the program HHS Principal Ron Anthony told the assembly that the search would either put and end to rumors of drugs at the school or would send a message to students bringing drugs to school. "We're not going to allow drugs in our school," Anthony said in a terse statement to the students, cautioning, "We may do this again."

Following the assembly Myren told the Gazette-Times that while the dogs were "interested" in some of the lockers at both schools, nothing was discovered and that the dogs' interest did not necessarily indicate that drugs had been in the lockers. Detective Sergeant Larry Sample of the Morrow County Sheriff's Department and a member of the BMNET confirmed that no drugs were discovered at the schools.

At both assemblies, Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Terry Harper staged an attack on Myren with Harper's German Shepherd police dog BAK. Hermiston Police Sergeant Al Buchanan and his black labrador, Jet, demonstrated a drug search with a

packet of marijuana hidden under a mat in the corner of the gym.

Myren told the students that since voters approved a hard-line stance against teenage criminals in passing Measure 11, automatic jail time is mandatory for certain crimes, such as robbery, assault, sex abuse, kidnapping and manslaughter (such as drinking and driving resulting in a death) committed by anyone 15 and over. Myren also said that officers are also cracking down on MIP (minor in possession) drinking, cigarettes and drugs. He said that no longer would an officer, discovering a minor in possession, just dump out the alcohol and give the kid a ride home.

Officers on hand for the search, in addition to Myren, Sample and Harper, were Detective Jim Littlefield and Sergeant Al Buchanan with the Hermiston Police Department, and Corporal Parklyn Maine and Corporal Leonard Nessler-Smith with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

IES holds Presidential Inauguration



Lone Elementary School holds their presidential inauguration

Lone Elementary School students in kindergarten through fifth grade celebrated U.S. history by holding a presidential inauguration at the school for family and friends on Friday, January 24.


Billy Gates played the part of President Bill Clinton and Natalie McElligott acted as Mrs. Hillary Clinton. John Collin was Vice President Al Gore and Meghan McCabe played Mrs. Tipper Gore. Other dignitaries attending the event were: Chief Justice Rehnquist-Tim Doherty; Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg- Sarah

Barrow; Gov. John Kitzhaber-Curtis Thompson; Mrs. Sharon Kitzhaber-Emily Key; Sen. Gordon Smith-Tyler Raible; Mrs. Sharon Smith-Cyd Tullis; Sen. Ron Wyden-Tyler Key; Mrs. Laurie Wyden-Marrina McMillion; chaplains- Gene Ball and Barbara Holland. Master of ceremonies was Kasie Peterson and the third and fourth grades acted as the color guard.

The color guard presented the American flag during a marching drill. After the oath of office was

taken by the President and Vice President, everyone was invited to join in the inaugural ball. Students performed The Grand March as an opener. The President and Vice President and their wives started the formal dancing. Students enjoyed the dance and invited their parents and friends to join them in ballroom dancing and in the Macarena.

Refreshments were served by parents and teachers. At least 100 parents and friends came to share in the festivities.



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