



The Office on Main St., lone is being rebuilt. Contractor Cliff Aldrich adjusts his string line before adding more concrete blocks.

USDA recovers food stamp funds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that nearly \$4 million in undeposited food stamp funds have been recovered and said all unaccounted for funds would be recovered—or the states billed for any shortages by June 30.

The Department also said it will institute a new system by mid-year that will enable it and the states to more rapidly identify possible fund shortages or late deposit problems.

The Department began a nationwide audit of the food stamp program last October when it discovered irregularities at one of the 14,254 food stamp issuance agents outlets around the country. These agents, who sell food stamps

to people who qualify for the program are selected by the states. They fall into four general categories: (1) post offices (2) government offices, usually county welfare offices (3) banks, and (4) other places, primarily credit unions, private businesses and so-called check cashing centers, which are often controlled by banks. As these agents take in money on food stamp purchases (the "purchase" requirement that program participants must pay), they are required by regulations to send this money to a federal reserve bank whenever (1) they accumulate \$1,000, (2) on a weekly basis, or (3) in any case, to clear their books by the end of each month.

A special task force of

auditors began checking the records of the agents except for the 2,115 post office centers which are reviewed periodically by postal auditors. The task force quickly established that the records of more than 10,000 of the agents were in apparent order. It also found that about 1,300 of the agents apparently were not following proper deposit requirements. About 1,000 of these, however, were minor instances of not depositing small amounts of funds for a week or more. The agents usually had the funds in separate food stamp accounts. Administrative action is being taken to get these agents in compliance with the program provisions.

Oregon Lung submits budget

The Eastern Region Council of the Oregon Lung Association, composed of nine counties, recently submitted a proposed 1976-77 budget of \$36,833 to the State OLA Program and Budget Committee for ratification and incorporation into the overall state OLA budget.

Representing Morrow County on the Eastern Council are Justine Weatherford, Heppner and Delpha Jones, Lexington. Delpha Jones is also a representative director for the Eastern Region Council to the State Board of Directors. She will represent the Eastern Region Council with Franklin W. Patterson, Baker at the next OLA Annual meeting in Portland at the Sheraton Hotel, April 29-30.

Morrow County residents benefit each year from the health educational efforts of the Lung Association funded by the Annual Christmas Seal Campaign. As of Feb. 27, a total of \$447,330.59 had been received statewide through the generosity of Oregon contributors to the 1975-76 Christmas Seal Campaign which ends officially March 31.

The Christmas Seal Breathmobile provides free pulmonary function tests in Morrow County annually and will be giving the breathing tests again this fall at a date later to be announced via the Heppner Gazette-Times.

The Lung Association recently provided Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Heppner the use of a Video-Cassette playback unit and along with COMED (Council of Medical Education and Development) provided various medical education cassettes requested by medical personnel of the hospital. The Lung Association purchased the Video playback units for the eastern region a year and one-half ago to offer a valuable continuing education tool for medical personnel

particularly in rural settings such as in eastern Oregon where attending conferences and seminars require extensive travel and time. The people in the communities benefit most by the medical personnel's opportunity to keep up with modern, ever-changing medical information. Video education will continue on a year around basis.

The Lung Association works throughout the year to reach school children at all grade levels with literature on respiratory health and the effects of cigarette smoking and air pollution on ones health. The Lung Association is constantly answering requests from school teachers and youngsters for health literature, films, slides, posters, displays and other teaching and learning aids.

Some activities scheduled for this year in addition to the above mentioned include pro-

grams dealing with nonsmokers rights, Youth Alert Programs in Schools, Health Fairs, County Fairs, Asthmatic Christmas Seal Camp for Children, Emphysema patient Self-Help Programs, and a Respiratory Care Symposium.

Although tuberculosis is no longer the overwhelming threat to ones survival it used to be, a continued vigilance is absolutely necessary to control the tubercule bacilli, and the Oregon Lung Association is dedicated to promoting professional education on TB. Modern Management principals as TB patients are cared for at home or in general hospitals.

The Oregon Lung Association's Eastern Region thanks all who gave to this year's Christmas Seal Campaign and welcomes suggestions from all Morrow County residents as to how OLA can better serve the respiratory health needs of the county.

SAND HOLLOW SUB MAINTENANCE

Columbia Basin Electric took a scheduled interruption at the Sand Hollow substation March 5 to do some needed maintenance work on the regulator by-pass equipment. They also replaced insulators in the substation.



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