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Young Eagles Program helps local kids soar



Mom George Nairns (left) helps daughter Crystal from plane after an exciting ride as son Kiel waits his turn. Pilot is David Cheney.



L-R: Cub Culbertson, Carley Drake, Doug Drake, Ed Betts, Dave Cheney and Wilma Cheney with aircraft at Lexington Airport

Plane rides were a big hit with local youngsters as over 80 queued up for free flights from the Lexington airport Friday, May 23.

The rides were sponsored by the Young Eagles Program, which in turn is sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association Foundation (EAA), a "charitable non-profit organization dedicated to the discovery and fulfillment of individual potential through personal flight."

The nation-wide group has a

goal of flying one million kids in planes by the year 2002, which is the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight. Now in its third year, the program has flown 300,000 children.

By lunch time Friday 67 area kids had flown and by around 3 p.m., 84 had been up in a plane. The pilots started at 8 a.m. and flew three children at time for 20 minute intervals. The pilots tried to fly the kids over their homes, whenever possible.

Pilots were Doug Drake of Heppner, local organizer, and Cub Culbertson of Pendleton,

who flew Piper Cherokees, and David Cheney of Walla Walla, who flew his Cessna 182.

Assisting with registration and lunch were Wilma Cheney, Walla Walla, Ed Betts, Umatilla, Carley Drake, Heppner, and Camille Peck, Lexington.

Dave Cheney, president of the EAA chapter which covers Hermiston and Pendleton, was a pilot with American Airlines for 34 years. He and his wife, Wilma, who had a ranch at Cecil for many years, moved to Walla Walla in 1995.

MCGG plants trees along new fields

Morrow County Grain Growers has added a touch of green to the new baseball/softball fields and corridor joining them.

MCGG bought and planted a variety of trees, including ashes, maples, pines, oaks and birches and is installing a drip system for watering the trees.

Master Gardeners Kay Proctor, Kathryn Kettel and Mark Tullis assisted MCGG in planting the trees. MCGG is also working with the swimming pool project to ensure that the types of trees planted will not be detrimental to the pool, said Tullis.



Master Gardener Mark Tullis (left) and Dusty Rollis of the Morrow County Grain Growers plant trees near new baseball/softball fields

Golf tourney to benefit little league

A blind draw scramble golf tournament to benefit the Willow Creek Little League will be held Sunday, June 1, at the Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner. The day will begin with coffee, rolls and registration at 7 a.m. and tee off time at 8 a.m.

There will be a \$15 entry fee will all proceeds going towards the little league program.

MC Museum seeks grand marshals

The Morrow County Museum is compiling a list of all who have served as grand marshal of the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

Anyone who has names of grand marshals and the year they served are asked to contact Marsha Swick at the museum, 676-5524, during open hours.

HES to present academic awards

The Academic Awards Assembly for Heppner Elementary School will be held on Thursday, June 5 at 7 p.m. in the gym.

Refreshments following the presentations will be provided by members of the Site Council and Parents' Club. The public is invited to attend.

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MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396

HEPPNER



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Bulldozers to begin tearing up the streets

Downtown renovation project to start next week

In about one week, downtown Heppner is going to be turned into "a mess and a disaster", local people were told at a meeting last week.

The meeting was called to talk about the upcoming downtown renovation project which will be starting around June 4 and will last for up to four months. The project will involve tearing up all the sidewalks and streets in downtown Heppner.

"I don't want to sugar coat this at all," City Manager Gary Marks told the crowd of around 40 people. "It's going to be an absolute mess and a disaster."

Marks also reminded people that the downtown renovation is "not a city project", and that problems encountered during construction should be taken to the company that won the bid and is doing the work on the project.

Al Frye, project manager for Weaver Construction which won the bid on the renovation project, did most of the talking at the meeting, and he stressed time and time again that the company will do all they can to work with residents and business people to make the construction go as smoothly as is possible considering the extent of the construction and that there will be no streets or sidewalks for some time.

Frye pointed out that his company has experience in city renovation projects, having done projects in LaGrande, Dayton and Baker City. He asked downtown property or business owners to contact him immediately if the construction work was causing damage or if there was a problem with buildings or property.

"We are going to video the fronts of stores, but we would like to know of any underground vaults and basements," Frye said.

He said the video is done to document the condition of property at the start of construction. "We don't want to get blamed for any damage we didn't do, but believe me we will take care of any we cause," Frye said.

Construction on the downtown project is expected to begin June 4 or 6, and last until Sept. 30.

"The signs are going up June 6, the cutting (old sidewalks and pavement) will start June 6, and we will start bulldozing the streets on June 7," Frye said.

During construction there will be no parking on Main Street in Heppner, and traffic will be routed first to the east side of the



City Manager Gary Marks shows the new type of street light that will go up in Heppner as part of the renovation project.

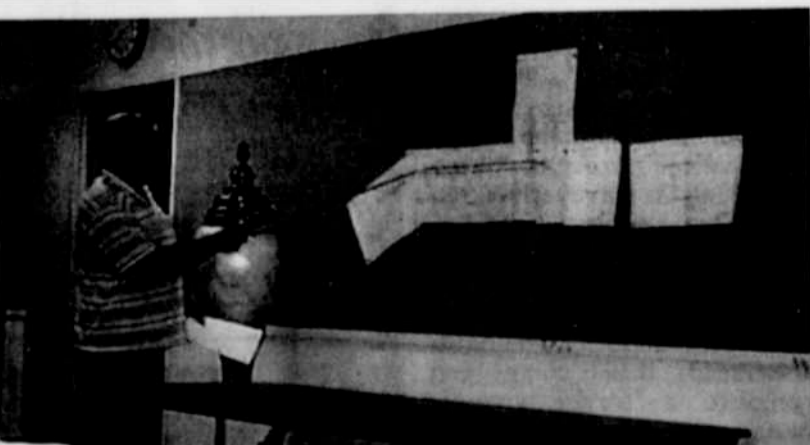
street and then to the west.

Frye also said that there may be some interruption of water service while work is done on the water mains, but he doesn't anticipate this to last more than a couple of hours.

Frye estimated that there could be up to 25 to 30 people working on the project at any given time, counting subcontractors. He said many of them will live in trailers

at the downtown park and at the RV park at Willow Creek Lake.

The construction area will be from the Hinton Creek Bridge up to May Street in Heppner. He said the construction crews will begin work at 7 a.m. each day and work eight to nine hours per day, five days per week. Frye said there will be very little weekend work. "We try to keep overtime to a minimum," he said.



Al Frye, who will head up the downtown renovation for Weaver Construction Co., explains the project at a meeting last week.