

Right of way dispute surfaces at council meeting

By David Sykes

Whether a Heppner man can use part of a city right of way to park his RV and also have a small building on was subject of some discussion at Monday's Heppner city council meeting. Following the meeting,

council members went over and looked at the disputed site.

In contention is whether Dan McBride, who lives with his wife in an RV on property he owns on the corner of Kirk and August Street, can use part of the Kirk Street road easement, which is 40 feet wide, to park an RV and have a small, movable building. He also stores some material within the easement. McBride says he doesn't see a problem, and that fire trucks and adjoining property owners still have plenty of room to use the existing street to access their property.

"I just don't see what the big deal is," says McBride, whose father owned a body shop on the property for many years. "We have improved the property," he says, pointing to a garden he and his wife have planted. They have also knocked down weeds on the city property to keep it looking better.

McBride, who moved back to Heppner after living in Irrigon for



Dan McBride is trying to resolve a dispute with the city over his use of a city right of way along Kirk St. in Heppner. Here he stands in the middle of Kirk and to his right is the area he has an RV parked on and a small wooden movable storage building. -Photo by David Sykes

some time, told the council Monday the issue has caused him to feel that "I have come back home and I feel that I am not welcome here."

The issue of the property line came up when a property owner next to the lot McBride owns, and on which his RV home is located, had his property surveyed to divide it into two parcels in preparation for putting it on the market. At that time, the survey revealed that McBride was using the city right of way.

"Nobody has complained," McBride says.

"The only one who has complained is DeMayo (city manager David DeMayo)." An obviously frustrated McBride told the council he has called the city attorney several times to try to resolve the issue, but has not had his phone calls returned.

DeMayo says he isn't trying to be the bad guy, and isn't necessary against McBride using the property, he just wants the council to approve the usage.

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Tom Shear retires after long teaching career

By April Sykes

Throughout his long career, Tom Shear has had the rare and fortunate ability to bring together his two loves, art and horticulture.

"I've been fortunate that I've had two professions and they've both been extremely enjoyable. It's been good," said Shear, who retired this year from teaching at Lone Schools.

Shear was born and raised in Eugene, graduating from high school there in 1964 and continuing on to college at the University of Oregon at Eugene, where he received a degree in art, with an emphasis on graphic arts, drawing and painting, and art education in 1968.

"I always enjoyed art. It was just a natural choice," he said. "But I haven't had time to do that recently." He said that at the time he graduated from college there were a lot of art ed jobs, something which has changed as of late.

He started his teaching career in 1969 in Heppner, where he taught art for around 10 years. Then he changed professions, returning to Eugene to go into the retail nursery and greenhouse business.

In the mid 1990s he came back to Morrow County, relocating to Lone and teaching art half time



Tom Shear

in Lone and half time in Heppner. When Lone separated from the Morrow County Schools, he ended up staying there, where he has taught art, shop and horticulture. Shear says that plans are now to convert the art/shop facility at Lone to an ag-science building.

Shear, who says only that he is "of retirement age," added that he was "pleasantly surprised" with a recent party held for him in Lone. He received a gift certificate for the Bandon Dunes golf club, a hobby he enjoys in addition to fishing, gardening, woodworking and building. "It will be nice to have some time" to do these things, he says, but other than that, he has no special plans for retirement.

Shear has a grown daughter who lives in Hermiston and a son who lives in Washougal, WA. He and his partner, Sherron Woodside, live in Lone.

Former Heppner resident, two others die in plane crash

Reprinted from World of Rodeo

Longtime Columbia River Circuit cowboy Ned Kayser, former Miss Rodeo Oregon Janice Healy Davis and Gerald Hunter, 74, the pilot of a Bellanca single engine aircraft died in a crash around midnight on June 11 in a remote area south of Ukiah, Ore., in the Blue Mountains.

The plane encountered a violent thunderstorm not long after taking off from The Dalles Municipal Airport in Dallesport, Wash., but the exact circumstances of the crash are unknown, pending an FAA investigation.

Kayser, 53, and Da-

vis, 51, were on their way to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo., where Kayser's daughter, Kelly, is competing as a member of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas team and two of Davis' nieces are also competing.

The Oregon Civil Air Patrol launched a team of five search planes early Sunday morning to look for the missing aircraft.

One of the search planes had a possible sighting Sunday morning around 9:15 in a mountainous area of southern Umatilla County.

Umatilla County spokesperson Jodi Florence said deputies confirmed

School board approves slight meal cost increase, new position, approves sexuality course policy

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board Monday night in Lexington voted to raise school lunch prices by 10 cents. The current cost of \$2 for elementary lunches and \$2.25 for high school lunches will rise to \$2.10 and \$2.35 this fall.

District Chief Financial Officer Andy Fletcher told the board that the federal government is requiring school districts to eventually charge lunch patrons the same amount of reimbursement that the federal government gives the schools, so the rise in prices is mandated. He said that the Morrow County School District currently receives \$2.74 per lunch in federal reimbursement for free and reduced lunches. The more free and reduced lunches the district serves, the more the district receives in reimbursements, he added.

Fletcher said that the district has been losing money in the food service program for many years and is working to try to get the program to become more efficient and to eventually break even. "It's not paying for itself," he said.

He said that the district has to either serve more meals or reduce costs. He said that the district has looked at closing campuses to increase the number of meals served, out-sourcing food services, combining

kitchens, transporting meals and other cost-cutting measures, but because of the complexity of food service mandates and nutritional requirements, the problem will require further study. "It's more complicated than consolidating kitchens," said Fletcher.

He said that some food service personnel are retiring, which will result in a reduction in staffing as new personnel are not expected to be hired. "Our food service employees are put on the front lines once again," said Fletcher.

Fletcher said that due to a decline in students, not as many meals are being served in Heppner schools.

The board approved funding for a new district position, a "student achievement coordinator," proposed by incoming superintendent Dirk Dirksen. This position would entail working with at-risk kids and their parents to increase school attendance and academic success and also applying for grants, which would most likely be during the summer months.

Dirksen said that he realizes that is a difficult year to add a position, but added, "There are some kids who are falling through the cracks." Heppner High School Principal Day Stone echoed this sentiment, saying that in Heppner there are four-to-five kids not attending school regularly, "roaming the streets," who may be helped by contact that this position could provide.

"If it comes to a dollar figure, every kid we can get back in school means more money for the schools," said Dirksen. He said that many of the title programs have a portion of funds earmarked for parental involvement, which could be used to help fund this position. He said that the person hired to fill this

position would fall somewhere "between a police officer and a parent liaison working with the schools." He said that the hiree would be extremely busy during the school year and would most likely emphasize grant writing during the summer.

Dirksen said that the \$60,000 a year position would not require a four-year college degree, but rather only a two-year degree. Employment would be for 260 days a year, compared to 225 working days a year for administrators and 169 for teachers.

Board member Bill Kuhn questioned whether the job should be paid at \$60,000 per year and instead favored spending more along the line of \$40,000; however, the position had already been advertised. Board Chair Barney Lindsay joked that the position would require someone that "walked on water."

"This is more than a full-time job for one person," responded Dirksen, "so that walk on water aspect is there."

Retiring assistant superintendent Phyllis Danielson remarked that the program would put the district more in a "proactive mode, rather than a reactive mode" of waiting until a kid drops out. The program was approved on a one-year basis on the condition that the board receives regular reports.

Also at the meeting, the board approved a mandated "age appropriate" human sexuality course, which includes instruction on AIDS/HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and health education. The school district policy says that parents of minor children will be notified in advance of any human sexuality or AIDS/HIV district instruction. It also allows parents to opt out of the program.

According to the district, the course:

- "promotes abstinence for school age youth and mutually monogamous relationships with an uninfected partner for adults";

- "allays those fears concerning HIV that are scientifically groundless";

- "is balanced and medically accurate";

- "provides balanced and accurate information on risks and benefits of contraception and other disease reduction measures";

- "discusses responsible sexual behaviors and hygienic practices";

- "stresses high-risk behaviors such as the sharing of needles in tattooing and body piercing and syringes for injecting drugs and steroids";

- "discusses the characteristics of the emotional, physical and psychological aspects of a health relationship and the benefits of delaying pregnancy beyond the adolescent years as a means to better ensure a healthy future for parents and their children";

- "stresses that HIV/STDs and Hepatitis B/C can be serious possible hazards of sexual contact";

- "provides students with information about Oregon laws that address young people's rights and responsibilities relating to childbearing and parenting";

- "advises students of consequences of having sexual relations with persons younger than 18 years of age to whom they are not married";

- "encourages family communication", and

- encourages honesty, respect and responsibility and cautions against unwanted physical or verbal sexual advances and harming or exploiting another

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