



State Rep. Jack Sumner spoke to members of the Chamber of Commerce Monday on aspects of the special session of the legislature, which is now in progress. He also explained the workings of the new homeowners and renter tax refund program and how to make claims for them.

Rising costs affect school budget

Ron Daniels, superintendent, Morrow County Schools, has released the annual budget statement.

The budget message is being presented to the Budget Committee in compliance with ORS 294.391, which requires that the budget officer provide an explanation of the budget document.

Such explanation is to include an outline of financial policies for the ensuing year, the reasons for changes from the previous year in appropriation and revenue items, and an explanation of any major changes in financial policy.

It is always difficult to prepare a school budget as election laws and time requirements are such that an estimate must be prepared six months before the budget is to go into operation and cover a span of an additional 12 months. Thus we are faced

with projecting some costs 18 months in advance of the actual expenditure. This would be difficult enough even under normal conditions, and the difficulty is compounded this year by abnormal conditions.

Inflation and shortages have resulted in skyrocketing costs in many areas and have, in fact, placed our current budget under severe pressure.

There is, however, a true increase in receipts amounting to \$56,384 and this will help to reduce the amount of property tax necessary to balance the budget. An increase in basic school support money of \$51,204 accounts for most of this increase.

The requirements section of the proposed budget shows an increase of \$256,697, which is an increase of 15.3 per cent. This represents a major increase for our district as our normal budget increase has

amounted to an average of about 5 per cent. The statewide average for the last six years has been between 8 per cent and 12 per cent, so we have been substantially below the state average.

Many factors are involved in the increase for 1974-75. The only program change reflected in the budget is the addition to funds to operate a kindergarten program. The kindergarten program would require two additional teachers as well as some additional supplies and textbooks.

The total increase is approximately \$20,000 in the requirements section and because we receive state reimbursement one year late, we would not receive any increase in basic school support money. We would, however, receive approximately \$9,000 in additional receipts for the 1975-76 school year. Thus the net cost to the district after the

first year would be approximately \$11,000. The budget also contains funds for one additional staff member in North Morrow County to relieve classroom loads due to increased enrollments.

These two items amount to \$28,500 with the balance of the increase resulting from rising costs on existing programs.

Salary, social security, and retirement increases amounted to \$112,484. Salary increases alone were up about 9.1 per cent.

The amount of the salary increases were determined by comparing our existing salaries with similar occupations in the immediate area and with the realization that the Portland consumer price index had increased by 8.5 per cent from October of 1972 to October of 1973.

The budget also contains new major requirements for

paving the road at Heppner High School (\$16,000), and for unemployment insurance (\$5,300).

Other increases are attributable to shortages in paper, fuel oil, and gasoline, that have increased prices by 40 per cent for paper, 133 per cent for fuel oil, and 45 per cent for gasoline.

The rate increases listed here have occurred in the last four months and indications are that they will continue to increase.

Shortages in these three areas will be reflected in the price of all paper and petroleum related products.

In addition, telephone rates have increased, and we have been notified by Columbia Basin Electric that we can expect an 8.2 per cent rate increase in power costs in May of this year.

(Continued on page 5)

GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 90, No. 50

Heppner, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 31, 1974

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Common council

Clean-up ordered on Main Street

The common council voted Thursday night to enforce City Ordinance 386, which deals with the cleaning up of property inside the city.

The ordinance requires that the city may, after proper notice to property owners to clean up trash, debris or unsightly matter on their property, move in and perform the cleaning and charge the cost of doing so to the owners.

Affected is the Hager property on Main Street which has remained in an unsightly condition following a 1971 fire. The owners were notified Jan. 16 by the city to clean the

premises, but they have not appeared before the council to show cause why the city should not proceed with the work and charge them for the cost.

Bert Corbin, city employee, estimates it will take from 25 to 30 days to clean up the property because city crews will not be able to work full time on that project because of other city duties.

Police Chief Dean Gilman, asked the council to consider purchase of a new police patrol car because the present one is in need of major repairs.

Sealed bids for a new patrol car were opened by Mayor

Jerry Sweeney. The low bid of \$2,783 was submitted by Farley Motors for a new Ford Galaxie 500. The police department will take possession of the new car when it arrives in about two months.

In other action, the council voted to return channel improvement funds to the general fund. These funds were budgeted for channel work to be performed by the city in connection with construction of Willow Creek Dam. The city will not be required to perform this work at this time because of the delay of Congress and the Corps of Engineers in beginning the project.

It will be mid-summer, according to Sen. Mark Hatfield's office, before Congress will take up the matter of reauthorizing the dam following a decision by the legal department of the Corps of Engineers that changing the dam from a multipurpose use to a single use (flood control) makes reauthorization necessary.

The city voted to renew its present chlorine contract, and approved the application for a variance submitted by Dean Teel for another 90 days.

The honeymoon is over.

Effective Feb. 11 (Happy Valentine's Day) Heppner's double-headed parking meters will be back in operation.

Citations will be issued to cars parked at expired meters after Feb. 11. The meters were ordered out of operation a couple of weeks ago, at the request of Police Chief Dean Gilman, for the duration of the freezing weather.

Well, it was fun while it lasted.

Board, teachers reach agreement

The Morrow County School Board and the Morrow County Education Association have reached an agreement on salaries and related economic benefits, according to Ron Daniels, superintendent.

The agreements were reached following five meetings between the two parties, and two additional discussion sessions with a state appointed mediator. A total of more than 20 hours were involved in the negotiations which eventually resulted in the following compromise agreement.

1. Beginning salaries were increased from \$7,200 to \$7,850 and the increments for the top seven steps were increased by \$20. Two additional work days were also added to teacher contracts.

2. The school district's contribution on the employees health and medical insurance was also increased from \$9.50 per month to \$12.50 per month.

3. Tuition reimbursement was also increased from \$17 to \$29 per quarter hour to cover the increased cost of Division of Continuing Education courses.

4. The high school girls coaching index was increased from .02 per cent to .04 per cent per sport.

The total budget increase resulting from the above listed items is as follows:

Salary increase and girls sports, \$70,778, up 8.2 per cent; health and medical, \$3,132; tuition reimbursement, \$2,268; retirement and Social Security, \$10,169.

Total budget increase is \$86,347, or 8.7 per cent.

Golden Agers will meet at the Heppner Elks Club Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., at a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Conservation group to hold annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District will be held Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Lexington Grange Hall.

Speakers who will take part in panel discussions include Rupert Kennedy, Port of Morrow, who will speak on the "History of Irrigation Development in Northern Morrow County;" Quentin Bowman, State Water Resources Board, "Timeliness of Irrigation Districts," and Darrell Learn, State Engineer's Office, "A Comprehensive Irrigation Development Plan for Northern Morrow County."

Carl Hush, Bureau of Reclamation, is also one of the

speakers and will take part in the panel discussions.

A highlight of the business meeting will be the discussion of the feasibility of forming an irrigation district for this part of the county.

The annual financial report, review of 1973 accomplishments and goals for 1974 are contained in a special section published in this issue of the Gazette-Times.

Officers and directors of the MSWCC are: Ken Turner, chairman; Dick McElligott, secretary; Arnold Hoffman, treasurer; Everett Struckmeier, Fred Fredrickson, Rudy Bergstrom and Gary Grieb, directors.

\$1,100 taken

Daylight robbery at local market

Robbers walked into the Court Street Market here Saturday afternoon between 2 and 3 o'clock and walked out unnoticed with approximately \$1,100 in cash and checks, the market's receipts for the previous day.

The theft was discovered about 3 p.m., but it was too late. None of the employees and no customers had noticed the thief—or thieves.

The receipts had been taken from the cash register and placed in a file cabinet in the back room of the store for safekeeping until Monday, when it would have been deposited in the bank.

Besides the owners, Leonard Schwarz and his son, Len Ray, there was one other employee at work in the store at the time of the robbery. Sharon Brace, the cashier, had gone to lunch and had been replaced by Maxine Kolkhorst. The senior Schwarz was working in the meat department and Len Ray was busy in the meat cutting room.

Another employee, who was not working that day but happened to be doing some shopping, remembers seeing three strangers in the store at the time of the theft. However, she paid little attention to them and cannot say whether they were involved or not.

Len Ray Schwarz at first believed the thieves were

persons familiar with the operation of the store, but later was of the opinion that they may have been strangers who opened the file cabinet "out of curiosity" and found the money.

Fortunately, not all the money stolen was in cash. Friday was pay day for many of the Kinzua mill workers and he had cashed a number of payroll checks. Mr. Schwarz asks that any person who cashed a check at his store on

Jan. 25 to please stop payment on the check and notify him as to the amount. This will enable him to determine more correctly the amount taken in the robbery.

City police and the sheriff's department are cooperating on the investigation.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that Thomson Bros. market was burglarized of an undetermined amount of cigarettes, wine and other market merchandise.

New law affects septic tanks

A new set of forms is now available at the office of the Morrow County Planning Commission as a result of procedures specified in SB 77.

Basically, this legislation provides for the transfer of subsurface sewage treatment systems from the supervision of the Health Division, State Department of Human Resources, to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Effective Jan. 1, 1974 a permit is required to construct or repair all septic tank installations within the State of Oregon. Permit fees are set

at \$30 for a new installation and \$15 for the alteration or repair of an existing system. Inspection service will be provided by the district office of the DEQ in Pendleton.

Permit fees will be used to help offset the costs of these inspections.

This is one of the first in a series of requirements included in recent legislation that will have direct effect on local government operations during the next few months, according to Del Smith, Morrow County planner.

Tragedy cancels dinner

A tragedy at sea caused cancellation of the National Farm Organization's crab dinner at the Elks Club scheduled for Jan. 29.

The crab boat, Surfside, which had put to sea from Astoria on Jan. 23 to secure crab for the Heppner dinner, was returning with a full load of crab when it hit a sandbar and capsized.

Of four people aboard, two were lost and their bodies have not been recovered. The survivors are the boat's captain, who broke a window in the cabin and escaped, along with John Schlesner of Hammond, Ore., whose wife, Helen, is a sister of David Baker of Ione and Clarence Baker, Heppner. Schlesner was a passenger on the boat.

The dead are Herbert Whitney, 28, brother of the boat's captain, and his 5-year-old son, Dennis.

Don McElligott of the NFO said the organization's dinner will be rescheduled for February.



Marshall Lovgren will assume the duties of municipal judge and city recorder starting Feb. 1. Lovgren has been employed by the city for the past three years, working with the maintenance crew. He will succeed Elaine George, who is retiring.

Boy Scout Month

Winter survival test for Scouts

Not many people would camp out in the middle of winter and survive off the land, but 20 members of the Heppner Boy Scout Troop 661, along with 150 other troopers in the Oregon Trail District, braved the elements last weekend at Cutsforth Park.

The scouts were participating in the Winter Camporee, held each winter before National Boy Scout Month in February. The scouts came from Hermiston, Boardman, Condon, Echo, Fossil and Heppner.

During the three-day event, scouts learned how to survive in the outdoors in winter. Their program included learning to build a fire with wet wood, how to find and build a shelter, and the techniques of staying warm and protection from winter weather.

John Alfred, Echo scout master, was in charge of the winter program. The scouts were judged on their camping performance, troop site, equipment and its use, and general camping.

Del Piper, Heppner scout master, Herman Winter and Glen Ward, assistant scout masters, and John Goch-nauer, district representative, accompanied the 20 scouts from Heppner.

At last year's camporee held at Bull Prairie Heppner Troop 661 took first place in the Oregon Trail District and second place in the Blue Mountain Council division, which consists of troops from Eastern Washington and Eastern Oregon.

The winter camporee is just one of the many activities in which the Heppner Boy Scouts are involved. Throughout the year the boys attend scout meetings every week and engage in activities centered around camping, sports, community, school and nation. They work toward merit badges and awards in these activities.

Each spring and fall, a banquet is held honoring scouts for their achievements and followed the Oregon Trail. The Heppner Elks Lodge sponsor the Heppner Troop and provide a room for meetings.

The past year, the scouts have been active in numerous camping experiences around Morrow, Gilliam, and Wallowa counties.

In March, the boys retraced the footsteps of their ancestors and followed the Oregon Trail. As the boys backtracked, they marked sites in Juniper Canyon, Wells Springs, Col. Gilliam's grave, and visited an old Indian battleground, an Indian campground, and followed the W.W. Weatherford

marker.

The scouts traveled to Camp Hancock in April and visited the Fossil Beds, studied the geology of the area and earned merit badges and related awards.

Other camping trips included Thorn Creek, Hilton and Alder Creek. In July, 20 members of the troop traveled to Camp Wallowa to participate in a week-long camping excursion.

In November, the Heppner Troop cut down Christmas trees and sold them. The proceeds went toward traveling expenses throughout the year.

"This is the second active year for Heppner Troop 661, and the boys are really enthused with the scouting program," said Herman Winter, assistant scout master. "There is a real need for den mothers for scouts in the area."

Last year we had nearly 200 boys interested in the younger scouting program with only one mother volunteering."

Heppner-Lexington area has the only troop in south Morrow County. In Ione, there is a need for scout leaders before boys can become scouts.

"For the first time, the scouting program is open to girls between ages 11 and 18," said Winter, "but we have no girls in our program at this time."

Heppner's Boy Scouts will be celebrating the 64th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America in February.

(Continued on page 5)

HYDROLOGIST TO SPEAK MONDAY

Dave Bauman, hydrologist with the Portland River Forecast Center, National Weather Service, will be guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon Monday.

That evening he will also speak to the Heppner Common Council.

Bauman will discuss the flash flood warning system being proposed for the City of Heppner.