

At Boardman, Irrigon

New classrooms readied

Two expectant area schools are patiently awaiting the arrival of quadruplets and octuplets.

Riverside High School, Boardman, and A.C. Houghton, Irrigon, are in their final stages of new classroom construction. By Dec. 1 and Feb. 1, respectively, the additions are expected to open their doors to the wave of overflow

students in the two institutions.

Riverside's four new classrooms could handle another 100 students at 25 people per room. The eight rooms being built at A.C. Houghton will make it possible for that elementary school to accommodate 425 students. Its present enrollment is set at 350 students, in the kindergarten through sixth grades.

Aside from strictly classroom purposes, the Irrigon school will also be incorporating into its new wing a speech and hearing room, special reading room, two storerooms and two restrooms. Two third grade classes of 44 students have been combined with two teachers until facility completion. The same situation holds true with 48 fourth graders.

Fifth and sixth grade classes are housed in the original A.C. Houghton school built in 1918. The newer school was built next to it in 1962 with another addition in 1962 of an

office area, library, two classrooms and a cafeteria. Bursing at the seams, principal Mick Tolar moans, "We really needed this (the new addition). We're in worse shape than many as far as needing space."

Bob Smith, an Ontario, Ore. architect, designed both new school wings. "When Riverside's building was initially constructed by the Corp of Engineers," according to Riverside principal, Dan Daltoso, "it was built to repel sound." A need felt due to the sonic booms which frequented the

area in the 1960's. The original building is a double-brick wall construction which is considerably more expensive than the route chosen for the new east wing. Today the original building would cost approximately \$80 per square foot. The addition is brick with a wood frame.

Its acoustic advantages will not be equal to the old building. "But it didn't cost as much either," said Daltoso. The original Riverside building is also capable as serving as a shelter in case of national emergency.

Fire district asks station

The Boardman Rural Fire District board agreed last Thursday to ask voters for a \$65,000 bond issue to purchase land and construct a new fire station on it.

Election was set for Jan. 11.

Three rural fire department vehicles stored at the city fire station for a \$450 yearly rental fee must sit outside due to lack of space. Because of freezing weather conditions the water stored in the trucks must be drained to avoid damaging the tanks.

"A lot of good a fire truck is with no water in it," commented Boardman Assistant Fire Chief Carroll Donovan.

State law requires the minimum amount of water taken to a fire to be no less than 4,000 gallons. The situation has left the rural fire department considerably short with only one 1,500 gallon truck stored inside.

To be built within the city limits, the floor plan of the proposed station would be the same as the one already standing in Echo. A few changes would be included in the Boardman station: a larger meeting room, smaller kitchen, a few more doors and lowering the ceiling in the office and kitchen for more storage space overhead. The

firemen also plan to offer the station as a ballroom facility for community dances.

A definite plus for the community, were this station built, is the fire insurance factor. "In order to be covered by fire insurance, a structure must be within a five mile limit of the fire station. By building this station it would enable many people, now excluded, to be listed within the district," said Donovan. For residents living on the edge of the district, board member Delmer Hug said, "If they don't feel they are getting adequate protection they can petition out of the district if they want to." In doing this the resident would no longer have to pay a fire insurance premium.

The firemen feel this new rural station is urgently needed. In order to keep equipment in proper working condition, the housing problem is vital. In maintaining a low insurance rating the equipment must be kept in good shape. Weathering is another factor that will cost the taxpayer money in the long run as corrosion is much more active outside than inside. Purchase of new equipment is an expensive alternative.

Farm-City banquet Fri.

Honor will abound Friday night.

The annual farm-city banquet, set for 7:30 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge in Heppner Friday, will be the scene of numerous awards, presentations and honors.

The dual purpose awards night for the city will include farm awards in 4-H and Future Farmers of America for youth, Oregon Steer Merit Certificates, the Cattleman of the Year.

The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce will also present two awards. One is an improvement type award for a business that improves the climate of the area. In the past, these awards have gone to Gardner's, Peterson's Jewelry, and the Lebusch Shoppe for their remodeling; Kinzua Corp. for the construction of the veneer plant.

Also presented will be a community service type award. Delvin (D.O.) Nelson was awarded this for his work in the potato industry's progress in the county; Randall Peterson for his work with the chamber and rodeo; to Orville Cutsforth on more than one occasion for community service; and to Mrs. Duvall for her contribution of the ambulance and the establishment of the library and museum.

Along with the two chamber awards, 23 Morrow County 4-H and FFA youth will receive

awards for the top quality beef they produced and exhibited at the 1976 Morrow County Fair.

The five top carcasses will receive cash awards. The top carcass winner this year is Tim Daly, who exhibited a 1,068 pound cross-bred steer in the FFA division. JoLynn Daly had the second place carcass, followed by Chris Rauch, Wayne Huwe and Sally Sumner. The cash awards to these people are sponsored by the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association and Frank Anderson.

Twenty-five beef exhibitors will receive Oregon Steer of Merit Certificates. Steer of Merit winners were JoLynn Daly, Mary Daly, Tim Daly, Dawn Peterson, Kryn Robinson, Matt Clark, Carol McElligott, Vincent McElligott, Ralph Morter.

Chris Rauch, Jay Hays, Wade West, Scott Acock, Bill Van Schoiack, Kathleen Van Schoiack, Mike Conklin, Pat Clark, Wayne Huwe, Ann Van Schoiack, Sally Sumner, Matt McElligott, Elizabeth McElligott, Donald Richards, Michelle McElligott, Jerry McElligott.

The farm-city banquet follows an afternoon and evening of the 27th annual meeting of the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association. Other stories concerning the day's events are in this paper.

Grazing fees stay same

Grazing fees in 1977 for cattle, horses and sheep on National Forests in 11 contiguous western states and all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, will be held at their 1976 levels, rather than increased.

This action covers most of the western states, except where competitive bidding is used to establish fees, and is

required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Bureau of Land Management Organic Act) enacted Oct. 21.

Announcement of the fee proposal is scheduled to be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the Nov. 29 Federal Register after which revised regulations will

be published. In addition, revised regulations will soon be published by the Department of Interior.

Fees on these National Forests will remain at an average of \$1.60 per animal unit month, as they were in 1976. (An animal unit month is the grazing of a mature cow, horse, or five sheep for one month.) The new fee year starts Mar. 1, 1977.

CBEC franchise renewal studied

A franchise renewal for Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative could cause a few blackouts in the Heppner common council if the two bodies don't come to an agreement before the franchise expiration in February.

A 50 year franchise runs out on February 1 for CBEC and the city of Heppner. The two bodies are studying a different franchise proposal, other than another 50 year shot.

And, because Heppner needs additional revenues, the city is asking that the franchise tax be upped to 3 per cent instead of the 2 per cent that has been in effect for many years.

Jim Rogers and Robert Jones, councilmen, met with CBEC manager Dave Harrison recently to discuss a new franchise.

Correspondence from CBEC was reviewed, showing the rate structure prior to 1972 when the street light rates were reduced and showing the comparative rate structure and franchise tax relationship.

Rogers stressed the need the city has for additional revenues, according to a committee meeting statement prepared and read at the Heppner common council Monday. The Coop position of passing any increase above 2 per cent was also discussed.

Jones and Rogers favored a 3 per cent franchise tax by a normal franchise tax ordinance even if the Coop added it on to the billing for Heppner customers.

And that's exactly what the Coop has in mind, according to Harrison.

Harrison said a renewal in Condon in 1972 did not raise the franchise tax and that Lexington and Ione had not entertained a franchise tax increase either.

The committee did suggest that the term of agreement be set at 25 years with an option of review every five years from the date of adoption.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney told the rest of the council Monday that if CBEC decided to raise street light billing to pay for the franchise tax, that it would be "unfair."

"If they're going to do it," Sweeney said, "they should do it to everybody."

The Coop does not pay any other taxes and gets fire police and fire protection, Sweeney said.

CBEC paid \$3,166 in building ad valorem tax to the city of Heppner this year, according to Harrison. He said CBEC also pays a gross revenue in lieu of ad valorem to the state.

Sweeney also said he favored a reduced time span so as not to "strap the city till the year 2000."

Harrison said any franchise tax over the regular 2 per cent would be shown as a bill back on Heppner residents' light bills.

In a letter to Jim Rogers, chairman of the city franchise committee, Harrison said the form of agreement is basically

City favors 3% franchise tax. CBEC favors long standing 2%

the "same as was approved by the city of Condon in 1972," except the term was set at 25 years.

"There has been some misunderstanding in reference to the franchise tax," Harrison wrote, "that is paid the city. This tax is not part of the franchise agreement and is covered in a separate ordinance."

Harrison wrote further that "the Coop board has been of the opinion that it would be unfair for the entire membership to pay for the tax applied for the benefit of only a portion of the membership. Therefore, they have a policy that any future assessments of franchise tax would be passed on (indicated as extra billing) to the members concerned."

Harrison also said that the board feels the present rate

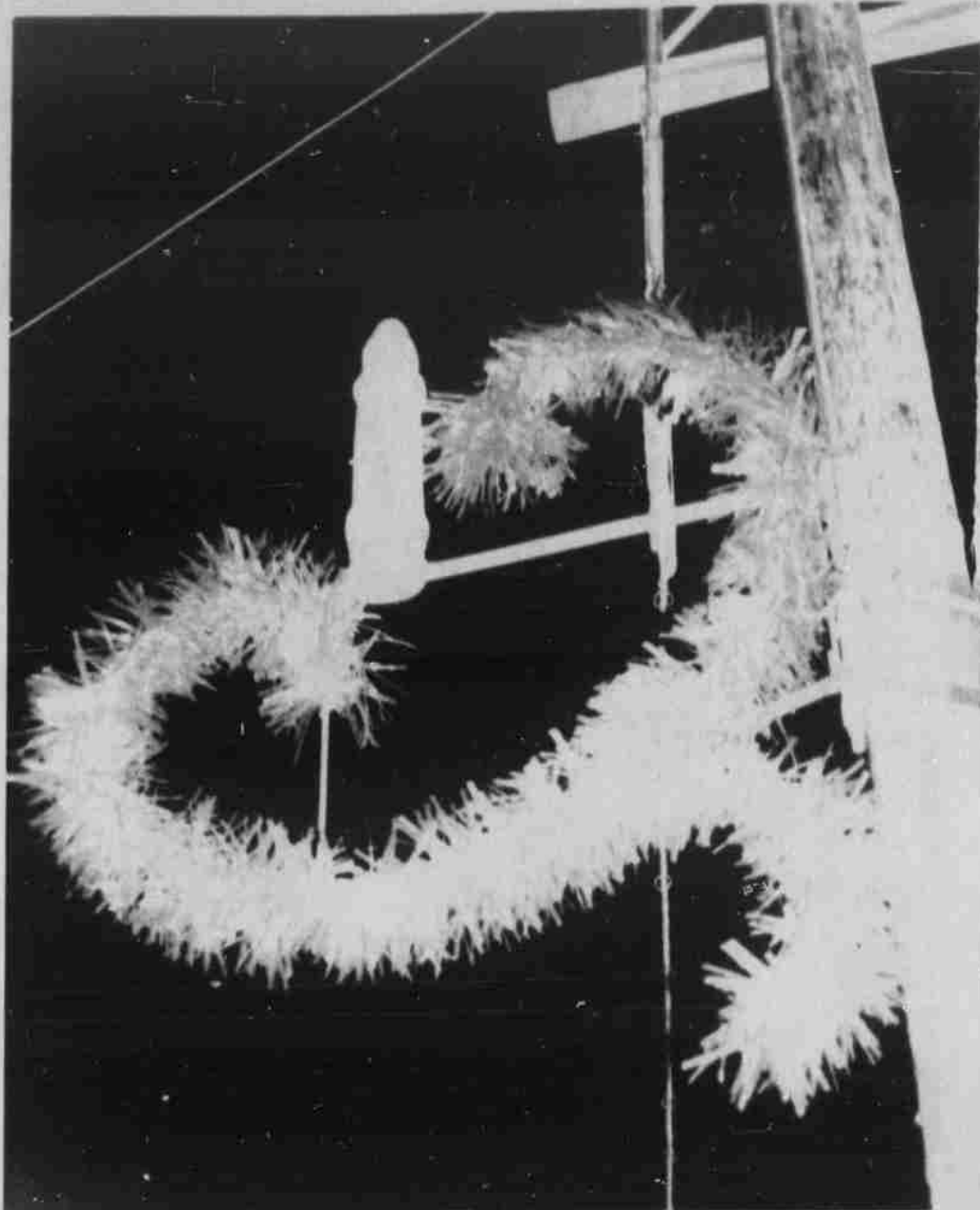
structure "effectively more than offsets the comparative relationships to a higher franchise tax and higher rates."

"I was of the opinion," he wrote, "that the rate reduction given the cities in Oct. 1972 was strong evidence of the interest of the cooperative in holding down costs for operation of the cities served. It is remarkable that the present rate structure is less than the first adopted by the Coop more than 25 years ago."

A comparison study also sent, noted that CBEC rates were lower than those at Pacific Power and Light.

The study showed that the reduction from 1972 lowered the billing rates by 29 per cent and that present rates, compared to PP & L, were 45 per cent lower through CBEC.

The two bodies, CBEC and the council, have until February 1 to agree on a franchise tax and term of years.

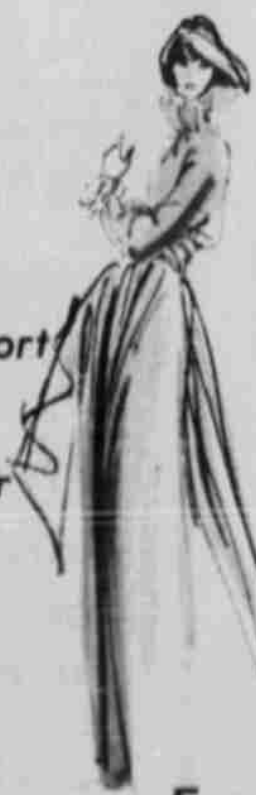


Heppner has new Christmas street lights this year. The lights were bought from The Dallas. Also, a large spruce tree will be decorated. (G-T Photo)

Long Dresses
By
Miss Shadeen
and
Mr. Fine
Lebusch Shoppe

Check your list for Holiday buying

- Ladies
- Slacks & Jackets
- Blouses
- Dresses-long & short
- Jumpsuits
- Sweaters -pullover or cardigan
- Coats
- Robes & Gowns
- Accesories-gloves, purses, scarves
- Juniors & Girls
- Slacks, Jeans-Cords, Gaberdines
- Sweaters
- Knit Tops
- Dresses-long or short
- Jumpsuits
- Blouses
- Gowns & Robes



Free X-Mas Wrapping
Lay-A-Way Now
Colas HOUSE-FASHION
Heppner 676-9426

BMCC offers G.E.D. testing

Persons in Morrow and Umatilla counties who have not received a high school diploma can now take the G.E.D. test in one of four cities outside of Pendleton.

Sponsored by Blue Mountain Community College, the program is designed for persons living in Morrow County or the Hermiston, Milton-Freewater or Mission areas and who cannot get to the BMCC campus for the tests.

The G.E.D. test, divided into five segments, is a General Educational Development Test and is considered the equivalent to the High School diploma. The test is required by many employers, colleges

and universities. Subjects covered by the tests are English, Social Studies, Science, Literature and Mathematics. A small fee, now \$3, is charged by the state for the full series.

The tests will be given in Heppner at the Neighborhood Center, at 7 p.m. Thursdays by appointment. Appointments should be made at the Heppner Adult Education Center.

Tests in the outlying centers will be administered by Jeni Salisbury. Tests will continue to be given on the Blue Mountain Community College campus between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.