

City Hall/Library funding questions answered

Following are the Oregon Trail Library District answers to the Heppner Library/City Hall project:

Question: I am somewhat unclear as to the grant money process. The city talks with authority regarding a million dollars in grant money. Has this grant been applied for? If not, can you explain the process and why the city is so confident they will be awarded this grant?

Answer: The million dollars in grant money is not referring to a single grant. Funding would be requested from many different sources.

Question: The paper said the project has received \$70,000 in grant money. Where did this money come from and is it dedicated for a specific purpose?

Answer: A \$50,000 challenge grant has been awarded by the Morrow/Baker Partnership specifically for the Heppner Library/City Hall project. A challenge grant means that the funds will be received if the citizens of Heppner are behind the project and the City of Heppner and the Oregon Trail Library District are able to raise the remainder of the funds needed.

The Oregon Trail Library District Heppner branch will receive \$20,000 from the Libraries of Eastern Oregon. This funding must be spent within the guidelines of the "Lighting Up the Libraries" vision. It was directed specifically to the Heppner library by Representative Greg Smith and Representative Ted Ferrioli. The funds will be used for telecommunications infrastructure in the new facility.

Question: The financial standing of many foundations is suffering because of the recent drop in the stock market. Many organizations that have proposed money for the future are now having to reconsider their decisions. Is there a possibility that the money for this project may not be available next year?

Answer: The question as asked does not make sense as the Oregon Trail Library District and the City of Heppner are not trying to secure all the funding for the project in one year. Both entities understand that securing funding will take time. The foundations and funding agencies that may be approached are not going to cease this function although the amounts they give all at once may be down.

Question: As I understand the project, the library board and the city are working together on this project, because of a particular funding source for joint ventures between districts. Is there grant funding available to the library if it were to pursue a project on its own?

Answer: The Oregon Trail Library District and the City of Heppner are collaborating on this project because a collaboration between two separate entities for a multi-purpose facility is more attractive to funders than a single entity acting alone for a single use facility.

There is no single funding source. There is grant funding available to libraries, however the Oregon Trail Library District does not anticipate being able to obtain adequate funding to match library needs in a separate project.

Question: Has the library board researched the feasibility and cost of expanding their existing building? If no, why not?

Answer: Yes, however the public should know that the Oregon Trail Library District does not own the current library building in Heppner.

Question: Is the current library in the flood plain or in the flood way? What does this mean in terms of adding on to the existing structure?

Answer: The current library is in the flood plain. If the Library District were to add on to the existing structure, the expansion itself would have to meet current flood standards. This would mean that the expansion would have to be either elevated one foot above the 700-year flood level or the expansion would have to be flood proofed.

However, if the value of the expansion were to be 50 percent or more of the value of the existing structure, the entire building would need to be brought up to current flood standards.

Question: I have heard rumors that the new library building will not offer any additional book storage space or square footage. Can you address this rumor and explain what the library is looking to achieve with a new structure?

Answer: This is just a rumor. The new library portion of the building will increase by at least 7,000 square feet. This will increase available

book storage space.

The new library will be ADA accessible as it currently is not. It will have updated wiring, lights, insulation and more efficient heating and cooling systems. The new library will have a family reading area, a study area and a larger computer area. The current library has no reading area and no study area. The children's area will be larger and allow for more participation in children's story hours and the summer reading program.

The classroom, located on the upper level, will be used by community groups and the library staff. It will have a distance learning computer and a television available for video conferencing. Classes and children's activities may be conducted in this room.

Question: What data do city officials have that support the proposition that we need more capacity in our library during a period of declining population in Heppner?

Answer: There are service standards and benchmarks for all Oregon public libraries. The Oregon Trail Library District supports attempting to meet these benchmarks and providing quality library services.

Question: If there is substantive evidence to support the "need" for increased capacity, why haven't library hours, open to the public, increased from the current 37 hours per week? Have city officials studied the inventory, its quality, turnover rate, etc.?

Answer: The library provides many other services beyond just checking in and checking out books. There is a need for increased computer space, study space, a reading area and a children's area large enough to provide adequate space for story hours and other children's programming. Additional open hours does not equal capacity.

Question: Last week's newspaper article suggested or implied that people would have child care service available at the new library. Why would city officials support such a concept which would do economic harm to private sector businesses that provide this same service?

Answer: The article, in the Oct. 17, 2001 issue of the Heppner Gazette Times, stated: "Parents could leave their children to read at the library while they shopped and seniors would not have to travel far to access the library and city hall while shopping downtown." The Oregon Trail Library District does not plan to have child care services of any type. The statement was reflecting the idea that children of reading age could possibly spend time at the library while parent(s) ran errands. This would, of course, be up to the parents as to whether the child was of appropriate age to be in the library alone and whether the child was able to display appropriate library behavior, very similar to whether or not a parent would leave a child alone of a city park or anywhere else.

Heppner City Manager Jerry Breazeale presented the following correspondence concerning the proposed city hall/library project:

Question: Where did the money come from for the purchase of the Shear property?

Answer: The 2001-2002 city budget provided \$7,000 from the water fund, \$7000 from the sewer fund and the balance from the general fund.

Question: Was it out of the present city budget?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Does the city own Willow Street to Klamath Bank property on Gale?

Answer: No.

Question: Wouldn't a ground level building provide better access for both library and city hall?

Answer: Possibly, but it would require a much larger lot.

Question: A single level building would be less expensive?

Answer: No, if you increase the square footage by going up, you have the same amount of concrete and the same amount of roofing for the increased footage.

Question: With all the street frontage on Willow and Gale, I wonder why the council has not considered this or perhaps they have?

Answer: The city has a relatively new shop in the center of the property and the balance of the property contains the existing city buildings.

FAX - Send or Receive Gazette-Times 676-9211

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$5.)

Join hearts, hands and minds for united Morrow Co.

To the Editor:

I reside in "south" Morrow County, and for the first 11 years of my career I worked in south Morrow County schools. During that time I had the opportunity of working with teachers and students throughout K-12. I learned from and worked with quality educators, many of who are still my friends and neighbors. A few years later, I find myself in a similar situation, only now, although I still reside in "south" Morrow County, I have been given the opportunity to work with and learn from quality educators of "north" Morrow County. Because of my employment opportunities I can assure all that I have found no differences in what educators want for their student, regardless of teaching location. It does not matter which end of the county students are from, they desire and deserve an equal opportunity to learn.

Here in America distance separates the states, yet we are still "united" Americans standing together for a common cause. Why is that not able to happen in our small

county? The distance of farm lands and the bombing range are the only things that should separate north and south Morrow County. Circle the wagons out there and get everyone on the same wagon standing together for the common cause of educating out students in a united Morrow County.

Funding belongs to Morrow County schools for the education of all Morrow County students. North or South, it doesn't matter. Join hearts, hands and minds and figure out what will work for Morrow County. Let's make our kids proud of being from Morrow County, not embarrassed about or having false pride in being from either North or South.

The distance does not matter; our goals as a county for the education of our youth are the same. Morrow County, stand united; our dollars are pooled. Now let's do the best to get an equal buy for each dollar for each student in our system.

(s) Lauri Hire, educational interpreter for the deaf Umatilla/Morrow ESD

More north-south antagonism promoted

To the Editor:

Jane Rawlins once wrote a letter for this paper titled "Belligerent Nationalism." (4/25/01)

(Morrow County School Superintendent) Mr. Anderson has stooped to that antagonistic method.

Fact: precise numbers for construction costs were not available before the vote took place. At best, 22 million is an unthought-out, arbitrary amount, perhaps backed up by an architect's "ballpark" figure and then inflated to be "on the safe side."

These somewhat back door antics are not normal procedure and promote more antagonism between the north and south ends of this county, as evidenced by the extreme partisan recall vote.

Further evidence of separatism is shown when comments are used such as: "personally attacked" and "We're getting the runaround here,"

as well as "The school board will make the final decision," "Will they take our money?" "They probably wonder that about you, too."

These comments were made by concerned citizens and those that all supposed to be Morrow County leaders. The comments are riddled with concern, distrust and unproductive attitude.

Very much a reminder of what a child would say, "It's my ball, and you can't play."

This is what we need to teach the children of Morrow County? Last word: Honesty. It's the only thing that will save and put to rest this rather disgraceful attempt at playing power games.

The school board and the advisory committee need to put their collective egos on a shelf and get on with what this "entire county" needs.

(s) Phil Kight Heppner

4-H News

Barnyarders 4-H Club

By Heather Rill, reporter

The Barnyarders held their second meeting of the year on Nov. 20.

The main business of the meeting was election of officers. The following people were elected: president, Dan Jensen; vice president, Roy Proctor; secretary, Meghan Unruh; treasurer, Teonna Vandever; and reporter, Heather Rill.

The club talked about improvement at fair and what members could do to make the club stand out at fair. They talked about fund raisers to do during fair. The club also talked about things they could do for the buyers and how they could personally thank them for buying the club's pigs.

Members played a game that would help them be better at showmanship and learned what the important parts of showmanship were.

The next meeting will be sometime in January.

Advisory Committee to meet

The Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School Library.

At the meeting, the advisory committee will listen to community input concerning the configuration of the school bond construction project and formulate their recommendation to the school board.

The committee will also conduct their regular monthly business meeting.

We Make POSTERS

Heppner Gazette-Times

Obituaries

Frieda L. Slocum

Frieda L. Slocum, 93, of Heppner, died Sunday, November 25, 2001, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, November 29, 2001, at 11 a.m. at the Christian Life Center in Heppner.

She was born June 7, 1908, at Lexington, to Samuel and Frances Hechtner McMillan. She was raised at Lexington and attended school there, graduating from Lexington High School in 1926. She then attended Oregon Normal School at Monmouth where she received her teaching degree.

On January 1, 1930, she married Lawrence E. Slocum at Lexington. Mr. Slocum died in April 1946.

Mrs. Slocum returned to school in 1960 to update her credentials, then taught at Hardman and Heppner schools until her retirement in 1970.

After retirement, she traveled extensively. She enjoyed her children and grandchildren, reading, gardening and knitting. She enjoyed sharing the sweaters she had knitted with others and sharing her raspberry crops with friends and family who dropped by.

Survivors include daughters, Barbara Clough of Albany, France Dion of Gresham, Nancy Nelsen of Bush Prairie, Washington, Mary Neher of Eugene and Carolyn Slocum of Heppner; son, Peter Slocum of Polson, Montana; sister, Naomi Hill of Portland; 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by brothers, Robert, Eldred, Samuel, Wayne "Pete" and Jack; and sister, Eula.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Oregon Trail Library District, P.O. Box 325, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Louise Circle

Mary Louise Circle passed away Tuesday, November 20, 2001, in Roseburg.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary was read Friday, November 23, 2001, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Roseburg. A Mass of Christian Burial immediately followed with Father Bill Holtzinger, celebrant. Private family graveside services will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

She was born to Walden and Ursula (Kaufman) Higdon, on January 29, 1919, at Manor, Washington, in her parents' home. She graduated from Battle Ground High School in 1937.

On October 22, 1941, she married Francis C. Circle at St. James Catholic Church in Vancouver, Washington. They made their home in Seaside for five years and then moved to Roseburg in 1947. Son Michael Corwin Circle was born in 1947 and daughter Monica Elaine Circle was born in 1951.

Mrs. Circle managed her home and was bookkeeper for her husband's log trucking business. Family members say she was always up at early morning cooking breakfast for her husband, no matter what time he left the house for work.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church for 55 years and

was a volunteer for many activities at St. Joseph School. She was an avid bowler in a Roseburg league, winning many trophies throughout the years. She loved to travel abroad. She enjoyed her children, grandchildren, American Legion baseball, reading autobiographies and, in later years, eating breakfast out with friends. She was fascinated with old cemeteries and loved to wander in them, reading the headstones.

She is survived by Francis Circle, her husband of 60 years; son Michael Circle and wife Diana of Roseburg; daughter Monica Swanson and husband Jim of Ione; grandchildren, Luke Swanson, Adrienne Swanson and Samantha Birenbaum; and sister Evelyn Holbrook of Vancouver, Washington. Mary's beautiful smile will be missed by those who knew her, said the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, c/o Deacon Stenbeck, 800 W. Stanton Street, Roseburg, OR 97470.

Students

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geography, biology and are assigned either English or French. She says she likes French and would like to know Italian. Macarena, who studied English and American culture at a special school one-and-a-half hours a day for three years, sometimes speaks English with her father, who would like to learn the language.

Because Argentina is in the southern hemisphere, students attend school from March to December. Summer vacation is in January and February. "We have Christmas in the summer and go swimming," she says.

When she returns to Argentina, Macarena says that she will probably have to repeat a grade, unless she is able to finish school here and go directly to university. Competition for jobs among young people is very fierce in Argentina, she says, partly because universities are free and almost everyone attends. She says that Argentina offers the same educational and employment opportunities for women as for men. She says would like to be a doctor or a lawyer, but also likes philosophy and psychology.

Back home Macarena enjoys going shopping with her friends, going to the cinema and going dancing at clubs which are open from 1-8 a.m. for students her age. "I miss my friends and my sister. I love my sister," says Macarena. "We are really close. I miss my family, but I don't have much time to miss them," she sighs.

Rebekahs to host card party

The Holly Rebekah Lodge will host the monthly card party this Saturday, Dec. 1, starting at 7:30 p.m.

The cost is \$3 per person and the public is invited to attend.

FUN! FUN! FUN!

Heppner DayCare has childcare slots available for ages 1-2 1/2 years part-time; 3-5 years full-time; and 6-12 years full-time (before and after school).

Call 676-5429 and ask for Ann, Dawn or Merry.

