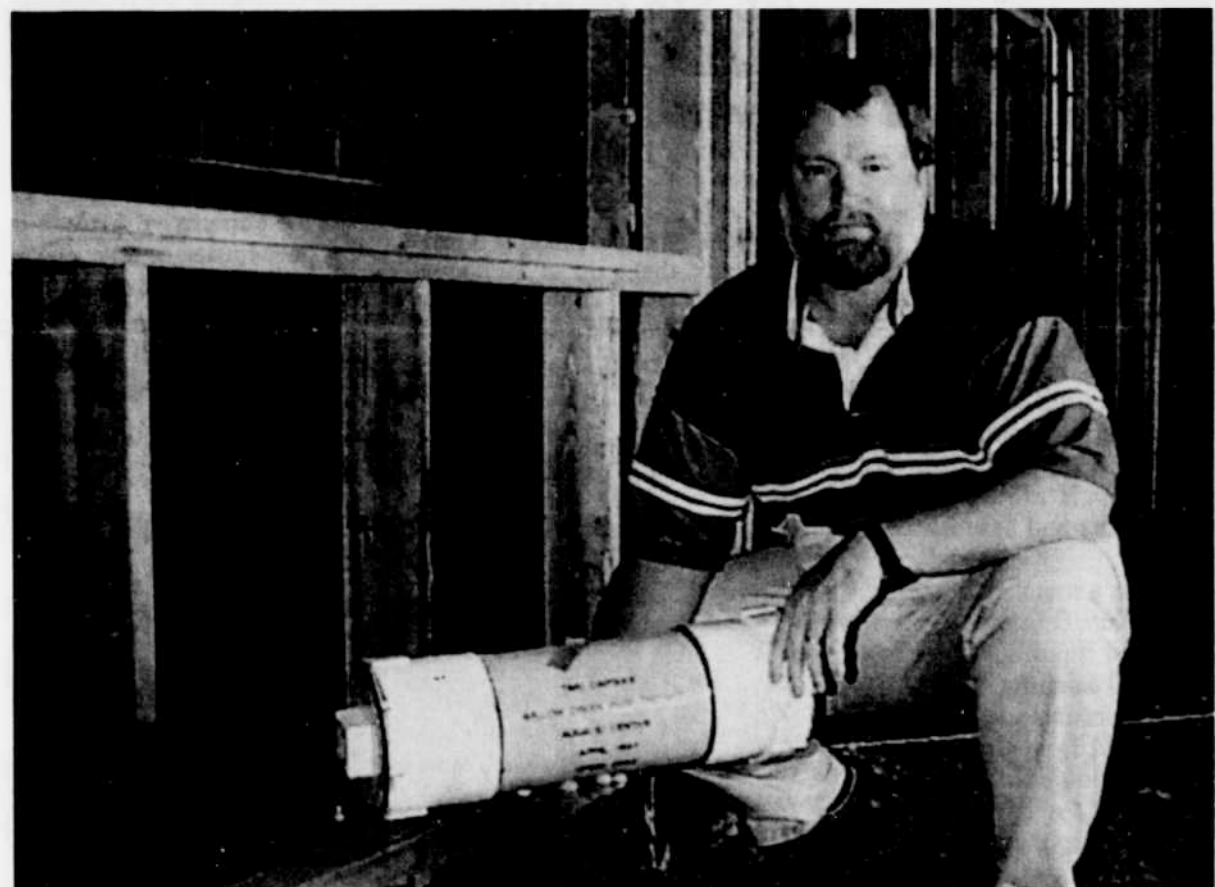


HEPPNER



50¢



Willow Creek Park District President Skip Matthews prepares to place a time capsule in the floor before concrete is poured in the multi-use swimming pool room at the Willow Creek Park District Aquatics Center. The capsule, which contains memorabilia, will be opened in 2050. The Willow Creek Park District Aquatic Center, under construction now in Heppner, is expected to be completed by July 18.

## Downtown project update

Project manager for the Heppner downtown renovation project reported this week that there is some delay in the project.

Al Frye of Weaver Construction said that some design problems with the placement of the storm sewers and sidewalk elevations are causing a slow down in work. He said these problems would have to be worked out between Weaver Const. and Oregon Department of Transportation.

Frye stressed that anyone who anticipates a problem near their business related to the project should contact him right away before work goes any further. He urged store owners to go out and talk to the workers that may be examining their sidewalk. The contractor will mark the elevation of each sidewalk on

every building front so you can see how their entrance way will fit the new sidewalks.

Anyone with questions should contact the Weaver headquarters across from Miller's Mini Mart. The phone number is 676-5766. If Frye is not available ask for Hank Rodman.

All those who are interested or have concerns are also invited to attend the weekly meetings of the contractors every Monday at 11 a.m. at Yaws Restaurant.

It was also reported that the contractor will begin work on the shamrock symbol that will be placed on Main street at the intersection of Main and Willow streets. Traffic will be diverted around that intersection in the near future.

Other intersections and side streets will periodically be closed as actual construction is being done in that area.

## Ione Library to hold reading program

The Ione Public Library will hold its summer reading program again this year. This year's theme is "Books and Beyond-Hobbies and Interests for Life." This year's scheduled activities include collection development and display, game making, lifesports, arts and crafts, and more.

The program will be held at the library from 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday, from Tuesday, July 8 to Tuesday, August 12. All interested children ages three to 11 are welcome to attend this free program.

The program is also looking for youth/adult volunteers (ages 12 and up) to help with projects and reading activities.

For more information about the program or volunteering, contact Michelle Raible (after June 22) at 422-7037.

## Measure 50 gives out tax bases

As a result of Ballot Measure 50, Morrow County has, in effect, been granted a new permanent \$4 million tax base. According to Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson and Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek, because of BM50, the county's \$4 million one-year serial levy will now be permanent, unless voters amend or repeal Ballot Measure 50 in the future.

County voters have defeated increases to the county's \$1 million tax base since it was voted in around 1911. Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth says that an increased tax base has been put up before the voters about every other year since she began working for the county in 1968.

According to information released by the Oregon State Legislative Revenue Office, for 1997-98 the county would have received \$4,018,091 in tax collections under Ballot Measure 5; \$3,427,717 under Ballot Measure 47; and will receive \$3,518,506 with compression under BM50.

Compression is the method by which each taxing district gets a proportionate amount of tax monies under the Ballot Measure 5 taxing cap of \$10 per thousand assessed valuation.

Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson said, however, that the county has had to trim around \$450,000 from their budget and will have a hard time making ends meet because of BM50's three percent limitation on valuation increases. "If the value

(of county property) declines," said Sweek. "They could collect less. We've been in slumps before. It's just a matter of time before it happens again."

Taxing entities were previously able to increase their tax bases annually by six percent automatically without a vote of the people.

Willow Creek Park District's three-year operating levy for the swimming pool now under construction in Heppner and the Morrow County Unified Recreation District's three-year levy, to fund school athletics and cultural programs county-wide, will also become permanent as a result of BM50.

Voters in 1995 passed a levy for \$36,000 a year to operate the pool. That amount is expected to be reduced to around \$26-28 thousand a year with compression, says Willow Creek Park District Board member Skip Mathews.

Morrow County Unified Recreation District passed a levy in 1995 for \$450,000 a year. MURD would have received \$470,638 under BM5; \$401,488 under BM47; and will receive \$412,122 with compression under BM50.

The city of Heppner, however, did not fare so well under BM50. The \$95,000 levy city voters passed last year to fund an additional policeman and other services will be negated by BM50. The city is the only taxing entity in the county to receive less rather than more

under 50, as compared to 47. The city would have received \$210,000 in tax monies under Ballot Measure 5; \$240,568 under BM47; and will receive \$184,037 under 50.

The Heppner City Council met with Morrow County Commissioners Wednesday night to see if the county could or would rectify the city's situation. The commissioners stressed that the city's loss in funds was not caused by any action on the part of the county and that the county's gain of over \$90 thousand was not money taken from the city.

Heppner City Manager Gary Marks countered by saying that although the county's additional funds were not technically taken from the city, the money the city lost was, indeed, gained by the county.

Marks earlier testified to the Oregon Senate Revenue Board in Salem in hopes of rectifying the city's situation. He said that he believed the reinstatement of city funds to be only a formality but county commissioners Ray French and John Wenzel showed up to testify against the city's proposal to have the funds returned to the city's coffers and state officials hesitated to make any adjustments if they encountered opposition.

County commissioners agreed to unite with the city in hopes of persuading the state revenue committee in finding a state-wide solution to the city's financial problems.

## Tullis, Cannon Grand Marshals of 4th festivities



Berdine Tullis (left) and Laural Cannon to head up Ione 4th festivities

Berdine Tullis and Laural Cannon have been chosen grand marshals of this year's Ione Fourth of July Celebration.

Tullis, a longtime resident of Ione, worked for the Morrow County Extension for 20 years is a member of the Ione Topic and Garden clubs. She is a master gardener.

Berdine and her husband Garry has two sons, Mark and Tim and three grandchildren, Cyd, Til and Ryon.

Laural is a lifelong resident of Ione, worked at the post office for 21 years and is active in the church auction, and the Ione Booster Club. Her husband's name is Pete and they have two girls, Cathy Halvorsen and Arlene Cannon, and one boy Terry. They also have two grand children Allison and Ryan Halvorsen.

The Ione July celebration is bigger and better than ever this year with the addition of the first annual Red, White and Blues Festival. The festival will feature the famous Paul de Lay band, Jimmy Lloyd Rea and the Switchmasters, and Li'l Lynne and the Smokin' Soles.

There will also be a parade, games, arts and crafts fair, with BBQ and microbrews.

## Two leaving Kinzua



Pat Hyatt (left) and Donna Moeller leaving Kinzua

When Pat Hyatt leaves her desk for the last time June 30, it will be more than just the end of a job for the long-time Kinzua employee. It will also be the end of a way of life.

Hyatt is one of the dwindling number of Kinzua employees who grew up in the shadow of the Kinzua mill. Her father worked for Kinzua, she lived, grew up and met her husband in the town of Kinzua, and she has worked for the company for the past forty years.

"I started with the company in 1957," says Hyatt. "I was hired as a log and payroll clerk."

She moved to Heppner when the Kinzua offices relocated here in 1975 and she has been the office manager and accountant for the past 30 years.

She and her husband Wayland, who retired earlier after 43 years with Kinzua, are moving to Sheridan where "we have a home on the hill and we're just going to watch the deer and the Elk, and relax," she says. But not until after she and her husband return from an all expense paid trip to London, courtesy of Pioneer Resources, a retirement gift from the company that now owns

Kinzua. Pat and Wayland have three children a daughter Theresa Morris, two sons Travis and Troy and four grandchildren.

Also leaving Kinzua but not retiring is Donna Moeller.

Moeller started with Kinzua in 1986 as a log and payroll clerk. Over the years she has done accounts payable and been a stats person also.

She and her husband Chuck have purchased a home in Hermiston and are moving there.

Chuck works for US West and since the buyout by PTI he has worked out of the Hermiston office. Their daughter Lorrie graduated from Heppner High this year, and they also have one son Mark who works for the forest service. Chuck and Donna moved to the Heppner from Baker in 1976.

Moeller says she plans to look for work in the Hermiston area.

## Park District meeting changed

The July meeting of the Willow Creek Park District has been changed to Wednesday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at Ione City Hall.

## Families sought for exchange students

Cathy Halvorsen, Ione, is "bringing the world" to the Morrow, Umatilla and Gilliam county area one international student at a time.

Halvorsen is a volunteer area representative for ASSE International Student Exchange, a non-profit, public benefit organization. The "primary goal of ASSE is to contribute to international understanding by enabling foreign students to learn about the United States through active participation in family, school and community life" said a ASSE press release.

Halvorsen will interview families in the area to host high school students from Australia, New Zealand, former Soviet Union republics and many European, Asian, and South American countries. The students stay with volunteer host families for an academic year and arrive with comprehensive insurance and their own spending money.

Call Halvorsen at 422-7107 for more information on becoming an ASSE host family, or call 1-800-733-2773.

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