

Heppner fails to conserve

Heppner residential users failed to curtail electrical use in September, October and November compared to the same months of 1972.

In fact, the use for that period was up 1/2 of 1 per cent for the average user. The increase in use was 7.26 kwhs over 1972 for the same three months on the basis of average use.

Not calculating the use on the average, the increase was up as 558 members used 1,458,605 kwhs in 1972 and 576 members used 1,497,825 kwhs in 1973 in Heppner.

Columbia Basin discovered that voluntary conservation in response to requests to cut 7 per cent in September and October, then requesting a 10 per cent cut in early November, had failed for Heppner

residential users. In many other areas of the system voluntary curtailment was successful. For example, Columbia Basin at its Heppner office and warehouse was able to cut 46.5 per cent for September, October and November and saved 40,000 kwhs compared to 1972. It had other savings on substation lighting.

Presently the Northwest electric energy situation looks somewhat favorable. Neither BPA or Columbia Basin is requesting any curtailment level, only do not waste electric power. The oil and gas crisis does not directly affect the Northwest power supply as we have a hydro base of 90 per cent with one major nuclear plant and one major coal plant, Columbia Basin reported.



Glenn Walker, Comrie Motors, Pendleton, presents a new 10-speed bike to Juanita Carmichael, Heppner. Carmichael was selected as the winner in a recent contest about snowmobiles.

Ullman lashes Senate for stalling SS bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Chairman U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., of the House Ways and Means Committee said last week he is concerned that the Senate may be deliberately confusing the nation's older citizens on the prospect of an increase in Social Security benefits.

"It's time to set the record straight," Ullman said. "A month ago the House passed a far-reaching and responsible 11 per cent increase in Social Security. That bill has been pending before the Senate ever since, and still has not been acted on."

Instead, Ullman said, the Senate has attached its own Social Security increase proposal to a relatively minor bill totally loaded down with unrelated amendments involving welfare, unemployment benefits, Medicare and Medicaid, and even oil drilling equipment.

Further Senate delay in approving the bill already passed by the House, according to Ullman, will make it physically impossible for the

Social Security Administration to meet the payment deadlines set in the legislation.

"It's a great disservice to our senior citizens in this period of strong inflation for the Senate to be playing politics with a much-needed increase in Social Security," Ullman charged.

If the bill isn't passed immediately, he said, it's only going to create further troublesome delays for Social Security recipients.

Ullman said he is personally sympathetic with some of the Senate's amendments, particularly deadline items such as social service regulations, but added: "We must take these other matters up under a more responsible format than a Christmas tree bill."

"The crucial issue," Ullman emphasized, "is that the Social Security increase approved by the House go forward independently to the President assuring our older citizens of the earliest possible increase in benefits."

Funds approved for area sewage projects

State Rep. Jack Sumner, D-Heppner, has announced that the State Emergency Board recently approved funding of sewage treatment projects in 10 communities in his district.

Total cost of the projects will be \$3,676,700, most of which will come from federal funds.

Projects and costs are: Arlington, sewage treatment plant, \$217,700; Boardman, sewage treatment plant improvement, \$150,000; Culver, sewage treatment plant and interceptor, \$300,000; Detroit, sewage treatment plant,

\$400,000; Madras, sewage treatment plant and interceptor, \$1,152,000; Maupin, sewage treatment plant, \$235,000;

treatment plant, \$235,000; Metolius, sewage treatment plant and interceptor, \$345,000; Mill City, sewage treatment plant, \$280,000; Rufus, sewage treatment plant and interceptor, \$460,000; Wasco, sewage treatment plant, \$137,000.

The Emergency Board also approved a total of \$917,000 in state pollution control bonding funds to help make it possible for these communities to meet requirements for federal grants.

The 1973 legislature substantially increased the amount of pollution control bonds which the state can sell to aid local communities in planning and building sewage treatment works, Sumner noted. The ceiling on pollution control bonds was raised from \$100 million to \$160 million.

How to relieve the fertilizer shortage

With limited supplies of certain fertilizers predicted for next spring, farmers can do something to minimize the impact of these shortages.

Soil testing, says Harold Kerr, Oregon State University extension agent in Morrow County, is one of a farmer's most useful tools for efficient fertilizer use. It can help take the guesswork out of a fertilization program by providing an inventory of necessary nutrients available or missing in a particular soil.

Dollar-wise, says Kerr, this means that savings can be made by applying only the necessary nutrients in the amounts indicated by the soil tests. This is especially important for users of dry form of fertilizers which is apparently in short supply in this area.

Of 6,000 grower samples tested at the Oregon State Soil Testing Lab in 1972, phosphorus and boron were needed in 2,000 cases and 1,000 showed

a need for potassium. For many other samples, tests showed adequate nutrient levels.

This is a good time of the year to take soil samples to assess fertilizer requirements. Instructions on how to take soil samples, soil sample information sheets, soil sample bags and interpretation of soil sample results may be obtained from the county extension office in Heppner.




Sound the bugles! We're raising the curtain on another New Year!

In spite of shortages and frustrations of the past year, Morrow County Grain Growers looks forward with optimism to a better, brighter 1974. Conceding that 1973 had its problems for all America and all Americans, is there another country, or another city, where you'd rather be living and doing business than right here in Morrow County USA?

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a toast!

College students home for the holidays from O.S.U. Corvallis, include Debbie McCoy, Bruce Buchanan, Dennis Lamb and David Richards.

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Busto and sons of Portland were visitors at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Pummel, Dec. 9-10.

Mrs. Ralph (Cora) Minnicks is home after being a patient at the Good Shepherd Hospital.

Carl Knighten spent six weeks at the Veterans Hospital in Walla Walla, but has recovered enough to be at home again.

Little Stella Ellis, 8, is in the Umatilla Hospital with pneumonia.

Mrs. Lola Breeding has recovered from a broken hip, well enough to be moved from the Good Shepherd Hospital to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Floyd Smith.