

Officials Reveal Serial Road Tax Error

Club Buys Willow Golf Course Here

Willow Creek Golf club has purchased the nine-hole course that it has rented for the past six years and has plans underway to develop and improve the course, Clint McQuarrie, club president, announces.

The 22 acres were purchased from Tom Wells of Vancouver, Wn., at a price of \$7300. The club has been paying rent of \$600 per year, McQuarrie said. Citing the importance of the course to the area for recreation, McQuarrie said that the club is seeking support from civic organizations and public-spirited firms to help with the plans. Donations towards the purchase price are acceptable, he said.

It is expected that the club will borrow whatever funds that are not on hand or forthcoming to meet the installment payments, he said.

Kinzua corporation already has given logs and decking for a new bridge across Willow Creek, which winds through the course. It is planned to develop three grass greens this year, and construction of a clubhouse is in the picture for the near future, McQuarrie said.

At the last board meeting of the club, the directors decided that banks, various clubs and commercial firms may join, but one officer or member must be designated for the right to play.

Family memberships are \$30 and annual dues for the family are an additional \$30. Members are not required to pay green fees.

"We are inviting new members to join now. Those who are civic-minded should join and help with developing the course for benefit of the area," McQuarrie said.

Anyone interested in joining or in further information is asked to contact McQuarrie; Maurice Groves, vice president; Mrs. Harlan (Donna) McCurdy, Jr., secretary; or Conley Lanham, treasurer.

Entries Needed For PTA Talent Show March 9

Just one more week is open for anyone, of any age, with a talent of any kind, to make himself known and enter the PTA Amateur Talent Show, set for March 9.

Deadline for entries is March 2, according to the committee. More participants are needed to make up the two-hour program. A variety of acts are encouraged, including single or group numbers in singing, instrumental, skits, dances, pantomimes, impersonations, or any other type of entertainment.

Besides giving the kind of talent entered, it should also be stated whether it will be in the adult, high school, grade school or pre-school divisions, the approximate amount of time the act will take, whether special properties are needed, and if an accompanist is needed. Entries may be registered with anyone on the committee which includes Mrs. Ed Dick, 6-9920 or 6-9633; Mrs. Mary Bryant, 6-9493; or Mrs. Robert Hopper, 6-5848.

Cash prizes will be awarded in each of the four age classes. A first prize of \$5, second prize of \$2.50, and third prize of \$1.00 will be given. An applause meter is expected to be in operation to determine winners by public response.

A master of ceremonies from Spray, who has had considerable experience in directing talent shows will be on hand, according to the committee.

Talent from all the nearby towns is encouraged, as well as from Heppner. Not only will the entertainment be enjoyed, but the money will go into the PTA scholarship award fund, a very worthy project. Tickets will be on sale for \$5 to grade school students, 50c to high school students, and 75c for adults. Advance ticket sales are underway through the schools.

Mrs. Melby Due Home

Mrs. Arnold Melby returned home today (Thursday) following surgery last Thursday at St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton. She will spend several weeks recuperating at her home.



PRINCESS DIANA PETTYJOHN

Diana Pettyjohn Chosen Fair and Rodeo Princess

IONE—A pretty blonde blue-eyed senior of Ione High school, Diana Pettyjohn, was chosen Sunday to represent Ione's Willow County Fair and Rodeo.

Miss Pettyjohn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pettyjohn of Ione. She has one brother, Paul Jr., who is married and has one daughter, Kimber. Diana is 17 years old and will reach her 18th birthday February 24. She was born in Heppner and stands a graceful 5 feet 8 inches.

Very active in school affairs, she has been a member of the band and is a member of the pep band, sings in the glee club, and is an active member of the volleyball team. During the football season, she was chosen homecoming queen. She is vice president of the senior class and is also vice president of the Girls' League.

Princess Diana is completing her seventh year of 4-H work, be-

ing an active member in the cooking class for four years and having completed three years in the saddle club. She has ridden since she was eight years old, and, of course, this is one of her hobbies. Her other hobby is swimming.

Her plans are to attend the Pacific University at Forest Grove this fall where she expects to take an art course.

Ginger Springer Wins AAU Award

Ginger Springer, junior in Heppner High school, has just received a certificate from the national American Athletic Union for winning second place in the nation in girl's shotput in the Junior Olympics. It was accompanied by a letter of commendation on the achievement.

Ginger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Springer of Heppner, won first place in the state in Portland last June in the Junior Olympics. She competed for the first time in the event and put the shot (8 lb.) 36 ft. 6 in. This was a new state record for Oregon in the girls' event, and now has proven to be second best in the nation.

When she went to Portland she did not intend to enter the shotput, but expected to compete in baseball throw. When she was prevailed upon to take part, she responded with the new record.

Ginger was 16 when she competed last June and is now 17. She plans to enter the event again this summer and hopes to lead the nation for girls.

Ratio Gain Ups Fund Above Limit

Morrow county's serial road tax of 10 mills in the budget for 1961-62 exceeds the Oregon statutory limitation because a change of the county's assessment ratio increased the county valuation, county officials announced Tuesday.

Result will mean an overpayment by taxpayers of \$17,430.69 to the road fund for the 1961-62 year.

Judge Oscar Peterson, Assessor or Oliver Creswick and District Attorney Robert Abrams jointly made the announcement in a conference Tuesday morning. The county court already has set aside the \$17,430.69 in a fund and is now in the process of exploring the possibility of making refunds to taxpayers.

According to a provision in Oregon law, a serial levy cannot bring revenue for one year beyond 6% more than it did for the preceding year. In this case, the county assessment ratio was increased last year from 22% of true value to 25%. Result was that the county valuation jumped from \$13,954,426 to \$16,534,721. The 10-mill levy, which was approved by vote of the people in 1958 to be levied each year for a 5-year period, thus is bringing more receipts than the law permits.

Change in the ratio was made in a law passed at the last session of the legislature which set the 25% ratio to be uniform in all Oregon counties.

For the fiscal year 1960-61, when the ratio in Morrow county was 22%, the 10-mill serial road levy brought \$139,544.26. For the current year proceeds of the same millage levy are due to bring a total of \$165,347.21. Most of this has already been paid by taxpayers.

Legal limit this year is 6% above the \$139,544.26 or \$147,916.52.

The error escaped detection in the preparation of the budget last year and no one noticed it at the public hearing on the budget. The county's attention was called to it by Union Pacific, one of its largest taxpayers, when its attorneys checked the county tax statement, apparently in a routine audit.

At the present time the county officials are considering the best method of rectifying the error. To some of the larger taxpayers, the overpayment is fairly substantial, but many on the rolls will find that their error will mean only a few cents to them, representing only about one-tenth of a mill.

District Attorney Abrams said that each taxpayer can easily figure his overpayment by multiplying each \$1000 of his property valuation, as shown on his tax statement, by \$1.05.

Judge Peterson said that removal of the \$17,430 from the road fund budget this year will not impair operation of the road department. A total of \$233,200, including receipts from sources other than taxes, was set up in the budget for roads. At this time, with the year nearly two-

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Voters to Cast Ballots On Bonds Monday

Voters of Morrow county will go to the polls at a special election Monday, February 26, to cast ballots on the proposed \$870,000 bond issue that would be used for school construction in three communities.

Board of school district R-1 proposed the bond issue for completion of the construction of the Heppner-Lexington high school at Heppner; for addition of a wing at A. C. Houghton Elementary school, Irrigon, to include classrooms, library and cafeteria; and to supplement funds to be paid by the Federal Gov-

ernment for reconstructing Riverside school that must be relocated because of the encroachment of the John Day reservoir.

Polls will be open from 2 until 8 p. m. on the day of election, and all registered voters may cast ballots in their respective precincts. Locations of the polling places are as follows: Heppner, multipurpose room of the Heppner Elementary school; Boardman, Riverside High school; Irrigon, old high school building; Lexington, cafeteria in school building; Ione,

Ione, new high school; Pine City, community building; and Ruggs, Rhea Creek Grange hall.

The bond issue, which would be paid off over a 20-year period, would encompass the serial levy that previously was authorized by voters of the district and which would raise \$130,000 for each of the next two years to be divided between the schools at Boardman and Irrigon.

Directors have pointed out that initial year's payment on the bond issue plus interest would require a millage levy of 4.6, which is 3.3 less than the 7.9 mills required for the serial levy. However, the bond issue would be spread over 20 years as compared with two years for the serial levy.

Tentative plans for construction at the three schools have been printed in this paper and have been widely distributed through brochures prepared under sponsorship of the Morrow County Committee for Better Schools. At Heppner, the present Unit-A school, which was started as a high school but is now being used for grade school classes, would be completed as a high school to serve Heppner and Lexington students. It would include a standard size gym with approximately 1000 seating capacity, library, cafeteria, science rooms, home-making room, dressing rooms, classrooms, band room and vocational shop. Total cost of the structure is estimated at some \$800,000.

Principal need for the construction is due to growth of the school enrollment. Administrator Robert Van Houte has pointed out, high school enrollment for Heppner and Lexington now is 204, and it will be 250 by 1964, he said. Elementary pupils now sharing the present high school will be forced out and will have no place to go.

Difficulty of selection of a site for the Riverside school because of the uncertainty of the forthcoming development in the area has caused some confusion there. However, the school board believes that it will be prepared to move ahead faster and to better advantage if the bond issue is approved. This would empower them to sell the bonds for construction whenever the time was ready. D. O. Nelson, chairman, has said, rather than to wait until they accrue under the serial levy. Plans of the Riverside school are still being studied by the board, and continuous work is being done, with consultation by Boardman and Irrigon advisory and building committees, to choose the best site for all concerned.

Construction could be started on the Houghton school at Irrigon within a short period of time, if the bonds are approved. Van Houte states, "Also, if the bonds are approved, it is possible to have the Heppner-Lexington high school completed sometime after mid-term in the school year 1962-63. Plans for the schools have been drawn by Hayslip and Tuft, Portland architects, who also designed Unit-A and have done other work for the Morrow county district.

With Dr. Wallace Wolf of Heppner as its chairman, members of the Morrow County Committee for Better Schools have been working diligently to carry facts of the proposal to the public during the past few weeks. They have attended many meetings and distributed the factual brochures as widely as possible.

For those who have not received one and wish to study the matter, they may be obtained from Dr. Wolf, from the Gazette-Times office, or from school administrators and principals in all parts of the county.



PRESENT Heppner-Lexington high school, built in 1912 in Heppner, would be converted to grade school use, together with the present elementary building across the street, if county school district bond issue is approved by voters in special election Monday. (G-T Photo)

Principals Tell Needs Of South End Schools

By WES SHERMAN

Problems being faced in the Heppner-Lexington school system and needs for the future were discussed by Principal Gordon Pratt of the high school and Principal Hillard Brown of the grade school in an interview Monday.

They voiced the intent to make known to the public the limitations and difficulties now being faced by the schools in order that voters might consider these things before casting ballots at the special bond election Monday.

Principal Brown told of difficulties he experiences in attempting to conduct a coordinated grade school program with his 492 students divided piecemeal among four separate schools. At present he has three classes (one fourth grade room and two fifth grade rooms) going to school in the high school building at Heppner, grades one to four in the Heppner elementary building, grades six through eight in Unit-A including one room split between a fifth and sixth grade class and four grades in the Lexington school.

This divided system creates problems of administration, traveling, organization, discipline and supply, Brown said. At the same time, it is very difficult to develop a cohesive school spirit.

Since Unit-A has no facilities for lunch, physical education, music and other activities associated with the school program, it has been necessary this year to operate a bus shuttle service between it and the elementary and high schools. These buses make 20 round trips per day. Two buses are required to be on standby for the job and two drivers are required. They fill in between times by washing and repairing the vehicles, as well as doing other work.

An average eighth grader must make six round trips per day for lunch, physical education, band and classes which cannot be offered at Unit-A. Fifth and sixth graders make three trips. It takes about 10 minutes for a round trip. Thus, the eighth grader stands to lose an hour per day by transportation time. Cost of operating the buses is

figured at 30c per mile, and the total daily mileage in this shuttle service is approximately 60, meaning a cost of \$18 per day for the transportation between (Continued on Page 6)

Taxi Service Set For Voters Needing Help to Reach Polls

Voters without transportation and unable to walk to the polls at the special school election Monday may call one or two sources for transportation in Heppner, it is announced.

The Chamber of Commerce will provide transportation, and this may be secured by phoning 6-9247 on election day.

High school students have set up a Student Help Service and not only offer transportation but baby sitting service as well. This will be available only from 4 until 7:30 p. m. on election day. Anyone wishing either of these services should call the high school (6-9138). Sponsoring organization is the Student Committee for Better Schools.

Anyone sick or injured to the extent that he cannot get to the polls may cast ballot by absentee by calling Mrs. Beverly Gunderson, Clerk, at 6-9248. The request must be received prior to 5 p. m., according to law. This is provided by a new state law on absentee voting.

Firemen's Ball Billed March 3

Annual Firemen's Ball of the Heppner volunteer department will be March 3 in the county fair pavilion, Forrest Burkenbine, chairman, announces. Gene Rietmann will furnish the music for the event, proceeds of which will go towards purchasing badly needed equipment for the department.

Tickets will be placed on sale soon by the firemen at \$1.25 per person. A Motorola clock radio will be given at the dance as a door prize, Burkenbine said. The ball will be from 10 p. m. to 2 a. m.

Some of the hose in use by the department is more than 40 years old, firemen state. Replacement of it is one of the purposes in mind for use of the proceeds.

State Awards In FFA Go To Rill

As a fitting climax to this week, nationally recognized as National FFA Week, a local high school student, William Rill, has been notified that he will receive the State Farmer Degree at the FFA State Convention to be held March 14 through 16 in Coos Bay.

Rill will also be district candidate for State Star Farmer. This is the highest FFA honor that the state can offer. He has served as vice president of the Heppner FFA chapter this year and has done outstanding project work.

Education Area Hearing Stated

Notice has been given that petitions calling for the formation of an area education district to be known as the Blue Mountain Area Education District have been filed with the State Board of Education. This would include all the territory lying within the boundaries of Umatilla and Morrow counties and would be for the formation of a community college.

In accordance with the law, a public hearing will be held by the State Board of Education to give all parties interested an opportunity to speak for or against the formation of the district, according to Francis I. Smith, chairman, State Board of Education.

The hearing will be in the Pendleton High school auditorium on Monday, March 5, at 8 p. m.

Forestry Meeting Slated Friday

A meeting designed to help coordinate fire fighting efforts between U. S. Forest Service, State Board of Forestry and private owners is scheduled for 1:30 p. m. Friday in the circuit court room of the Morrow county courthouse.

The meeting was arranged after problems arose in questions of jurisdiction on the Ditch Creek fire and other fires near here. Some landowners asked that a meeting be held to discuss the matter.

Orville Cutsforth, one of the leaders in arranging for the meeting, said that he had been assured that delegations would be present from Georgia-Pacific and from Kinzua Corporation, as well as Federal and state personnel and individual property owners.

WEATHER

(Leonard Gilliam, observer)

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Thursday	44	32	.12
Friday	46	37	.13
Saturday	47	32	.13
Sunday	55	35	—
Monday	45	32	—
Tuesday	41	24	—
Wednesday	50	35	—

Rainfall this week was .42 of an inch. Total for February is .63 of an inch.



EIGHT HEPPNER High school students were initiated into the National Honor Society last week at the school. Old members include those seated together with Don Clark, senior, standing far left, and Ken Daggett, senior, standing far right. Seated are (from left) Sandra Kershman, Judy Schmidt, Ronnie Belama, Mary Shannon, Norma Ferguson, Beverly Blake and Beverly Davidson, all seniors. New members stand between Clark and Daggett. They are (from left) Martha Dougherty, junior, Ann Jones, junior, Laura Sumner, junior, Bill Sherman, sophomore, Shan Applegate, junior, Jennifer Brindle, sophomore, Jackie Brindle, junior, Shirley Carlson, junior. Honor Society membership is limited to the top 15% of the student body. (G-T Photo)