

HEPPNER

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String of burglaries, thefts leads to Morrow County

Three unnamed suspects have been linked to several area burglaries and thefts. One of the suspects, a 16-year-old juvenile from Hermiston is currently being lodged at Umatilla Juvenile Detention. The two other suspects, who are trying to be located, have been identified as Irrigon residents.

The subjects are suspects in thefts at Fredrickson Ranch and the RD Offutt property, as well as from several north Morrow County tractors. They are also suspected of burglary and theft at the Rill resident in the Heppner area.

Items stolen include farming equipment, tools, tool boxes, radios, jewelry and vehicles. With the help of the juvenile subject, several items have been recovered and returned to their owners.

Jewelry and a 2001 Ford Mustang were stolen, and have not yet been recovered, from the Rill residence.

The incident started when the suspects borrowed a vehicle from a friend who later reported it stolen. That vehicle was wrecked and a second vehicle was stolen from Gilliam County. Gilliam County deputies

then pursued the subjects into Morrow County where they had stopped at the Rill residence, burglarizing the house, stealing jewelry and the Ford Mustang. The vehicle out of Gilliam County was recovered at the Rill residence.

According to Morrow County Sheriff Verlin Denton, the Pendleton Police Department believe that the Mustang was traded by the suspects to another fugitive who is suspected to have left the area. An attempt to locate the subject and the vehicle is still being made.

City Council discusses expansion of Urban Growth Boundary

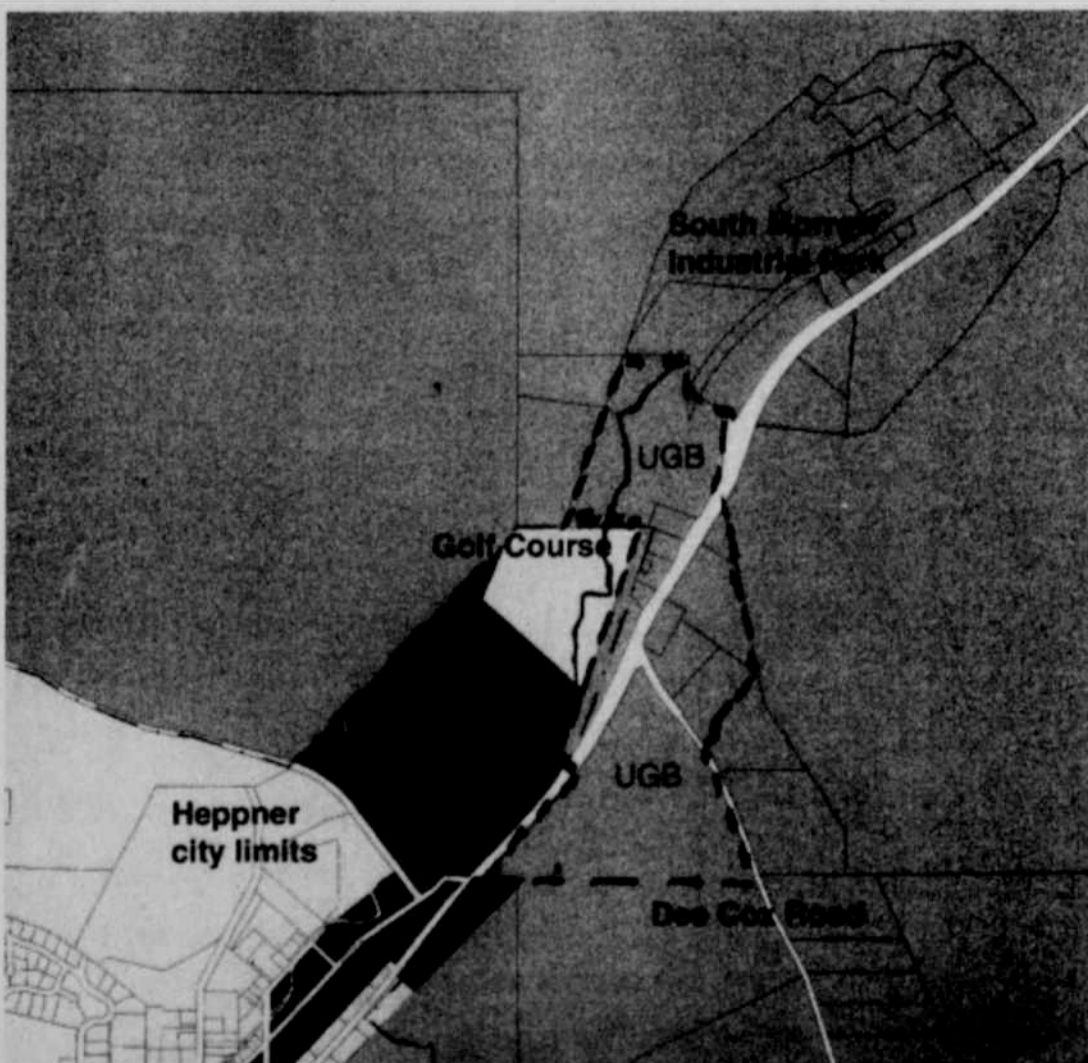
The Heppner City Council made a preliminary move Monday toward expanding the Urban Growth Boundary surrounding the city.

The diagram below shows the new proposed expansion to the Heppner UGB. The dashed line is the UGB. The narrow line shows the current city limits.

It would extend northwest of town along the highway past the golf course and Dee Cox Road to the South Morrow Industrial Park.

Each of Oregon's 241 cities is surrounded by

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The dashed line outlines the proposed expanded Heppner Urban Growth Boundary

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Board chairman, athletic director differ on school game scheduling

Morrow County School Board Chair John Renfro and Heppner High School athletic director Greg Grant, at the regular meeting in Lexington Monday night, expressed frustration over differing views of the district's athletic policy concerning changes in school game schedules.

Renfro maintained that the principals, athletic directors and coaches appeared to be disregarding district policy which he believed prohibited scheduling mid-week athletic contests and said that he had received complaints from parents. Grant said that school officials were doing the best they could in discouraging mid-week games, bearing in mind that the Morrow County School District has to work with other districts, some of which did not have that same emphasis. He asked Renfro to trust the "professionals" to do their jobs. He also said that he would also receive complaints from parents if the quality of play went down. Renfro countered that while some may consider board members "dumb farmers and ex-cops," the board sets the policy and the administration and staff should follow that policy.

However, the board did not prohibit mid-week games or prohibit changes in the athletic schedules, but rather, on December 8, 2003, revised policy concerning the scheduling of athletic contests as follows: building principals are required to submit a written report for the board within 30 days of the end of the season, which contains the original athletic schedule, actual schedule and start times, actual departure and return times for away contest and the numbers of students transported to and from "away" contests. Since the district's four-day school week was approved, the board vowed to cut down the number of mid-week athletic contests and the amount of time students spend away from class time.

The issue came to a head following scheduling of recent Heppner High School mid-week games. Heppner High School Principal Wade Smith and Grant said that one of the games was scheduled so far in advance that they did not

anticipate that school would already be in session at the time of the game. School started prior to Labor Day this year. One of the mid-week away games in question was to Walla Walla on the first day of school.

Also at the meeting, the board awarded bids for roofing projects for A.C. Houghton Elementary School, Heppner Elementary School, Heppner High School and Riverside High School. Superintendent Mark Burrows told the board that the bid was initially too high, at \$1.6 million, but he was able to negotiate a reduced amount. The initial amount was sent at \$1.25 million, but the board approved the bid at \$1,396,800. Burrows said that the additional cost was due to the high cost of steel.

In other business, the board:

-received a report from Burrows which showed that districts with four-day school weeks achieved state-wide benchmarks at approximately the same rate as districts with five-day school weeks. Results were compiled from 10 Eastern Oregon school districts with four-day school weeks and 10 with five-day weeks. On an average, in grade three: in 4-day week schools, 15 percent did not meet the benchmarks, 64 percent met and 21 exceeded, compared to 25 percent not meeting, 52 meeting and 23 exceeding for five-day schools; in grade five: in four-day schools, 18 percent did not meet, 62 percent met and 20 percent exceeded, compared to 17 percent not meeting, 63 percent meeting and 20 percent exceeding in five-day schools; in grade eight: in four-day schools, 43 percent did not meet, 29 percent met and 28 percent exceeded, compared to 44 percent not meeting, 28 percent meeting and 28 percent exceeding in five-day schools; in grade 10: in four-day schools, 60 percent did not meet, 31 percent met and nine percent exceeded, compared to 58 percent not meeting, 29 percent meeting and 13 percent exceeding in five-day schools.

-received a report from Burrows concerning the V-tel classes scheduled throughout the district as follows: a V-tel calculus class originating from

Candidates' Fair to be held

A Candidates' Fair will be held Sept. 16 and 30 at John's Place in Heppner from 12-1 p.m. The general public is invited to attend these meetings to meet the various candidates.

On Sept. 16, candidates for County Clerk

and County Sheriff will be on hand. On Sept. 30, candidates for Justice of the Peace and City of Heppner Mayor will be on hand.

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce and Willow Valley Service Club are sponsoring the event.

Town Hall meeting to be held in Ione

A town hall meeting to discuss the proposed medical district levy will be held in Ione on Sept. 29. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall.

Officials from the medical district will explain the levy and take questions from the audience. All interested persons are urged to attend.

Riverside High School has four students from RHS and two from Heppner High School; a psychology class originating from Heppner High School has 17 HHS students and 10 RHS students; an ag-leadership class originating at Irrigon High School has 16 IHS students and five RHS students; an ag-business class originating from IHS has 18 IHS students and two RHS students.

-received an elementary class load analysis from Burrows which showed the following: A.C. Houghton Elementary - four kindergarten classes with

Local man graduates from Marine basic training



Travis Bellamy

Heppner High School graduate Travis Bellamy, 20, graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot in San Diego, CA on July 16 after attending the Corps' 12-week boot camp there.

Since then, Bellamy has completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton's School of Infantry in southern California. He is currently attending Main Battle Tank Technicians School in Fort Knox, KY.

Day indicted on numerous theft charges

Sandi Day, of Heppner, was indicted Tuesday, Sept. 14, by a Morrow County grand jury on 85 counts, mostly pertaining to theft from the Morrow County Transfer Station, according to Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen. One count of tampering with public records and one count of official misconduct are included in the indictment.

Allen said his office would apply for a warrant for Day and set bail. If Day is unable to make bail at that time, a release hearing will be held the following day, during which a judge will decide whether she may be released or must post bail, he said.

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