

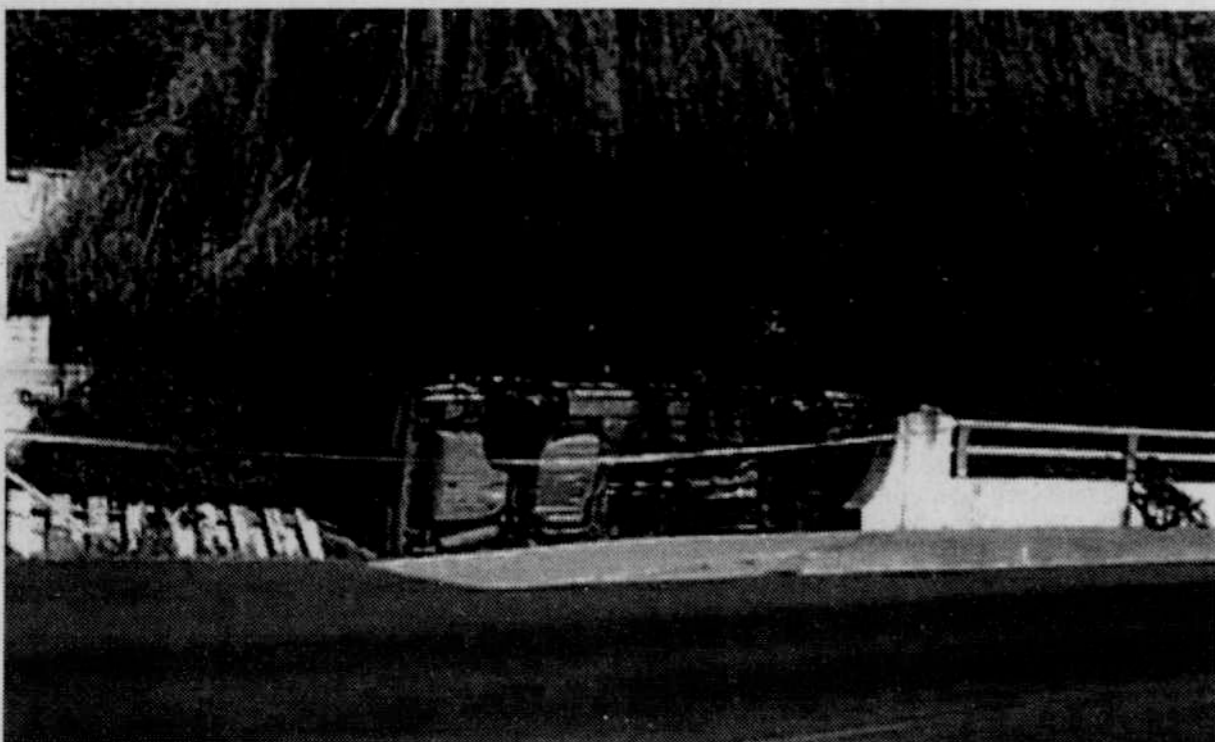
HEPPNER

Gazette imes

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Car crashes on Main Street



A '95 Chrysler lands on its side following a crash into a tree on Main Street Monday. Photo by Andy Sykes

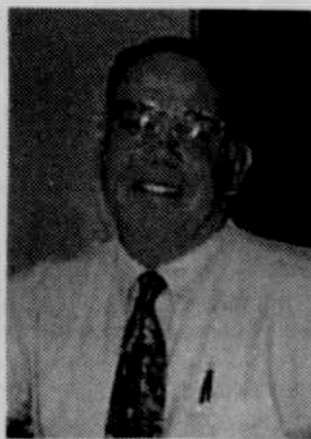
A Heppner woman lost control of her 1995 Chrysler and drove into a tree near the Willow Creek

bridge on Main Street in Heppner Monday around 5 p.m.

According to Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun, the driver

of the vehicle, Barbara Gilbert, said she fell asleep prior to the crash.

New school superintendent on the job



Superintendent Bruce Anderson

Newly hired Morrow County School Superintendent Bruce Anderson was on the job at his first school board meeting Monday night in Lexington. Anderson began work for the district on July 1.

Also at the meeting, Scott Bauska was elected chairman, Gary Frederickson, vice chairman, and newly elected or re-elected board members, Frederickson, John Rietmann, Keith Lewis and Pat McNamee, were sworn in.

The superintendent's report included information concerning the purchase of property in Boardman and Irrigon. The purchase of the Boardman property, which is adjacent to Sam Boardman Elementary School, has been completed. The purchase of the Irrigon property, 17.17 acres contiguous to Columbia Middle School, is still pending, awaiting resolution of

annexation issues pertaining to sewer and water. According to Anderson, Irrigon is near sewer and water capacity and a new school, which has been discussed for siting in Irrigon, would put them over the limit. A hearing on the annexation is scheduled for August.

Anderson also told the board of the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee's recommendation that an energy-saving project at Heppner Elementary School be halted. Anderson said the project has been stopped and the sheet rock and insulation to reduce energy loss from the large windows in the old section of the school has been torn down. The district had received numerous complaints from teachers and parents concerning the boarding up of the windows in the school.

"I personally looked at it and I don't think it was the right thing to do," said Anderson. "Everyone was trying to do the right thing with the money allocated."

Anderson said that he estimated that it would take around \$30,000 to install energy-efficient windows, similar to those in the new wing of the school. He suggested that the project be included in bond issue which has been discussed by the board. The board has previously discussed putting a bond issue before the people which would fund a new school to accommodate growth in the north end of the county.

At a Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee meeting held last week, John Moyer, head of maintenance for the district,

said that \$20,000 was originally requested for the HES window project, but added that the funds were eliminated from the budget the first year and only \$5,000 was approved the second year. He said the district was doing the best it could to save energy costs with the money available. Moyer said that the new heating and cooling system at the school was not sufficient for the area and the large single-pane windows contributed to the energy drain.

In a report on the state school funding Anderson told the board that in his estimates, the district would be around \$900,000 short for the upcoming budget year, which would eliminate cash carryover. "To cut a couple bucks throughout the year isn't going to solve the issue," said Anderson, who added that the budget shortfall could prompt "some tough decisions." Anderson said that most school districts borrow money, but added, "The borrowing doesn't bother me, it's the lack of flexibility."

In other business, the board: -approved moving the board meeting agenda deadline up so that board members could have an additional day to review the agenda;

-approved final readings of district sexual harassment policies and the continuing professional development program;

-approved declaration of surplus property, annual

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Health district approves long term remodeling, expansion plans

The Morrow County Health District, at its July 5 meeting in Irrigon approved a 10-year long-term plan for remodeling of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital facility and expansion of its services. At the same time, the district's last available financial report, for May, indicates losses of \$48,000 for the month.

"I think they all realize they can't continue to lose the kinds of money they've lost the last few years," said George Koffler, president and CEO of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, which last October approved a \$225,000 line of credit to the district to help avert closure of the hospital. "But the plans they have are good. If they implement them I think you'll find revenues increasing and the new look of the hospital will encourage people to use it."

While the district continues to lose money, it has cut its losses since hiring Sheila Dahlman as interim administrator. Koffler also advised the district to get a commitment from Dahlman concerning her length of employment. "You've got a lot of momentum," said Koffler. "I'd hate to lose it by her leaving early."

The district plans to begin an abbreviated remodeling project as soon as possible to accommodate a new CT (Cat

scan) machine, which will expand diagnostic medical services for patients and provide an infusion of cash for the hospital. Estimated cost of the CT remodeling project is between \$50,000-\$75,000. The scanner is expected to pay for itself with increased hospital revenues.

Long-range plans, outlined by Kenneth Roberts with R Group Design in Enterprise, include: expanding the nursing home 113 feet and adding 22 beds; moving administrative offices to the basement; relocating access for the general public to a "dramatic" and "more inviting" space in the basement; adding a pharmacy, which they propose to contract with Murray Drugs to operate; adding a cafeteria; expanding the emergency room; remodeling areas for mammography and ultrasound; and grouping hospital departments in a more efficient manner.

Roberts said that the long-term project, which would be cheaper if it could be completed all at once, is estimated around \$1.5 million. Dahlman and the board discussed the possibility applying for a 40-year USDA loan at 4-1/2 percent for funding of the project. Dahlman also brought up the possibility of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program assisting

in the funding of the emergency room expansion. According to Steve Myren, who is employed with CSEPP, Pioneer Memorial has been designated as a CSEPP medical facility in the event of an accident during destruction of chemical warfare agents at the Umatilla Army Depot.

Also at the meeting, the board spoke with Dr. Ken Wenberg concerning the termination of his contract with the district. Newly appointed board chair Larry Mills, speaking on behalf of the board, said that Wenberg's problems with the IRS preclude his employment with the district at this time.

In other business the board: -swore in Linda LaRue of Ione as a board member. LaRue is employed with the Bank of Eastern Oregon;

-approved purchase of a van to transport wheelchair-bound patients for \$6,500;

-renewed a line of credit with the Bank of Eastern Oregon for the 1999-2000 fiscal year; and

-approved a seven-year flex lease plan for new computer software for the district at \$158,000 (\$191,000 including interest).

Car wash set Saturday

The Heppner High School senior class will have a car wash on Saturday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. behind Les Schwab in Heppner.

Cost is \$5 for a wash or \$10 for cleaning inside and out.

Window projected halted

It was an open and shut case. Or was it a shut and open? Either way, the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee, in a special meeting Thursday, July 8, recommended that the project to enclose the windows at Heppner Elementary School be stopped and the sheet rock and insulation, which had been installed to board up the windows for energy savings, be torn down. New Morrow County School Superintendent Bruce Anderson accepted the recommendation and indicated that the work would be stopped. The project has since been torn down.

The committee, which reviewed the issue at length, opened up the meeting to allow numerous parents and teachers speak, a majority of whom spoke in opposition to the project.

Anderson said that the intention of the project was to save energy costs, but added that ideally the community should have been made aware of the project when it was first contemplated by the district. John Moyer, head of maintenance for the district, said that when a new heating and cooling system was installed, engineers said that the system was not big enough to heat and cool the area efficiently and recommended that the windows be replaced or boarded up.

Moyer said that a request for \$20,000 was originally made to the budget committee for replacement of the windows, but the \$20,000 was cut the first year and only \$5,000 was granted the second year of the request. Moyer said that the \$5,000 was not enough to replace the windows and boarding them up was the best the district could do with the money allotted.

Teachers, however, when polled at the meeting indicated that they would rather be cold or too warm another year rather than have the windows boarded up.

Both teachers and parents at the meeting cited studies which indicated that children learn better in natural light.

Moyer said that around \$2,500 of the money for the window enclosure project remained. Some of that money, which would have been used for labor to install siding and remove the old windows, was to be used for labor to remove the sheet rock and insulation.

At the Morrow County School Board meeting Monday, July 12, Anderson said that he estimates

that installing energy-efficient windows in the old portion of the school, similar in size to the windows in the new wing of the school, would cost around \$30,000.

Adult swim lessons offered

Adult swim lessons will begin Monday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Willow Creek Water Park.

For more information, or to sign up, call the pool at 676-5752 or Sally Walker at 676-9112.

Fishing derby draws kids



The "Kids Fishing Derby" was held on June 13 at the Willow Creek Reservoir. Seventy-two children participated and approximately \$400 worth of prizes was awarded.

Categories included the following age groups-five and under, 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12 years old for the biggest/most fish caught in the bass, trout and sunfish categories. Prizes were also awarded to three age groups with the casting contest.

"We targeted all kids ages 12 and under and encouraged any disabled or disadvantaged kids to attend," said Greg Lynch of the Heppner Ranger District. "There were no classes for differentiation between sexes, all who participated did so on an equal basis."

Refreshments were made available for all participants and volunteers.

"The annual derby was a memorable time for the young and old alike," said Lynch.

Sponsors included the U.S.

Forest Service; Heppner Lions Club; Mid Columbia Bass Club; Northwest Steelheaders; Ducks Unlimited and Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.



NEWS DEADLINE
5 p.m. Monday

Harvest Hours

Monday - Friday 7-6
Saturday 7-5
Closed Sunday

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