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Gazette
 Times

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Work continues at the MC Fairgrounds



Volunteers help pour cement as part of the rodeo grounds renovation project. The cement being poured will be under the bleachers and VIP seating.

VIP seating is now underway with those seats sold in lots of 10. VIP seating includes all three rodeo performances and two slack performances for \$360 per section. Contact Nicole Mahoney, 676-5157 to purchase seating. The bleacher project will also include a donor wall with a permanent sign with sections thanking donors of various donation amounts.



It was a sea of spandex on Saturday at Heppner High School as bicyclists racing in the Columbia Plateau Stage Race

prepared to embark.

Between 125-150 racers from five western states and British Columbia had signed up to

participate in the race, which was held Friday through Sunday between Heppner, Ione, Fossil and Spray. Many cyclists stayed in tents in Ione.

MCHD's consensus-not to renegotiate with Dr. Bitsas

The Morrow County Health District Board (MCHD), in executive session by telephone conference call Monday night, May 12, has indicated, by taking no official action, that they will not pursue negotiations with Dr. Bill Bitsas.

MCHD administrator Kevin Erich said Tuesday that the board decided "by consensus" not to further negotiate with Dr. Bitsas, who was employed as a physician by the district until his

resignation April 11.

Bitsas said he resigned because "disagreements have arisen and discussions deteriorated" over issues such as "appropriate scheduling" to allow him adequate time to care for his patients.

Dr. Bitsas indicated to the board, however, that he would like to stay in Heppner and work out differences and continue to practice at Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Hospital in Heppner.

The board met with Dr. Bitsas and clinic and hospital employees in executive session on May 8 to consider the issue.

Dr. Bitsas began working for the health district Sept. 1 after Drs. Jeanne and Ed Berretta moved to Walla Walla. Dr. Bitsas had a three-year agreement with the district.

Dr. Bitsas' resignation leaves one doctor, Dr. Ernie Atkins, and a nurse practitioner, Wendy Haack, at Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

Meeting set on downtown project

Public invited to hear contractor, ask questions

The public is invited to a meeting Thursday, May 22, to hear the contractor on the Heppner downtown mainstreet project explain what the town can expect during construction.

The meeting will be held at the Forest Service building in Heppner and will begin at 7 p.m. The public will be able to ask questions. City Manager Gary

Marks will also be on hand to speak.

Weaver Construction out of La Grande won the bid to do the project which calls for putting in new streets and sidewalks downtown.

Construction may start as soon as the first week in June, said Al Frye of Weaver Construction.

"This is a critical meeting," said City Manager Gary Marks. "If

people want to know what is going on this is the place to be." Marks said the meeting is especially important to the businesses in Heppner as they will be affected by the construction project.

Weaver construction has experience with downtown renovation projects, having done La Grande's and Baker City's.

Britts donate \$3,000 to pool project



Britt family grandchildren (left to right): back row-Tanner Britt, Mikel Britt, Chelsea Britt holding Johnny Britt, Brittany Boothe and Braden Britt; front-Kile and Katie Britt and Sydney Coster. Tanner, Chelsea and Katie are the children of Rusty and Kathy Britt; Mikel and Braden are the sons of Shelli and Rick Britt; Kile and Johnny are the children of Ryan and Sara Wilson; and Brittany and Sydney are the children of Ken and Mindy Coster. Grandparents are John and Nella Britt.

The John Britt Logging Company, Inc., has donated \$3,000 towards construction of the indoor pool in Heppner.

The amount sought by the fund raising group, the People for the Pool (PFP), has increased

because People for the Pool decided to go with the longer-lasting gunnite finish. A spokesperson for PFP said that gunnite would be more expensive initially, but would not have to be refinished like a fiberglass

finish.

Deadline to buy a brick for the pool is Saturday, May 31. There are no deadlines for contributing to the plaque program for "champions of the pool", "Patrons of the pool" and Friends of the pool.

Ione School open house, technology night

The Ione Schools held a combined open house and technology night recently. The evening began with an assembly in the school cafeteria where students in kindergarten through fifth grade and their teachers told about one of their favorite books. All were dressed in costumes depicting a character in their book.

The elementary school had a month long emphasis on reading for pleasure during the month of April. Doors in the elementary building were decorated to resemble the cover of a book by famous author and illustrator, Dr. Seuss. One day students and staff carried a book everywhere with them and when librarian, Charity McElligott announced "read-out" everyone stopped and read their book. Students and teachers remarked that this made

a relaxed and fun day at school.

After the assembly parents and community members were invited to tour elementary classrooms where students displayed recent class projects.

The junior and senior high

classrooms were open to display

new school technology. Teachers assisted visitors in understanding and using the new technology resources available to students and teachers in Morrow County.



Ione teacher Dean Robinson demonstrates a computer network to Katherine Lindstrom



Betty Rietmann's primary class dressed as characters from favorite books

Fire Extinguisher Service Day

Wednesday, May 21st

Bring in your extinguisher for recharging or repair

Service man on hand from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396

