

HEPPNER

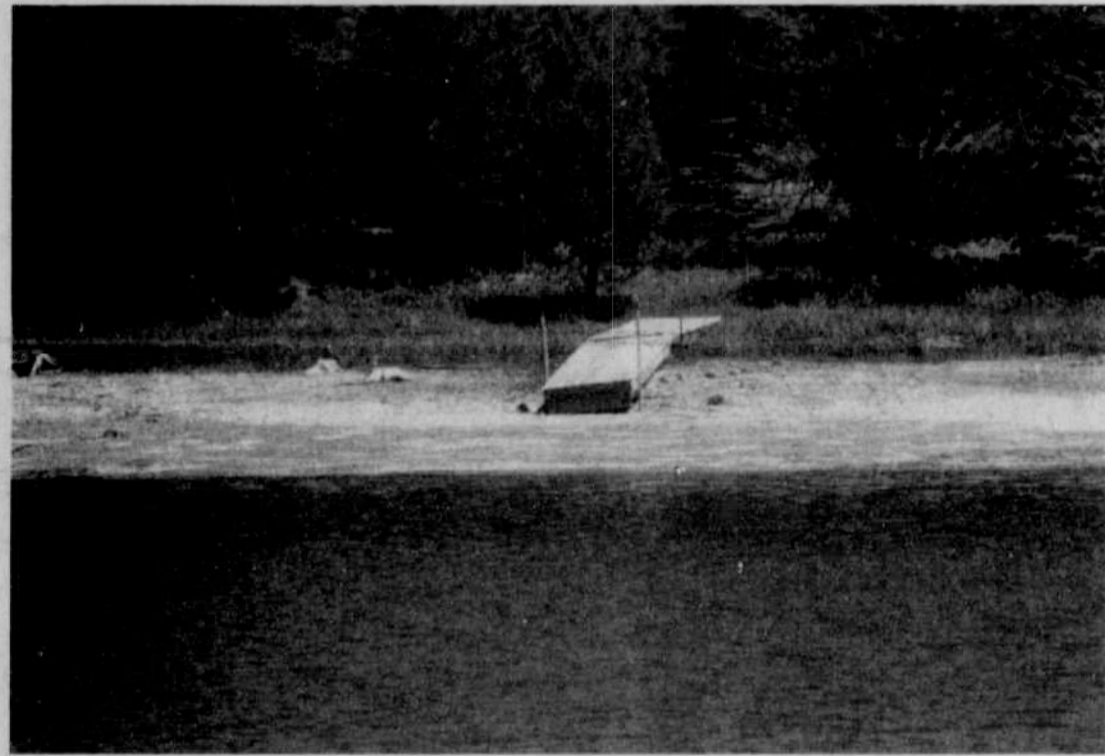
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Penland Lake lowered to remove weeds



The lake level of Penland Lake East of Heppner in the Blue Mountains has been lowered by 30 percent to allow for the removal of weeds

Last fall, the Lake Penland Owners Association voted to rid the lake of a weed known as Eurasian milfoil. Over the last 15 years, this non-native plant has embedded itself into the "muck" around the edge of the lake, causing problems for native fish and vegetation.

After trying herbicides on the weed, it was determined the only way to rid the lake would be to scrap away the "muck" and remove the weeds' roots.

To facilitate the removal the lake was drawn down to 70 percent capacity in October 2003 to bring the lake down to approximately 100 feet from the high-water mark. "This still allows for fishing," said Tom Wolff, an Association member.

The "muck" which is estimated to be about 12-14 inches deep will be scraped off from the entire perimeter.

The removal process is scheduled to begin mid-August and should be completed by October. The lake is expected to return to full capacity in May 2005.

The Lake Penland Owners Association, which is a cooperative entity of owners of lots surrounding the lake, has been financing

the project as well as filing for the permits needed to begin and complete the project.

While this has been a private, volunteer project,

Newest member joins board

The newest Morrow County School Board member, Dagoberto Hernandez, Boardman, presided over his first official meeting Monday night.

While he could take credit as the first Latino to have ever served on the school board, the unassuming Hernandez says that he would rather be referred to as a member of the Boardman community.

Hernandez, 37, has lived in Boardman for the past 17 years. He and his wife, Maricela, have four children ranging in age from four to 12 years old. He is employed with the Boardman Coal Fired Plant.

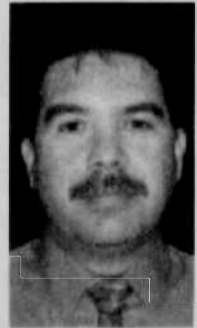
Hernandez was born in Mexico and was raised in California. He moved to the Salem-Woodburn area in 1983 where he worked in the nursery fields in Salem- and also worked in the potato fields, before getting a job at Simplot, where he worked in maintenance and electrical. For a time he worked two jobs, one graveyard and one mowing lawns, while

the United States Forest Service- Heppner branch is watching closely to see if it is successful as they are looking to remove Eurasian milfoil from Bull Prairie.

attending school to obtain his electrical certification in addition to raising his children. After serving an apprenticeship, he completed his electrical certification in 2003 and is certified in both Oregon and Washington.

Hernandez credits

Gene Allen, long-time Boardman community leader who recently passed away, for encouraging him to become involved in the community. Allen had invited Hernandez to become active during the 1993 census. Besides the school board, Hernandez is vice president of the Columbia River Health Services Board, which is trying to establish a federally funded migrant health clinic in Boardman, and the Boardman Police Advisory Committee.



Dagoberto Hernandez

City finalizes bank building purchase



The city council Monday gave the final okay for purchase of the Klamath First Bank building. The building will be used for the new city hall residence

The City of Heppner voted Monday to finalize the purchase the former Klamath First Bank building for use as a new city hall.

The city had been negotiating a purchase over the past several months with the Bank of Eastern Oregon, which owns the Klamath Building. A final inspection of the bank building, along with the sale of the present city hall, cleared the way for the purchase.

The Heppner Gazette has agreed to purchase the city hall for \$42,500 cash and the Gazette property. The Gazette property will be used for expansion of the Heppner Fire Department, which is located next door. The vote on the bank building purchase was 6-1 in favor. A moving date for city hall has not yet been set.

In other business, the council heard from public works director Bruce Nelson who said that raw sewage that was accidentally pumped into the local golf course irrigation system was close to being cleaned out. The city has an agreement with the golf course where

treated effluent from the city sewer plant is used to irrigate the golf course. Last month a valve was accidentally left open that allowed the untreated sewage to enter the irrigation system forcing it to be shut down. The golf course has been unable to water its course since then, which has caused the grass to become brown and the fairways hard. Nelson said the Department of Environmental Quality is not going to fine the city for the accident at the sewer plant.

Nelson also reported that the chlorine injection equipment has been hooked up to the city water system, which has had higher than acceptable levels of chloroform over the past several months.

It was also reported that the city once again experienced extraordinarily low water levels in its drinking water storage tanks. City Manager Jerry Breazeale and the rest of the city crew have been trying the last several months to locate the cause of the low

levels. Monday, Breazeale said the city is losing 58 percent of its water. Leaks and broken valves have been fixed to lower the water loss over the past couple of months. The repairs, along with finding un-metered users, have helped the situation he said, but crews are still working to correct the water losses.

In other action, the council:

-heard from a citizen who asked that the yellow ribbons honoring our military troops be put back up on the trees on Main Street. The council agreed and voted to allow the ribbons to be put back up.

-learned another local person, Gladys Alderman, has volunteered to pay for a plaque at the veteran's memorial in honor of veterans. The plaque will cost her \$750.

-learned that a car with its keys left in it was stolen from the front of the grocery store last month. It was driven to Hermiston where police caught one of the suspects.

Irrigon Booster Club fundraising plans introduced to school board

The new president of the Irrigon High School Booster Club, Dan Young, was introduced at the regular meeting of the Morrow County School District Board Monday night. Young told of some fundraising projects already underway for the newly formed club, in preparation of the opening of the new school this fall.

Young presented "Irrigon Knights" buttons to school board members and showed sweatshirts with the new Irrigon High School logo. He told the board that the group had already raised around \$1,200 and has plans for other money-making projects to help raise funds for athletics, academics and scholarships.

Superintendent Mark Burrows also told the board that he met with a consultant on the roof building project who indicated that the estimated total cost for renovation of roofs at Riverside High

School, Heppner High School, Heppner Elementary School and A.C. Houghton Elementary School is in the neighborhood of \$1.25 million.

He also said that the district has a cushion of around \$200,000 for bond projects. He said that the modification of the life-skills room and the gym at the new Irrigon High School will go out for a bid shortly with the cost estimated at between \$57 and \$75 thousand; \$135,000 has been budgeted for the Riverside wrestling building; \$75,000 has been pledged in matching funds for the Heppner High School track, but costs have gone up and Burrows did not recommend increasing that amount; \$75,000 has been earmarked for bleachers and lights for the new Irrigon High School; a shop for the Irrigon High School has been put on hold because of a lack of funds, with

estimates of around \$466,000 for a shop building with weight and wrestling rooms.

The board voted to designate \$145,000 from the sale of the district's alternative school building toward start up for the Irrigon High School and make the shop building a priority.

In other business, the board:

-reelected John Renfro as board chair and elected Craig Miles as vice chair.

-learned from Burrows that the motivational speaker planned for the teachers' in-service has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 25, with teachers beginning in-service Monday, Aug. 23, at 8 a.m. at Riverside High School.

-approved the second reading of a plan to hire three school-family liaison employees, one at

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