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Gazette Times

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Ione School's new gym floor severely damaged in storm

By April Sykes

The Ione School Board toured the school's water damaged gym floor at the board's regular meeting Monday evening.

The gym floor was brand new, but the gym roof was also in the process of being replaced when a tarp came off during a storm that blew in the first week of August, causing severe water damage to the floor. Capital improvement project manager David McKay said that floor samples indicated significant readings of moisture in the wood and under the vapor barrier.

McKay said insurance will cover replacement or repair to the floor. Installation of a new floor is estimated to cost around $81,000 and partial replacement is estimated to be around $41,000. He recommended installing a power vent system if the board opts to have a new floor installed, which he recommended. He said he hoped the insurance adjuster could be on site on Wednesday and anticipated that it could be up to 30 days for new flooring to be installed, which could impact the volleyball program.

If a new floor is installed, board members are considering making the court regulation size, which would mean increasing the court by one foot on each side and could entail moving the bleachers or possibly removing one seat of the bleachers. Installation of new bleachers was considered, but, said board member Anne Morter, "I think we would get ourselves into a jam if we gave it (installation of new bleachers) a higher priority than the community told us we should."

New scoreboards for the gym have been ordered and will be on line by basketball season, said McKay.

The board also toured the elementary building which has had new carpet installed and viewed the new lighting in the cafeteria and gym. The lighting is use sensitive, meaning that if movement is not detected in the room, the lights will not come on, which is expected to save energy costs. Superintendent Karl Ostheller said he believed that the system has an override. Morter questioned the stability of the gym lights, mentioning that they looked as if they were hanging on fishing wire, but McKay countered, saying, "We do all of our gyms that way."

McKay said that the heating and ventilating system is scheduled for completion for the start of school, on budget and on time. "The kids will have air conditioning," he said. The board also toured the science rooms at the high school, but noted that those classrooms will not be completed by the start of school and will have framed, but boarded up windows since window installation is planned for the first two weeks in September.

"We really have a lot going. We're trying to get as much done as possible," said McKay. He said that cafeteria tables have been ordered, but added that they had been upgraded to a product that has a 15-year warranty, rather than the five-year warranty. He said that the new tables will hold up better under the expected wear and tear.

He also touched on the "significant challenges" that they have encountered on the high school roof. "We've had our challenges, but we do have a good roof contractor." One change order on the metal roof amounted to an additional $10,800. McKay said that they had to have engineers look at the roof. "It was unforeseen, an unfortunate thing, but part of the challenges," he said.

McKay said that the capital improvement project is still within the budget, with some increases, but also some reductions in estimates. "We still haven't touched the contingency," said McKay. Construction costs were originally budgeted at $2,012,162 compared to a revised budget of $2,107,046. Soft costs, such as administrative and miscellaneous items, were originally budgeted at $787,478, compared to a revised budget of $750,995. The total project cost was originally budgeted at $2,799,640 compared to $2,858,041 revised. Revenue was originally $2,839,342, but has been revised at $2,968,225.

Also at the meeting board chair Joe McElligott swore in Morter as a newly elected board member.

Ostheller said that he anticipates around 171 students to enter school at Ione this fall with 10 students new to the district, not including two foreign exchange students. He said some of the new students are from Boardman and one is from Arlington.

In other business, the board:

-learned from Chief Financial Officer Beth O'Hanlon that the district has received $28,000 from a federal stimulus package and will receive an additional $28,000 next year. The board plans to rehire an instructional aide who that was "riffed" due to budget constraints with the monies received. However, said O'Hanlon, the district is required to seek reimbursement from the federal government for the expense and it is not certain how soon the monies will be repaid to the district.

-heard the following administrative and building and maintenance reports from Ostheller:

*staff in-service begins on August 25 and elementary teachers will be getting training on Saxon Math with Hermiston teachers, while middle/high school teachers will learn about the software that goes with the interactive "white boards".

*the district received $5,000 from the Willow Creek Park District towards pool upkeep and maintenance.

*school starts August 31 for students.

*construction projects are continuing. The new carpet is down in the elementary building and they are awaiting the base backboard, which will complete this phase. Drilling has started ahead of schedule on the north end of the building. Roofing, HVAC and gym lights are all in process.

*the lawn is looking better and the district is currently mowing twice a week. "With the fertilizer added this last week, we may have to start mowing three times a week instead," he said.

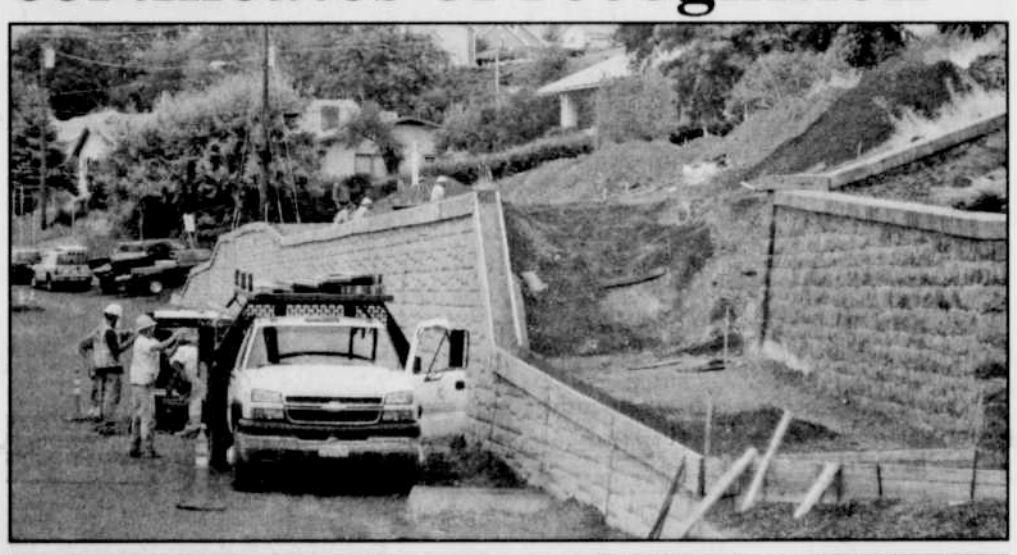
-approved hiring Joe Peterson as the middle school head football coach.

-heard information on the Alternative Learning Delivery Program, which would enable students to take classes and teachers to teach classes that may not be available currently through the traditional classroom.

-heard the following announcements: board training and retreat, Thursday, August 27; September board meeting, Monday, September 21; Oregon School Board Association annual conference, November 13-15, Portland.

-held an executive session to discuss discipline of a public employee, to discuss exempt public records and to evaluate the performance of a public employee.

Heppner mayor presents certificates of recognition



Top Photo: The front of the extensive terracing was matched to original 1903 basalt rock walls around the Morrow County Courthouse adjacent to the state highway project. The Commission thanked the representatives for "creating an attractive environment" in the community.
Bottom Photo: Bill Parker of Deschutes Concrete, Joe Main of Knife River Construction and Tom Hudner of ODOT receive Certificates of Recognition presented by Heppner Mayor Les Paustian (L to R) from the city's Beautification/Parks Commission for terrace work that is part of the Highway 74/Court Street project. *–Contributed Photos*

West Nile Virus Public Health Emergency declared in Morrow County

On Wednesday, August 12, the Morrow County Court declared a West Nile Virus Public Heath Emergency in Morrow County.

The matter of declaring a West Nile Public Health Emergency in Morrow County was derived from the fact that 78 mosquito pools and two birds have tested positive to West Nile Virus in Morrow County.

At this time there is an estimated on average of 9.05 mosquitoes per 1,000 mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus in Morrow County.

This declaration is the only means of being able to perform adult mosquito control on the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

Despite all efforts to eradicate the virus it remains a threat and further means of reducing and minimizing the risk of infection are needed by ground and aerial applications of pesticides in urban, rural, State and Federal Wildlife Refuge Lands.

Even with the annual option levy, North Morrow Vector Control District may see funds exhausted prior to the summer mosquito seasons end.

Citizens of Morrow County need to protect themselves and their families against West Nile Virus by maintaining tight fitting screens on doors and windows, wear long sleeved shirts and long pants and other protective clothing when venturing outside after dark, eliminate all standing water that can support mosquito breeding, avoid playing and working outside at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and use repellant preferably one that contains DEET, Picardin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Wanted fugitive apprehended

According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, deputies from the M.C.S.O. and the Umatilla-Morrow County Parole and Probation arrested a fugitive from justice at a remote cabin the Blue Mountains southeast of Heppner on August 12.

Michael Dean Lynch, 50, of Heppner was arrested without incident on a felony warrant for probation violation. Lynch had been wanted for violating his probation for second degree burglary and had been evading local authorities for several months.

Lynch was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on charges of probation violation, criminal trespass in the first degree, and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

Start/End times for Heppner and Ione Schools

Schools in Morrow County will start back on August 31 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Heppner Elementary School students will begin the school day at 7:55 a.m. K-2nd graders will get out a 2:45 p.m. and 3rd-6th graders will get out at 3:15.

Heppner High School students will begin their day at 7:55 a.m. and will get out at 3:30 p.m.

Ione Community School students will begin their day at 8 a.m. and will get out at 3:30 p.m.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.