

HEPPNER

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Following defeat of city hall/library project Council discusses city hall remodeling

The Heppner city council Monday discussed what to do with city hall now that a proposed new city hall/library complex has been cancelled.

The council decided to not pursue the new facility after a survey sent out by the city found a large number of people in Heppner were against it.

One of the reasons the city wanted to build a new city hall was because officials claimed the current structure is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant, and that there is no privacy in the current office structure.

Mayor Bob Jepsen said the Heppner City hall was one of the worst in Eastern Oregon and needed to be seriously remodeled. "I'm ashamed of this office. Look at the size of it. It is a lot worse

than other in Eastern Oregon," he told the council and some citizens who had gathered to talk about the remodeling.

"What is so bad about city hall?" Heppner resident Randy Lott asked. "We don't need to spend tens of thousands of dollars to remodel this building." He urged the council to keep spending low on the building and estimated that the job could be done for "under \$20,000."

The city manager and public works director disagreed saying ADA double doors at the senior center alone cost \$5,000. When asked who had asked that the city bring the building up to ADA standards, city officials said no one had, however that does not mean it shouldn't be done, said city manager Jerry Breazeale. "Anyone (disabled person) could come in and say I want to use the

restroom. They couldn't use it." Breazeale said. He said the inability of a disabled person to use city facilities could trigger a law against the city.

"I think people are okay with remodeling (city hall) is it is reasonable," said Heppner resident and city planning commission member Cyde Estes.

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Four to seek commissioner's spot

Four people have registered for the Morrow County Commissioner position now held by Dan Brosnan of Heppner, who is not seeking reelection.

Republicans, David L. Barnett of Ione, Raymond W. Grace of Heppner and Betty Gray of Ione, and Democrat Barbara Bloodsworth, Heppner, have all registered for the position.

Incumbent David C. Allen has registered as the sole candidate for the Morrow County District Attorney's position.

Heppner Day Care receives grant

Heppner Daycare/Preschool was awarded a \$5,000 grant under the Oregon Department of Justice Children's Education Grant Program. Heppner Day Care has used the funds to purchase four computers and age-appropriate programs. They purchased instructional books for the early education library, musical tapes and CDs, multi-cultural role-playing items, hands on and interactive manipulative tools. They also added several heavy-duty outdoor toys.

The project was financed with settlement funds administered by the Oregon Department of Justice and received in connection with the Toys-R-Us Antitrust Litigation.

"Without this program Heppner Day Care would not have had the resources to purchase the computers or many of these items. We feel that computers with the proper programs will greatly enhance the program. This grant has given Heppner Day Care/Preschool opportunities it would not have had otherwise," said Kim Cutsforth of the day care/ preschool board.

Merchants plan April Fool's game



Though Claudia Hughes may be able to hustle, she seems to come up a wee bit "short" in her guarding of "Howling" Bert Houweling. Hughes says she will concentrate on her dunk shot for the merchants' basketball game on April Fool's Day at Heppner High School and let the taller Mainstreet Westside players handle the guarding of Houweling and the rest of the Mainstreet Eastside team.

HHS seniors, German exchange student make connection across the ocean



The Heppner senior class with their 'Liberty Bear'

German exchange student Christian Moeller spent a year in Heppner attending school with the Heppner High School junior class last year. This year the class, now seniors, voted to send Christian a letterman's jacket, complete with letters, along with a school year book. Christian's mother, in turn, made a bear to send to the class. The bear is the symbol of freedom for Berlin and Germany; the torch and the crown symbolize the Statue of Liberty-New York, in solidarity with the citizens of the U.S. following the Sept. 11 tragedy; and the bear holds an 'H' for Heppner High School.

Following is the (slightly edited) letter Christian wrote to his Heppner classmates: To the Editor:

Hello Mr. Pilgrim,

Hi class of 2002 (you guys rule!)

The last months were quite busy for me, because I had half-term exams in seven different courses. Than meant that I really had to work to get good grades, but now it is over and I can relax, kick back and go out to bars and discos. Some friends and I hung out all weekend. It was great! But now we have to go back to school and get into learning again. Hmmm...! Oh right, still congratulations to the football team, the semi-finals, that's so awesome. I thought our team last year was good but that's just fantastic. I bet whole Heppner was proud of the team. I wish I could have been there, because I really miss, not just you, but also American Football. Here in Germany we don't receive any information about any U.S. sports. That really sucks. I hope that the next b-ball season and baseball or golf season is going to be the same, incredible. Sorry, also softball! Well we are talking about sports so I could mention that I quit soccer. I guess Mr. Grant was right when he told me that soccer is a "girl" sport.

Right now the weather turned so bad. When I was in Heppner, it was my biggest wish that it would rain, just once. In Germany it didn't stop raining the last two days, the sky is gray and everything is really depressive. (You can't imagine how that sucks). The weather is not the only thing that sucks: I didn't eat a good hamburger or macaroni and cheese for months.

Now I'm going to explain the present. The thing is called the "Liberty-Bear". My Mum did it for you as a lucky charm, so that all of you have a good graduation and a great start at college. Oh yeah! The Liberty-Bear represents N.Y. or U.S.A. and the bear is the

emblem for Berlin and for Germany. Both are symbols for freedom.

Also in this big box are some pictures. If you take a look at them you see that I'm now a 100 percent "American Bad". Thanks again, it is so awesome. All my friends are so jealous of me. Take care all of you. C Ya. Peace out.

(s) Christian Moeller
Germany



Christian Moeller with new Heppner Letterman's jacket

Ione plans Donkey Basketball game

The Ione Booster Club is sponsoring Donkey Basketball, which will take place on March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Ione High School Gymnasium. The game will feature the Ione school staff and Rural Fire Department versus the Ione student body.

Tickets may be purchased at the gate at a cost of \$6 for adults, \$5 for students seven-12 and \$4 for children kindergarten-six. Tickets may also be purchased from any Ione Middle School student for a reduced price-\$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$3 for children. All proceeds and donations will go to help support the Ione Booster Club.

For more information contact Dean Robinson at 422-7131 ext. 2717 or 676-9249.

School district math contest April 11

The annual Morrow County School District Math Contest is set for April 11 at A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon. The qualifying tests will be given on Tuesday, March 19, at Heppner Elementary School.

Home school students are invited to go to HES on April 19 to take the qualifying test. Students wishing to take the test should report to Mrs. Dowdy's classroom at 12:45 p.m.

Dream comes true for local girl



Sheena Christman

This summer a dream will be fulfilled for Sheena Christman of Ione. Sheena, a junior at Ione High School, has always been interested in helping the underprivileged girls of India who are often treated cruelly and with disrespect. On June 5, Sheen's dream comes true. She will leave Portland en route to New Delhi, India. There she will meet with Dr. P.P. Job and stay with him and his wife the first night before hopping on another plane to Coimbatore, which is in the state of Tamil Nadu, with a population of about 1.2 million.

Sheena began planning her trip almost two years ago. She started out by writing letters looking for a contact that could help her get in touch with organizations that would benefit from her help. She finally heard back from one after several months saying that they could use her help in an orphanage called "Zion Child Care".

Zion Child Care is an orphanage specifically designed to help girls in India. Some of these girls are survivors of the tsunami and earthquake that recently devastated parts of the county. Others are victims of India's northern border wars, while others are saved from life on the streets and prostitution. Approximately 70 girls and five teachers reside at the orphanage/school.

At the orphanage, Sheena will help with the daily chores, such as cleaning, washing laundry (by hand) and kitchen duties. She will also be involved in helping teach the girls English and offer other assistance.

Sheena will remain in India until August 2.

"I know that it will be a challenging experience," says Sheena, "but I hope to use my stay in India to gain knowledge that I can use in my future." She says she hopes that it will be a rewarding experience that she will never forget.

DANNER BOOT SALE

20% OFF All Boots In-Store and from the Catalog!

Sale good through March 23rd

Morrow County Grain Growers

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