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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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Sam Boardman Elementary dedication planned for August 27

Morrow County School District Superintendent Mark Burrows told the board at their regular meeting Monday night that the Sam Boardman Elementary School fire restoration project will be completed in time for the start of school September 4.

Burrows credited new SBE Principal Jacque Johnson, the insurance, construction and refurbishing companies for the "marvelous job" they did in repairing and refurbishing the school after the fire. Burrows said that refurbishing the building cost in the neighborhood of $3.3 million. Orders are still being placed for supplies and other materials.

Burrows said that each teacher at the school will be compensated for an additional 40 hours of work through the district's insurance. The teachers still have work ahead replacing the teacher-made materials that were lost in the fire.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony has been scheduled for August 27 at 10 a.m. at the school.

In other business, the board:

-approved a proposal for Heppner High School and Irrigon High School students to go the FFA national convention at Indianapolis, Indiana. Thirteen students from HHS plan to attend, with possibly two more who want to go, and five students from Condon, along with three chaperones. Six students from Irrigon

-Continued on page three

Friendly encouragement for a princess

A little friendly encouragement is what fueled Becky Schiller's desire to become a princess for the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. A friend trying out for the Umatilla Rodeo Court wanted Schiller to try out with her. But Schiller, a Morrow County resident and one time pennant bearer, decided that she would rather try out for the Morrow County Rodeo Court.

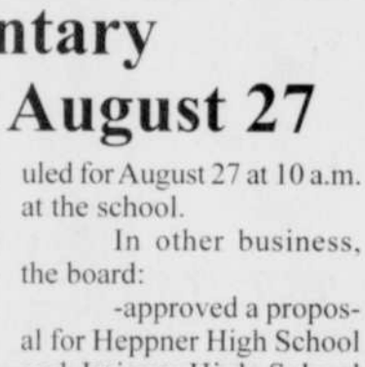
Schiller, 19, lives on the Vey Ranch on Butter Creek and attended Pilot Rock High School. She is the daughter of John and Shari Schiller. She has two brothers, Jeff and Patrick.

Schiller has many pets but among her favorites are her horse Ringo, her parade horse Blaze, and a Boston Terrier. Her favorite outfit is a parade outfit that consists of a tan shirt and black pants with chaps.

Schiller has a lot of family that has been involved in the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. Her Aunt Verina was a princess and a queen, her Aunt Bonnie was a princess, and Aunt Bobbi was a pennant bearer. Also, her cousin Maci Childers was a princess and queen, and her cousin Genia Grant was a princess as well. Her and dad and Aunt Bonnie both served on the rodeo board.

Even though she did not try out for the Umatilla Rodeo Court with her friend, they still see each other at various rodeo events. Schiller's favorite experience so far this year has been watching the rawhide racing events. "I would like to have a rawhide race for fun after the rodeo." said Schiller.

Schiller is attending Blue Mountain Community College and is in the Dental Hygienist Assistant program. She plans to finish her degree at Boise Tech.



Becky Schiller, 2007 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Princess

Princess Becky Schiller enjoys spending time with her niece, Serenity.

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

Noro virus-like outbreak in Heppner

The Morrow County Public Health Department has announced that a small outbreak of a Noro virus-like disease in the Heppner area. This type of illness is characterized by gastro-intestinal symptoms, typically, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The department urges people who currently have symptoms or have had symptoms within the past three days to avoid social gatherings and to not work as patient care providers or food handlers during that time.

They say that the viruses are highly contagious, but their spread can be halted by thoroughly washing hands and washing hands often, especially after using the toilet, changing diapers and before eating or preparing food. They advise washing fruits and vegetables carefully, minimizing bare hand contact with ready-to-eat food or food that will not be cooked before serving; cooking oysters thoroughly before eating; cleaning and disinfecting contaminated surfaces with a bleach-based household cleaner immediately after an episode of illness; immediately remove and wash clothing or linens that may be contaminated after an episode of illness using hot water and soap.

Dehydration is generally the most serious complication of this illness, so they stress the importance of drinking water, juice or oral re-hydration fluids, especially for the elderly.

There is no effective antiviral medication and no vaccine against Norovirus.

More information may be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website or call the health department.

City to borrow $300,000 for sewer plant upgrade and debt refinance

The Heppner city council voted Monday to borrow $300,000 to finance sewer plant repairs and refinance current debt. The move will keep the city from raising sewer fees, but will extend the city's debt for a longer period of time.

Concerned citizen Jerry Healy attended the meeting and told the council he thought it made more sense to "bite the bullet" and pay off old $165,000 debt without refinancing. "Don't get me wrong, I am in favor of the repairs to the sewer plant," he said. "But let this debt retire."

The council voted in favor of the new loan however, not wanting to raise city sewer rates by the needed $4.50 per month required if the previous debt were not retired.

The $300,000 will be borrowed at 5.75 percent interest for seven years.

Slated to be repaired or replaced at the sewer plant are;

1. Grinder - $60,000 plus installation
2. Electrical generator - $42,000
3. Trickling filter - $8,000
4. Chlorination system - $7,500
5. Safety walk - $4,500
6. Seal pipe under Willow Creek - $3,000
7. TV inspection of sewer - $10,000

In other action at Monday's meeting, the council discussed recent problems with garbage service with David Green owner of Heppner Garbage Disposal.

The council admonished Green for not notifying people both his trucks were broke down and garbage pick up was going to be late.

Green has a franchise agreement with the city which requires notification if pick up is going to be late. The city eventually paid to have Hermiston Sanitary Service come in and pick up certain dumpsters in the city. Apparently because of sanitary concerns dumpsters at the grocery store are required to be picked up every day.

Green pointed out that this is the only city he knows of where the garbage cans do not have to be brought to the curb on the day of pick up. "I do a lot of extras," Green said about his service.

The council discussed having all residents of Heppner in the future being required to bring their cans to the curb on the day of pick up. Green said that would cut down on the amount of time it takes to pick up the garbage.

In other business the council heard from public works director Brian Harmon, who said the city could save up to $13,500 per year by not having to chlorinate its water supply anymore. He said the government monitors water quality on a regular basis and found the city's water to be improving to the point of no longer needing the chlorination.

Harmon also discussed the city's "fuzzy water" with the council. "It's nothing but air in the water," he said. "I am making it my goal in life to get rid of fuzzy water," Harmon jokingly told the council.

It was also announced that the city will be conducting sewer locates starting the week of August 20. The locates will be done on Court Street and are part of the Department of Transportation's project to straighten the street and take out the sharp turn near the grade school.

The city public works might have to enter homes to do the locates, and if they do not have any way to access the sewer lines may have to pull off toilets. The reinstalling of the toilets will be at the city expense.

The council took some time discussing the poor operation of the elevator at the Senior Housing Center in Heppner. It was reported that the elevator company cannot seem to figure out why it keeps breaking down. People in the Sr. Center have apprehensive about using the elevator. Apparently in the past couple of months there have been 16 instances of the elevator breaking down. Mayor Les Paustian has contacted Schindler Elevator Company about fixing the elevator.

Who gets 'Tippage Fees" to be on May ballot

Proponents of a plan to take "tippage" money from Morrow County Government, and redistribute the fees to the five cities in the county, fulfilled their promise last Thursday and filed a ballot measure to take the issue to the voters.

Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Irrigon and Boardman joined together in January to demand that the county turn over the majority of the tippage money generated by the Finley Buttes landfill. The funds, which come from fees levied on each ton of garbage dumped, average about $78,000 per month and currently go directly into the county general fund. The cities say this is not what was originally promised when the landfill was constructed back in the 1992 and that they should get the majority of the money.

In February the Morrow County court said no to a demand by the cities that the money allocation be changed. "This money goes to the county fund and the county is going to keep control of those funds," Commissioner John Wenholtz said at the time.

The cities had threatened to take the issue to the voters if the county declined their

continued page 2

A little whiff of home goodness

Bebe Munkers, Patty Ward, and Joyce Hughes take on the job of judging canned foods at the 2007 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

We're back to our regular hours

We will be closed Saturday, August 18th
Enjoy the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo!

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net