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Court Street reconstruction project set to begin next year

A major road project to straighten and widen Court Street is set to begin in 2009. Substandard roadway alignment, poor pavement condition, and pedestrian safety are problems that will be fixed with the project. The section of the Heppner Highway travels through a residential area, a school zone, and the local County fairgrounds in Heppner.

In the plans, sidewalks and parking will be replaced or extended on the

west and north or left side of the highway from beginning to end. If constructable some sidewalk will be salvaged in specific areas. Current elevated sidewalks on the east side of Court Street will be replaced in the first two blocks from the connection of Hager Street at the courthouse to the nearest Barratt Boulevard connection. Retaining walls will be built in these two blocks to allow the widening of the roadway and installation of new sidewalks at the top of the retaining walls. These sidewalks will have hand railing installed for safety and be re-connected to the current paths leading to houses along this area. Temporary easements from residents will be needed to build the retaining walls, sidewalks, and connections.

Parking along the west side of the street will continue to be allowed where possible. Parking will continue to be provided in the area of the fairgrounds where available adjacent to the highway, to be used during events held at the community football field and fair grounds. The wide turn around area across from the fairgrounds will continue to be used as an occasional parking area.

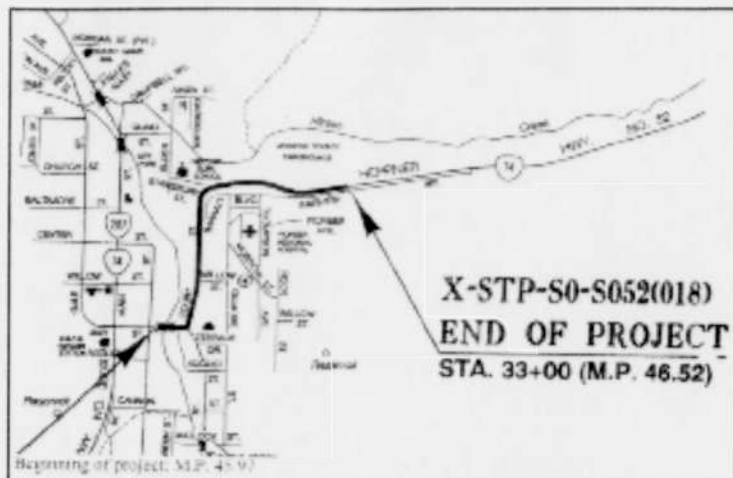
The western most approach to the fairgrounds will be improved to continue reasonable access to the fairgrounds at this location.

This connection to the highway will need to be moved to the east to improve the sight distance for traffic in proximity to the corner. The western approach to the fairgrounds is restricting and major impacts would be the result.

The east approach will need minor changes mostly by altering the existing fence and gateway to im-



This sharp curve by Heppner Elementary School will be straightened out as part of the Court Street Project. -Photo by Autumn Morgan



This map shows the beginning and ending points for the Court Street Project.

prove the radius for trucks. This has been identified and discussed with County Fair officials who are planning to make this modification on their own. Access and drainage solutions in this area will be developed in cooperation with the Morrow County fair board.

A school crossing will be built with signs and a flashing beacon to encourage a safer area for pedestrians. Drainage will be addressed in the area of the project from Stansbury Street east to the project limits.

Two drainage facility locations have been identified on the County Fair property, one at the west end near the highway and the new location of the West access and one near the east

access street. Removal and replacement of the existing cyclone fence along the fairgrounds is in connection with the County Fair and it is likely that the new fence will not be in place during the 2009 Fair. This fence is currently used for control of patrons during fair and football games. The special provisions will need to identify a no work period during the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

Additional right of way will need to be acquired for the project. Fee acquisition and temporary easement will be needed for construction. There are 20 different properties that will need temporary easement.

The cost of the project is \$2,500,000.

HEPPNER

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National Guard Chinook visits Heppner students and community members

Heppner was the destination of a CH-47D Chinook Helicopter from Pendleton on Tuesday March 18.

The Junior High/High School students were able to watch in admiration as the large helicopter flew swiftly overhead and then circled back to complete an awe inspiring landing. The blades and the power it produced as it landed pushed against the students and locals as they watched.

After the engines wound down and the blades slowed to a stop the Flight Engineers, SGT Scott Sweet and SGT Robert Dowell were quick to open the aircraft so the excited students could enter the aircraft.

Even though the weather was cool and rainy, that did not deter members of the community and students from coming up and having a walk through the infamous Chinook.

The crew members of the Chinook slowed the



A Chinook helicopter from Pendleton landed at HHS last Tuesday. Students were able to tour the helicopter and as the soldiers questions.

blades and opened the doors to allow for informative tours and close up views of the cockpit, belly, and military who came in on the helicopter.

The soldiers that supported this educational event by answering questions about the capabilities of the aircraft and an general questions about the military were: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Doug Walker (Test Pilot), Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tony

Minkler (CH-47D Pilot), Sergeant First Class David McCurry (Readiness NCO), Staff Sergeant Albert Smith (Training NCO), Specialist Michael Burton (Logistical Operations), Specialist Andrina Taylor (Avionics Repairer/Logistical Support) and Staff Sergeant Daniel Agenbroad (Recruiting/Retention NCO).

The students and community members were informed about what the aircraft and the soldier's accomplish locally in the state of Oregon when they are not deployed for operations overseas.

Fighting forest fires, delivering relief supplies to flood victims and rescuing loss or stranded individuals throughout the state are just a few of the peace time missions of the Pendleton based aviation units of the Oregon Army National Guard.

The Oregon Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility in Pendleton will be hosting an open house on April 16, 2008 tour times will be: 9 a.m.-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

All are welcome to come and see for themselves what a wonder it is to have such freedom.

Easter Bunny makes annual visit to Heppner



Addison Pace, 3, of Wilsonville spent some time with the Easter Bunny this past Saturday at the Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Heppner Elks Lodge. Addison is the son of Chryis Schultz of Wilsonville. He is the grandson of Reese and Linda Schultz of Heppner and the great-grandson of Mable Heath. -Photo by David Sykes

Ione students tour National Guard Chinook



Seth Thompson gets help out of the Chinook Helicopter that landed on the Ione Schools football field on Tuesday morning.

On Tuesday morning, March 18, a Chinook helicopter from the Pendleton National Guard Station landed on the high school football field at Ione Schools. Students were allowed to tour the helicopter and visit with the soldiers.



Third Grade Danny Doherty grins while seated in a Chinook Helicopter while classmate, Hanna Flynn, peaks around.



Members of the kindergarten class at Ione get their picture taken in front of a Chinook Helicopter and with Sgt. Greg Corbierria.

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