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HEPPNER 50¢

Gazette Times

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New flood plain maps good news for Willow Creek Valley

New flood plain maps such as this should be available in about a year

The city of Heppner unveiled the new flood plain maps Monday night, and they are good news for many residents who now are required to pay flood insurance.

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has been studying and updating the whole Willow Creek Valley's (Heppner, Ione and Lexington) flood plains, and preliminary indications are that the size of the flood plain will shrink in most places, some by as much as 65 percent. What this means is that some people with bank mortgages on their homes will no longer be required to carry flood insurance, which can range up into the $600 per year range.

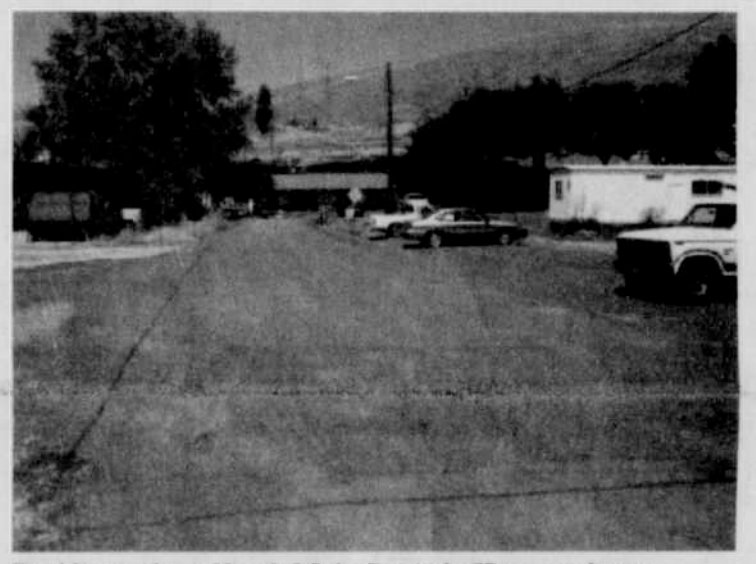
The reduced flood plain will also mean that building restrictions in many areas of the cities will be relaxed also and make development and building less costly, which will be good for development in the cities.

New overhead photos of Heppner are available for viewing at city hall; however, the final maps of the revised new flood plain will probably not be available for another year. The maps will also be posted on the internet at that time with overlays of the flood plain so that citizens will know exactly what property, homes and lots will be in or out of the flood plain. The maps were presented at the monthly meeting of the council Monday night.

In other business, the council received a letter signed by seven property owners on North Main and Campbell Way requesting that the city pave their street. It is now gravel and property owners asked that the city pay for the cost of paving.

North Main and Campbell Way are not up to city standards, said outgoing city manager Jerry Breazeale, and it is not city policy to maintain streets that are sub standard. It was suggested that the residents might form a local improvement district to have the street paved and then the city would take over maintenance. The cost to pave was estimated at around $7,000.

Old Gazette-Times building will be burned down soon to make way for new fire department buildings



Residents along North Main Street in Heppner have asked the city to pave the street

In further action the council agreed to up the amount of free water it gives to the Willow Creek Little League to water the two lower fields by the swimming pool from the current 400,000 per year to one million gallons, or 500,000 per field this year. Mike Correa who maintains the fields for the Little League told the council he didn't think the 400 thousand would get the job done and he requested more. He said a new sprinkler system at the two fields was very efficient and there was no wasted water as in the past.

The council also heard from Fire Chief Rusty Estes who said he was getting ready to burn the old Gazette-Times building "soon". The fire department obtained the old building, which is next to the fire department, in a trade for the former city hall building. He said after burning the structure the department would haul off all the old debris and then start looking for grant and other money to build new buildings to house fire equipment.

The council discussed a proposed franchise fee to be imposed on the both Windwave and Centurytel for providing internet service in Heppner. It was reported that Nate Arbogast of Windwave has said Heppner would be the only city in Oregon charging franchise fees for internet service. Windwave operates wireless and other internet services in several Oregon communities. Columbia Basin Electric pays a fee that is a percentage of gross electrical sales in Heppner. "I hope we are not on an island blazing new tax 'territory," council member George Koffler said.

The council heard a report that there are currently four or five vacancies at the St. Patrick's senior housing center in Heppner. The Heppner Housing Authority, which operates the center, found it necessary to raise the rent recently and residents had been protesting the $20 per month (with more possibly to come at a future date) increase.

A discussion was held about U turns, speeding

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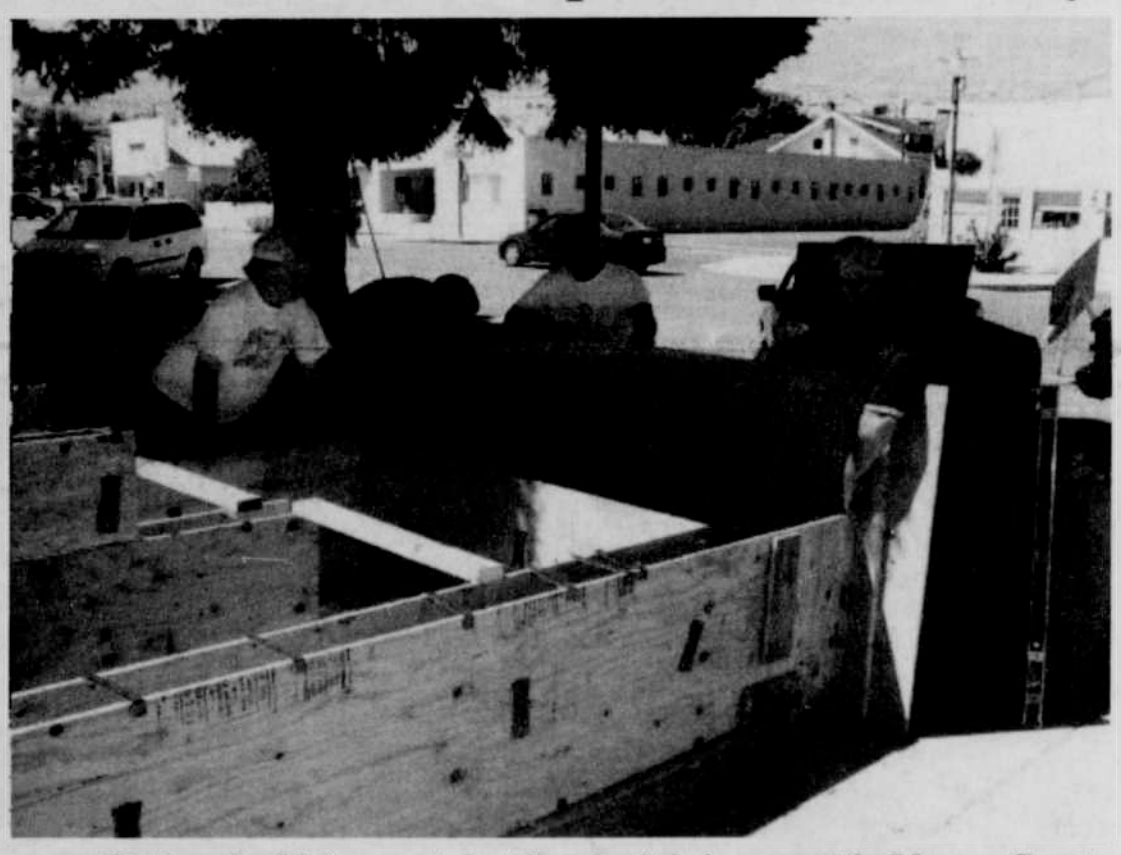
New wheel chair ramp installed at library



Workers for J&G concrete install a wheel chair ramp at the Morrow County Library and Museum. Left to right are Alex Rystedt, Jim Jones, Mikel Cribbs and owner Frank Jones.

J&G has been in business since 1998 and does concrete construction, concrete and asphalt grinding and removal, retaining walls, footings and other related work.

Dinner Theatre at the Cemetery returns

Dinner Theatre at the Cemetery returns to Heppner on July 30. This year's production, "The Roberts Opera House Revue", will begin at 6:30 p.m., and seating will again be limited to 100 guests. Proceeds from the event will go to the museum.

The evening will begin with a dinner menu from 1905. Available in 1905 was the catering service of the Palace Hotel, so the meal "will be catered by Mr. Metschen, Jr., of the Palace Hotel."

In 1905 Heppner, the opera house sat at Main and Center Streets. It and Roberts Hall were the two venues for cultural entertainment. Performers from as far away as California included Heppner in their touring-show schedules. Some of those performers, reported on the pages of the "Gazette Times", will return from the past with a variety of selections for the pleasure of the July 30 guests.

Popular at the turn of the century was recitation by renowned elocutionists, some of whom will join the Revue. They prided themselves on their dulcet tones and extraordinary abilities to memorize even long humorous, classical, and contemporary works. The Revue will include musical compositions performed by a small orchestra, a visiting baritone, and a local soprano.

Final arrangements are now being made for a visit of a thespian from the Seattle area, previously from Heppner. The backbone of the evening's production will again be the local thespians who have delighted the cemetery audiences for three years.

Tickets for the dinner and theater production are now on sale at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner. Questions may be directed to Cliff Green at Heppner Hardware.

Vacation Bible school July 18-22

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Heppner Seventh-day Adventist Church, 560 Minor Street, July 18-22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The theme is "Under the Sea". All children ages 4-12 are invited to attend; children ages 13 and up are invited to come and help with the school.

Students will learn about "God's love from animals of the sea and with Bible stories," said a spokesperson. Additionally, "We have some very special crafts planned and everyone will win a prize, with ways to earn extra prizes, like bringing a friend," said the spokesperson.

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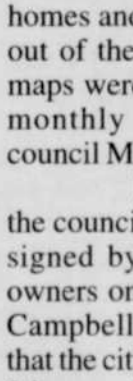

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