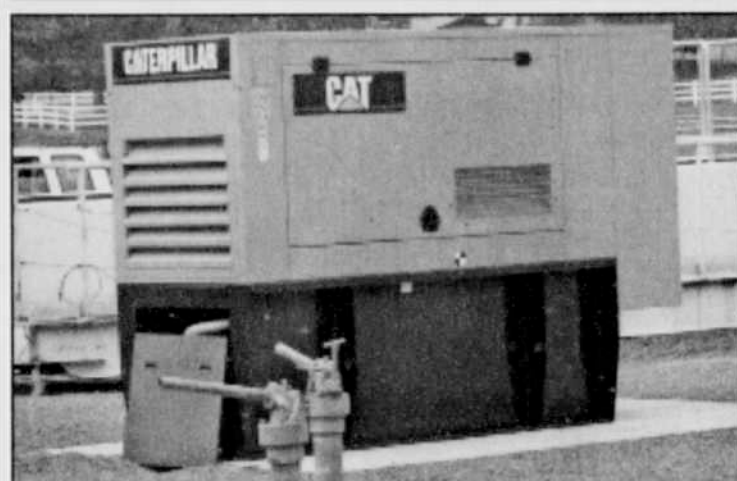
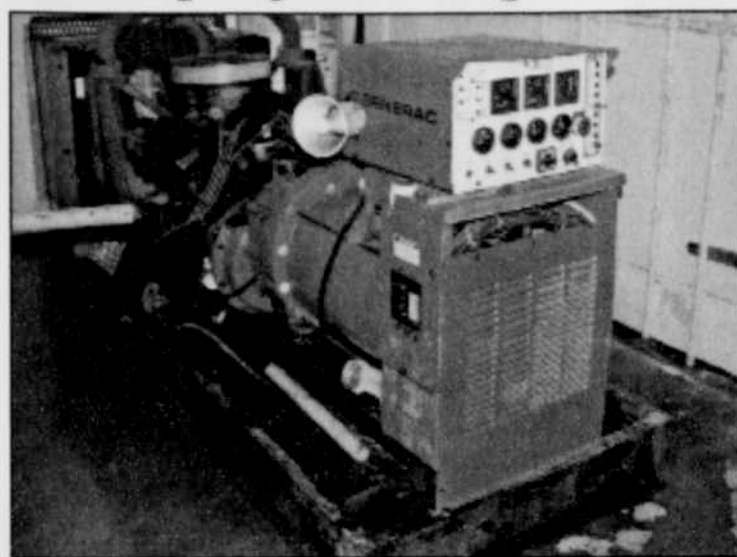


## Heppner Sewer Treatment Plant project completed



Top photo: The old propane generator. Middle Photo: The new generator. Bottom Photo: The Auger Monster that will break down solids. -Photos by Autumn Morgan

An Auger Monster was installed to shred and break down solids into smaller pieces so that bacteria can break it down better. Oversized material goes up the Auger and later gets sent to the landfill. Also, pieces of the trickling filter were replaced.

"We have already seen a significantly positive impact on our waste water treatment process," said City Manager Steve Bogart. "Everything is working the way it should and we have had no de-chlorination issues."

The approximate cost for the project was \$186,000.

## OSAA distributes more than \$297,000 to member schools

-Continued from page Five to its member schools for the 2007-08 school year has now surpassed \$661,000. This represents an increase of \$22,473 over reimbursement at this point in 2006-07.

"We are pleased to be able to increase the amount of money we have sent to member schools thus far this year," said OSAA Executive Director Tom Welter. "This reimbursement is made possible through the commitment of our local school communities and our generous corporate sponsors. The association looks forward to the day when these reimbursement checks cover 100% of the costs a school incurs while participating in state championship events."

Member schools receive travel reimburse-

ment from the OSAA for costs associated with participating in state championship events. The amount reimbursed to each school is based on a formula, approved annually by the OSAA Executive Board, which takes into account round-trip mileage, number of participants, number of coaches and the length of the event.

The Oregon School Activities Association is a private non-profit, board governed association comprised of 294 member high schools. The OSAA, sanctioned by the Oregon State Board of Education and a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, annually sponsors 118 state championships in 19 sports and activities.

## Despite weather, Heppner Golf Team still swinging

By Matt McCabe

The Heppner golf team has had three golf matches since they began their practices on March 3. Though the weather has not been the best, the team has golfed anyway. The coach for the Mustangs golf team is Greg Grant, who is also head football coach and athletic director. He has high hopes for the Mustangs to do well in district golf and even state.

There are seven girls

out for the golf program this year and there are 14 boys out for golf. Assistant coaches are Matt Scrivner, Dale Holland, and Dwayne Disque. The Mustangs plan to have a great year and, most of all, have fun and be competitive through out the golf season.

At most matches the Heppner Mustangs are teamed up with other schools. The groups are based on what position you golf designated by your

## Health district to put levy before voters in November; awards low bid for long-term care remodel at hospital

-Continued from page One long-term care project at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner, amounting to five years of debt service at \$252,500.

One ongoing roadblock that keeps getting in the way of MCHD providing funds to the Boardman clinic is the apparent reluctance of the Boardman clinic board to release its financial information to the MCHD Board. "We don't know the Boardman clinic's needs," said Vander Does. "They have not provided anything (financial information)."

Mills stressed the importance of remodeling the Irrigon Clinic to accommodate a growing need for more space resulting from an increase in patients.

The total estimated cost of the wish list comes to \$2,203,158. The estimated income from the proposed levy, however, amounts to only \$1,550,000, leaving a \$653,158 shortfall.

In the previous 2006-08 levy, the district funded \$486,660 for the Boardman community. Expenditures included a new full-time paramedic and EMT for Boardman, including salary and benefits at \$236,572; the Boardman clinic subsidy at \$140,000; a replacement ambulance for Boardman at \$110,088, which was partially financed; a full-time EMT for Irrigon, including salary and benefits at \$40,707; a replacement ambulance for Heppner at \$104,899; an x-ray machine and room remodel to accommodate it for PMH at \$128,611; a new digital system for x-ray and CT for PMH at \$90,611; and 911 dispatch fees at \$42,000.

The 2006-08 levy projects amounted to \$893,488 of which \$873,000 was actually funded by the levy, leaving \$20,488 to be paid by the district.

Even if the levy passes, however, the district will be without levy funding for a year, as the current levy expires this year and the new levy, if passed, will not be in effect until 2010. The district will not begin collecting the monies from that levy, if passed, until the fall of 2009.

The board also approved the low bid out of six competitors for the PMH remodel which, when completed, will allow the district to once again offer long-term care.

Wellens Farwell out of Enterprise, had the low bid at \$875,345. Knerr Construction, Hermiston, came in second with \$784,350, followed by Robinson Construction, Bend, at \$785,000, Mike Becker, LaGrande, at \$844,338, McCormack Construction, Pendleton, at \$862,500 and Ausland Builders, Grants Pass, at \$957,000.

Vander Does told the board that while Wellens Farwell had the least experience, with only three years of operation, their recommendations and completed projects justified their selection as contractors for the project. He said that while Becker Construction was his first choice, he just could not justify bypassing the low bid. "Everything I hear about them (Wellens Farwell) is good," he said.

Vander Does said that 12-15 contractors showed up for the initial walk-through. "I think we're lucky to get as many

Does, who is also a medical technologist, said that he may have to "jump in for a while" until additional personnel are hired. A medical technologist is the highest level of certification. Other laboratory personnel could include a medical laboratory technician, which is an intermediate certification, and a laboratory technician, the lowest certification.

The project is to be completed within 180 days after work begins. Wellens Farwell is required to start construction within 30 days after the bid is awarded.

In other business, the board:

-learned from Vander Does of a 25 percent increase in employee medical insurance costs. The district is looking at several options which could include using a different insurance company, which is probably not feasible because of the MCHD employees' record of high utilization; requiring a higher deductible; or requiring employees to pay a portion of their medical insurance. Currently the district pays the cost of the employees' medical benefits, but employees pay for benefits for their family members. Vander Does said the district is currently in negotiations with the employees.

-agreed to purchase a replacement response vehicle, possibly a small pickup, for Carl Lauritsen, EMT and district maintenance supervisor. At the next meeting Vander Does is to provide cost estimates for different vehicles.

-approved purchase of a vacuum suction system for the hospital at \$10,122. The high bid was only a dollar more at \$10,123, but that bid did not include \$750 for factory start-up assistance and freight.

-learned from Vander Does that the laboratory is short-staffed and the district is seeking possibly two lab employees. Vander

Does, who is also a medical technologist, said that he may have to "jump in for a while" until additional personnel are hired. A medical technologist is the highest level of certification. Other laboratory personnel could include a medical laboratory technician, which is an intermediate certification, and a laboratory technician, the lowest certification.

-learned that the district lost \$129,464 in February. However, the district still had a \$54,507 year-to-date gain with a \$6,813 average monthly year-to-date gain. "We went way down," said Mahoney, who added that March did not appear to be a "fabulous month" either.

-heard the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 350 patient visits with 12 new patients, 43 seen by a nurse and 13 no-shows; Irrigon Clinic had 175 patient visits with 24 new patients, 25 seen by a nurse and 12 no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had nine page-outs and transports for \$9,405 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 20 transports for \$20,998 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 17 page-outs with 15 transports for \$13,208 in revenue; there were three life flights; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had four admissions, two swing-bed admissions, 17 admitted for observation and one admitted for respite care, 409 outpatients, 63 emergency room encounters, 1423 lab tests, 66 x-ray procedures, 26 CT scans, 29 EKG tests, 61 respiratory therapy procedures, 133 Home Health visits and 1370 drug doses for \$59,657 in drug revenue.

## HHS keyboarding class compete in "Typing Football"



Pictured are Sidney Coster, Joe Sallee and Kellie Nelson, some junior high students from Mrs. Marquardt's Advisory class as they use the computer to work on homework and update portfolios. -Contributed Photo

Spring football? Well you might think so. Recently Mrs. Marquardt's junior high keyboarding class spent a class period playing "Typing Football."

The yardage was made by comparing typing speed of random players on each team. Team A, the yellow team racked up 74 yards compared to the red team, Team B's 27 yards. Team A achieved a touchdown and won the game with a score of 7-0, finishing then with a five yard kick-off just before the buzzer rang finishing the game.

Students have spent most of the quarter working on posture, hand position, and learning home row, then advancing to the rest of the alphabet using the qwerty keyboard. Most students are typing over 20 words per minute and some in the 30 - 40 wpm range. The remainder of the year will be spent reviewing keyboarding skills and learning some applications, such as Powerpoint and Excel, as well as learning tips and tricks to using Microsoft Office.

## County Commissioner candidates visit economic development group

-Continued from page One need for the people of Morrow County?

REA: I believe the County Commissioners should be very pro-active in promoting these development activities. I can ensure you that while sitting on the County Planning Commission, we, (the Commission) have strongly encouraged the wind farm applicants to place as much of their project as possible in Morrow County. Particularly their offices, shops or switching sites.

WCVEDG: What do you see as the greatest

need for the people of Morrow County?

REA: The residents of Morrow County need and deserve a safe place to live, a job that provides them with a decent living wage, a good school system for their children's educational needs, good medical services and recreational activities. I think we need to very actively work toward providing a reliable transportation system to transport our local residents to and from their jobs in Hermiston, Boardman, Stanfield or?

WENHOLZ: Family wage jobs are important.

## Swinging for the fences



Andre Rauch hits a homerun against Irrigon last Saturday. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

## Heppner Varsity Baseball Schedule

April 12 - at Weston-McEwen, 11 a.m.  
April 15 - Stanfield at home, 4:30 p.m.  
April 19 - BYE  
April 22 - at Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.

## Heppner JV Baseball Schedule

April 11 - Stanfield, 2 p.m.  
April 14 - at Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m.  
April 17 - at Hermiston Frosh, 4:30 p.m.  
April 18 - Nixyaawii at home, 2 p.m.  
April 21 - at Umatilla, 4 p.m.  
April 24 - Grant Union at home, 3 p.m.