

HEPPNER



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Heppner school bond construction debated

A group of area residents who met with architects concerning school bond construction at Heppner Elementary School discussed building a new gym at Heppner High School rather than at the elementary school as previously planned. The original plan was to construct a gym-cafeteria-music room at Heppner Elementary School. With this new suggestion, the music room and cafeteria would still be constructed at the elementary school site.

Proponents of the idea said at the September 5 meeting that building the gym at the high school location would give the Heppner community a much-needed third gymnasium--that is if the old gym at the middle school is retained. They also say that the high school location would better serve the junior high students because seventh and eighth graders no longer attend classes at the old middle school, but rather at the high school.

Several at the meeting cautioned the group concerning added costs in building two buildings rather than one consolidated gym-cafeteria-music room and expressed concern about the aging gym-auditorium at the middle school. A previous engineer's report indicated that the gym was not structurally sound and would not withstand a "seismic event". While some maintained that the building has "more than 10 years in it", others expressed concern that the cost for upkeep and heating of the old building would be prohibitive. "Are we willing to lose a teacher to maintain these extra facilities," asked Mark Rietmann, Heppner.

Another concern is that wording in the construction bond ballot, may require that the new gym building "replace" the old building at the middle school site.

Diane Kilkenny, Heppner, asked the school board at their regular meeting Monday evening, Sept. 10, whether it was possible to consider deviations from the original plan, but the board declined to take a stand, saying that the Heppner community must decide.

"We don't want to dictate to Heppner," said board chair Julie Weikel. "Heppner needs to decide what it truly, truly wants."

Kilkenny expressly asked for clarification on the ballot title. "If it's not possible (to change the Heppner construction plans), there's no point in pursuing the issue," said Kilkenny. The board urged the Heppner community to "have as many meetings as it takes" to come to a conclusion on their

recommendations concerning construction. They also warned, however, that delays would end up costing the district more and thus the district would get less for their money, since the bond amount is limited by law.

While citizen input has been encouraged, the decision would fall on the advisory committees and ultimately with the school board.

"The understanding was that we were going to replace the gym and tear it down," said board member Gary Frederickson at the Sept. 10 meeting. "I don't think we can maintain that gym. I don't think it's safe. I think it needs to come down."

Another meeting on construction of a gym, cafeteria and music room in Heppner has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

(Editor's note: The bond measure title, question and summary read as follows:

Morrow County School District
General Obligation Bond
Authorization

Shall the District be authorized to issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$22,000,000 to expand and improve its facilities? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property

Nursing shortage evident at PMH

By Molly Rhea

Open just about any news magazine and you will read about how America is experiencing a "nationwide nursing shortage". The problems are no different at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

PMH Director of Nurses Tammy Henderson states, "Our nurses, as well as many of the nurses aides, have had to go to 12 hour shifts due to not having enough staff to cover three eight-hour shifts."

Henderson's current RN coverage is bare bones with two full-time nurses to cover the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. shift, and two on the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. In case of emergency or illness, Sandi Hanna, the nursing home's resident care manager, and Henderson are the only other RN's available to cover shifts.

"When other hospitals say they have several openings in nursing, they are still able to function - it's no big deal," adds Henderson. "When we have an unfilled position it is a very big issue."

RNs Sue (Greenup) Walton and Sheryl Angell work the day shifts, while Mark Taylor and Linn Young divide the night shifts. "Although the two gals on days are handling the load adequately at present," says Henderson. "Sheryl's baby is due in November and Sue lives in Long

or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Section 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution;

Summary: This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout. The measure provides funds to add classroom space in Boardman and Irrigon, replace aging facilities in Heppner and Lone, renovate existing buildings, improve Columbia Middle School, and acquire land as needed. Specifically, this measure will:

*Construct, equip and furnish two new elementary schools with classrooms for 200 students each and infrastructure to accommodate 500 students in each school.

*Replace aging elementary facilities, renovate existing facilities to improve energy conservation, upgrade technology capabilities, and protect the community's investment in existing facilities. Improvements will:

* Upgrade electrical wiring and connect schools with a high-speed network to improve student access to technology and expanded learning opportunities.

* Replace outdated heating, cooling, ventilation, and plumbing systems, and make health and safety improvements.

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Creek - at least a 90 minute drive." Occasionally Henderson has to resort to using "per diem" nurses as a stop-gap.

All of the registered nurses at PMH, as well as the providers, are required to be certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) as well as in either the Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum (TNCC) or the Trauma Emergency Assessment and Management (TEAM).

Nationwide enrollment in nursing schools, which has always been limited, has been dropping off. Traditionally nursing has been a profession dominated by females. Now women have more career options, so fewer are entering nursing. Although Pioneer Memorial offers a sign-on bonus, so is nearly every other facility.

One distinction PMH offers, other than being able to say you work in the smallest hospital in Oregon, is a chance for nurses to work within a diverse environment which spans everything from critical emergency care to providing the day-to-day care needed by the residents of the nursing home. Perhaps the most important aspect of working in the nursing department at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, is being able to make a difference in our friends' and neighbors' lives.

Bonnie Wenberg selected to teach basket weaving



Bonnie Wenberg

Bonnie Wenberg has been selected to teach her Bear Grass in the Round at the 20th annual convention of the Association of Michigan Basketmakers. The convention will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from Oct. 23-28.

Born in Little Falls, MN, and now residing in Heppner, Wenberg has been weaving since 1981 and teaching since 1991. She wove her first basket in the fifth grade and her second at Greenfield Village (Detroit, MI) in 1981. She had no intention of learning the old arts and crafts. Now, the rich history of basket making strongly appeals to her. Wenberg has her own shop. From 1996 to 1999 she operated Fine Baskets in Arlington, WA. After

it closed, she continued with mail order business. In the summer of 2000 Artisan Village opened of which Fine Baskets is one division. The shop is located in Heppner.

Wenberg designs patterns utilizing cedar, birch, wicker and hardwood splint for various basket functions. She was awarded grand champion in the Western Washington Fair in 1996 and has won numerous blue ribbons there as well as at the Washington State Fair and the Morrow County Fair. She has taught classes at conventions in Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Washington and Vermont. She has also attended the Basketry School in Seattle, Washington. She has taught classes to children and adults at schools, Scout Groups, women's

groups and to home schoolers. She has been in charge of a basketry booth at two International Pathfinder Camporees where thousands of children have made her simple baskets - 1994 in Denver, CO, and 1999 in Oshkosh, WI.

Chosen from a pool of approximately 400 baskets, Wenberg's two designs are among the 164 to be taught at the 2001 AMB Convention where over 800 weavers will gather to perpetuate the art of basketry. The goal of the 2001 Association of Michigan Basketmakers Convention is to stimulate interest and knowledge in all phases of basketry and to promote public enthusiasm for its value to the community.

County court meets with economic development specialist

By Doris Brosnan

At its Sept. 5 session, the Morrow County Court met with Martin Davis, newly contracted for county economic development, to review a list of issues for prioritization. After clarifying several items, the court noted the importance of regular meetings of an economic development committee to work on strategic planning. Davis explained that he wishes to return after having had opportunities to meet with city representatives.

Davis introduced to the court news of another potential business for property near the Port of Morrow. The company has asked about an enterprise-zone extension, and it is also inquiring in another Eastern Oregon community. Questions raised pertained to the ground water and nitrate levels in the north county area and the pay level of some of the company's jobs. Enterprise Zone manager Greg Sweek also contributed his perspective and reminded Davis of the two months needed for a boundary change. Davis was instructed to inform the port of the need to build in some support for county services and that the court would want to negotiate a fee.

Emergency management director Casey Beard presented a contract with the Department of Corrections and Morrow and Umatilla counties pertinent to the 450 MHz radio system and radio frequencies related to the EOCI operation. The commissioners declined to sign the contract without further study.

Beard and planning director Tamra Mabbott discussed with the court a request for federal funding of a local position for chemical depot base realignment and closure. After detailed discussion of the local needs and the regional and federal set-ups, the court agreed on a Sept. 24 study session.

Representatives of SCM and Beard, Mabbott and Davis addressed with the Court the status of environmental issues at the Army Depot. The trial burn has been scheduled for October 29, preceded by a public hearing on October 2. Some dunnage and waste issues remain to be settled, including an Army decision not to build the dunnage incinerator, and the court

emphasized the need for knowledge of any issues with environmental, health, safety or welfare requirements. Also noted was an Army modification in sampling equipment, and the group discussed possible impact on approved permits.

Building inspector Brett Cook updated the court on the status of the dairies. He pointed out a remaining need for compliance with some Oregon Regulatory Statutes and the permits that the planning department issued. Acknowledged was the need for the State Building Codes Division to have full information about the sites.

CPA Lisanne Currin reviewed with the court her analyses of the four companies that the court had interviewed in search of pension investors. The commissioners added their individual analyses for a detailed discussion of each company. The Court then approved of McGee Financial and will meet with the company to develop an investment policy.

The court reviewed past awards of tippage fees not yet spent by the agencies that received them. After discussion of the situation, the court agreed to inform the agencies that the money will be reallocated in 30 days unless the court hears from the agencies before that time.

The court also examined a draft proposal of a regional Baker-Morrow Area Commission on Transportation. The formation of such a commission would be expected to favorably impact funding of county roads, bridges and other projects, with word from ODOT that the number-one project for each county would be completed.

The court received from Diamond 2000 Construction, Incorporated, a check to fund a traffic study for the proposed race track. The court will contract with a traffic engineer for the study.

Public works department working foreman Greg Close and office specialist Karen Wolff reported that the crew is blading Twenty-One Road and Penland Lake turn-off, blading and cutting brush on Sunflower Flat Road, cleaning culverts on Deadman Loop, fixing blow-outs on Lloyd Morgan Road, patching in Northeast County, hot

patching corners of Depot Lane, chip sealing and sweeping Dee Cox and Bunker Hill roads, crack-sealing Basey Canyon and putting rock on Sperry Springs Road.

Wolff also reported revenue generated by the parks during Labor Day weekend: Anson Wright \$1300 and Cutsforth \$700.

Other actions of the court include the following:

- approval of the lease/purchase of a vehicle for the emergency management director, to be reimbursed by CSEPP, and transfer to the Boardman Fire Department of the previously used CSEPP vehicle;

- authorization of Karen Wolff to sign titles of surplus vehicles sold at auction and the auctioneer's contract;

- approval of a permit to Morrow Power LLC to install fiber optic line across Columbia Avenue and in the right-of-way of Industrial Way and Rippee Road;

- approval of the purchase of a laptop and a printer for public works, contingent upon finance department approval;

- signing of a letter to Western Federal Lands Highway Division in support of the Sunflower Flat Project;

- approval of a contract with PowerCom to rewire the Lexington public works office;

- approval of the agreement with the Port of Morrow for economic development services;

- approval of a resolution regarding membership in the City/County Insurance Trust;

- approval of a contract with the Employment Department, Child Care Division, for child care service for teen parents;

- approval of a contract from behavioral health for sex-offender treatment services through Darlene Petroff;

- approval of the purchase of a Microsoft Office license for the accounting department.

Jack and Jill cancelled

The champagne breakfast Jack and Jill scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15, at Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner has been cancelled.

Danner Boot Sale

Be Ready For Hunting Season & Winter!

Sale through
Sept. 22

20% OFF

(In stock
and orders
welcome)



Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396

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