

HEPPNER

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Gazette
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School board discusses changes in athletic policy, drug testing

The Morrow County School Board deliberated changes in the newly formed policy concerning athletic games at their regular meeting Monday night in Boardman.

Board member Craig Miles said that he felt that the previous policies were effective in reducing mid-week contests while still allowing the schools to compete in their leagues, while board Chair John Renfro said that he felt that too many athletic contests were held mid-week and wanted to eliminate those games.

The board agreed with new wording as follows:

-In the event that a game is scheduled other than Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the following guidelines will apply:

1. No mid-week games shall be scheduled where the student returns home later than 10 p.m.

2. Mid-week games shall diminish by 10 percent per year until such time that the board determines that further reductions are not necessary or practical. The superintendent will report annually on the number of mid-week games scheduled in current and previous years.

The board eliminated the wording that "no student shall lose more than seven hours of seat time per academic year" because the amount of time away from class time depends on the activity, the student and the number of activities in which the student participates, said the board. The board also eliminated the following wording: "the number of mid-week games must reduce from one year to the next to ensure the board's

direction to move away from all mid-week games."

The board also reviewed as a first reading a new policy on drug testing as follows, with new wording underlined.

Co-curricular Drug Testing

Students participating in co-curricular activities represent the community, the school, and their peers. When illegal substances are used by co-curricular participants, such use impinges upon general motivation, cohesiveness and performance. As a result, the well being of the individual and the general school community is diminished by a participant's use of illegal substances.

Morrow County School District is conducting a mandatory drug testing program for co-curricular participants in the Jr/Sr high schools that wish to participate by recommendation of their principal. The purpose of the drug testing program is threefold: (1) to provide for the health and safety of all co-curricular participants;

(2) to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for participants to refuse to use illegal drugs; and (3) to encourage participants who are found to be using drugs to participate in drug treatment programs. This drug testing program shall be instituted and conducted according to the procedures set forth in this policy.

This policy has a relationship to the Student Discipline Policy, Substance Abuse Policy and Student Activities and Athlete's Policies.

Co-curricular participants should be advised that each of the above policies might also affect their eligibility. Normal

disciplinary measures are still applicable for violations that do not arise from these testing procedures.

Definitions:

Drug: Any substance considered illegal by Oregon Statute or which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration.

Co-Curricular Participant: Any student participating in co-curricular programs sponsored by Morrow County School

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Christmas wall hanging to be raffled

Willow Valley Service Club is currently selling raffle tickets for a Christmas quilted wall hanging. The raffle drawing will be held Thursday, Dec. 2 during the Light Parade in Heppner.

Ticket prices are \$1 each or six for \$5. Monies raised from the raffle will be donated to the Mural Fund.

The wall hanging is being displayed throughout Heppner. You can catch the moving display at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Murray's Drug or Heppner TV, Inc.

Election results by city available

Unofficial election results for the Nov. 2 General Election broken down by city are located on page 5 of this week's edition of the paper. The results will become official on Nov. 22 after certification.

Write-in candidates' names are not published in election results received from the county. All write-in candidates are consolidated into one group on the results.

Qualls prepares to leave for Iraq



(Back Row L-R): Doashea Qualls, John Qualls, his parents, Kay Rene and Rosco Qualls, and his sister and brother-in-law, Mindy and Tim Davidson, holding their baby, Maci, 4 months; (Front Row L-R): Children, Sydney Qualls, 5 and Hayden Qualls, 4 and Mindy's daughter, Kailea Sample, 5, at Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner for a farewell breakfast.

John Qualls, 27, an employee of Bank of Eastern Oregon, had a farewell breakfast with his family at BEO in Heppner. Qualls will

be leaving for Louisiana on Nov. 16 and will be heading to Iraq with the National Guard at the end of November.

Some of his duties will include patrolling and helping out with the Iraqi people and schools. It is expected that he will be in Iraq for 1½ years.

City may get flood plain relief

The city of Heppner received good news Monday when a preliminary report shows that certain parts of the city could see a reduction in the flood plain by up to 68 percent.

The report is part of an ongoing study of the Willow Creek Valley's entire flood plain by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Heppner city manager Jerry Breazeale was pleased to report that, "If preliminary numbers hold true, we are going to see a substantial reduction in the flood plain."

The 100 year flood plain maps are what determine who must purchase flood insurance in Heppner, Lone and Lexington and what type of building restrictions are in place within the plain in the three cities. Breazeale initiated the study last year when he noticed that the amount of water currently predicted to come down during a flood didn't match the reality of what Shobe, Hinton and Willow Creeks could actually deliver.

If the preliminary reports hold true throughout the entire study, Heppner residents should see substantial savings on flood insurance premiums and the freeing up of building restrictions. Flood insurance is required when homes or businesses in the flood plain are purchased through banks or other lending institutions.

As an example of the reductions expected, the report said that in Willow Creek above Hinton Creek there would be a reduction in the amount of predicted flood water by 64 percent. Below Hinton Creek, would be 68 percent. On Shobe Creek, there would be a reduction of 53 percent and Hinton Creek would see 72 percent.

Heppner would not be the only city affected.

Lone would see a drop of three percent and in Rietmann Canyon, 31 percent. Certain parts of Lexington would see 51 to 53 percent reductions in the amount of water predicted during flooding.

Heppner Mayor Bob Jepsen praised Breazeale for his work on the revised flood plain study. "This shows what one person can do. Jerry has been working on this for quite some time," Jepsen said.

Breazeale did instigate the revised study, but was quick to add it was the result of the efforts of many people.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council:

-Voted to establish a school zone at the bottom of Water Street. The speed limit there will drop from 25 mph to 20 mph at all times.

-Heard that the public works department had dug up a drum of paint at the city yard and was having it analyzed for toxicity. Public works also sold an old street

Artifactory begins holiday shopping

Artifactory's 38 booths were reserved early this year for the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 20. Willow Valley Service Club is anticipating a lively day for holiday shoppers. Doors open at 10 a.m. at the Morrow County Fair Pavilion and will be open until 3 p.m.

Lunch will be available by the service club and Santa will make his visit around 11 a.m. A \$2 donation at the door goes towards the club's youth scholarships given to students who will be attending college. The club encourages you to, "Come out to start your holiday shopping and enjoy a festive day."

sweeper, water truck and tar pot for \$30 each.

-Voted to stagger the speed zones coming into Heppner on the Spray highway from 45 mph, to 35 mph, to 25 mph when the highway reaches town.

-Learned that the Willow Creek Golf Course membership was going to ask its membership whether or not to have the course included in the proposed expansion of the city's urban growth boundary. There will be an informational meeting Nov. 16 to consider the UGB. Morrow County Planner Carla McLain will be at the meeting to explain the UGB.

-Heard that bids for the city's \$3 million water project might be let out in December.

-Agreed to sign a lease with the Port of Morrow for 4.5 acres of industrial land at the South Morrow Industrial Park. David Sykes, president of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Group (WCVEDG) said WCVEDG planned at some point to build a 5,000 sq ft metal manufacturing building on the site. Because of lack of insurance WCVEDG is unable to sign the lease. Sykes told the council his group had hired a professional grant writer to apply for grants to build the facility. The port, who wants to encourage development at the industrial park, is leasing the land to the city for \$10 per year.

In other city business, the Gazette has learned that a franchise agreement between Heppner Garbage Disposal and the city will expire at the end of 2005, not 2004 as earlier reported. City Manager Breazeale told the Gazette that the city never intended to take over the garbage service. The possibility was discussed at last month's council meeting; however, no action was taken.

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

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