

Teachers move toward contract settlement

Contract talks are proceeding smoothly in the Morrow County School District. Teachers have completed 85 to 90 per cent of the non-economic areas in their 52-page negotiating packet. They now hope their goals don't start dying on the vine once the sessions turn to money.

Teachers are asking for a 12 per cent salary increase. The school board has offered them

4 per cent. "Statewide advice to school boards has been to stick to the national average of 4 per cent," said Marshall Hesla, A.C. Houghton chairman for the teacher negotiating team.

"What's mainly wrong with that is that people in this area are not living on the national average. We're primarily above."

Negotiations were schedul-

ed to conclude at the end of January.

Don Adams, A.C. Houghton, chairman for the classi-

fied staff, feels negotiations are probably farther along than the teacher's. The 5 per cent salary increase proposed

by the board has come under particular scrutiny of the classified people.

"In comparing our salaries

with the same jobs in other businesses, we're finding that we're underpaid," stated Adams. Some of the 52

classified Morrow employees feel "they have reached the end of their salary steps," said the A.C. Houghton custodian.

"After you (a custodian) have been here 10 years, you have reached the end of your steps for base salary." A Wednesday night's session was to start off with a counter-proposal from the board to the following classified proposal:

- Secretaries—25 per cent plus cost of living increase;
- Teacher's aide—25 per cent plus cost of living increase;
- Cooks—20 per cent plus cost of living increase;
- Custodians—15 per cent plus cost of living increase;
- Bus Drivers—\$20 more per month plus cost of living increase;
- Activity bus driver—\$3.50 more per month plus cost of living increase.

Irrigon sewer project clouded

Irrigon's sewer project has hit a snag. What agency is going to supply the thousands

of dollars necessary to cover the cost?

Much of the grant-funded facility plan for exploring alternate methods of sewer water disposal is completed. City Engineer Val Toronto, Pendleton, has worked up three alternated plans for sewage disposal despite the uncertain funding outlook. Plan number one, costing

an estimated \$851,575, proposes to purify the water and drain it back into the Columbia River.

The second plan involves a sprinkler irrigation system for treated water that would also be returned to the Columbia. It would carry a \$939,000 price tag.

Third alternate, the most costly plan, suggests a sprinkler system method for use in sprinkler irrigation. That design would cost \$1,107,250. Public hearing on these proposals is set for Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in A.C. Houghton

Elementary School, Irrigon. Resident decision on one of the plans will then be made as a grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Quality. If one of those agencies agrees with the plan for the most effective cost it will fund 75 per cent of various portions of the cost.

"We're going to push for alternate one," said Irrigon Mayor Vernon Stewart. That plan can be implemented on the site using one acre of land. Alternates two and three

would have a more adverse environmental effect, taking up 10 to 18 acres for a settling pond.

The remaining 25 per cent of the total cost will have to come from city funds, possibly a levy. Property for either plan will have to be negotiated from the Walla Walla Corps of Engineers. The proposed land is located northeast of Irrigon.

Boardman women plan speaker for Feb. meeting

"Hearts and Flowers" will be the theme for the Boardman Christian Business and

Professional Women's Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the

Boardman Grange Hall.

Mrs. Reata Horney, a worker with young people at the Circle H Youth Ranch in Madras, will be the guest speaker. The Riverside High School will perform with special music under the direction of Mr. Rick Bateman.

One of the special features for the evening will be a program by Erin Evans who will demonstrate various ways of recycling denim.

All ladies are cordially invited to the meeting and may make reservations by calling one of the following numbers: 481-4685, 676-5869, 454-2613.

Irrigon news

James Wilson who is employed by the Dept. of Agriculture has returned to his home in Hermiston after working for a few months in Ontario. He and his daughter Randi were guests of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wilson in Irrigon, on Christmas Day.

Women hold observance day

Thursday, Jan. 27, at noon, the United Methodist Women in Heppner, along with over one million women in the 50 states, will observe an annual Day of Prayer and Self-Denial.

Anyone wishing to partake in this special observance should come to the church basement with a sack lunch as close to 12:00 as possible.

The program, provided by the Board of Global Ministries, will be followed in a

shortened form, as the complete program takes three hours, and the service here will end before 1 p.m.

The U.M.W. is cancelling its Feb. 2 regularly scheduled monthly meeting because of this additional service and because of the illness of several members.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday evening, Mar. 2, at 7:30 in the church basement.

FFA holds speaking contest

The Heppner chapter of Future Farmers of America will hold a local, public speaking contest Wednesday, Feb. 2, at Heppner High School.

The 7:30 p.m. contest will feature students from the area who will write and present a six to eight minute dissertation on any agricultural subject.

Winners will represent this area at the district contest in Pendleton on Feb. 12.

Elks Calendar

Wed. Jan. 26
Pinochle 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. Jan. 27
Lodge 8 p.m.

Friday Jan. 28
Happy Hour 5-7 p.m.
Dinner 6:30-8 p.m.
Billy Nichols

Sat. Jan. 29
Billy Nichols
9-2 a.m.
Live Music

Wed. Feb. 2
Pinochle 7:30 p.m.

Heppner B.P.O.E.

Kinzua news

Dave and Sue Mattison and daughters, Jodi and Robin, went to Odell on Friday evening to visit with two former Kinzua families now living in Odell. The Mattisons spent Friday night at the Herb Luper home. Saturday, the Ken Sewell family, now living in the Portland area, arrived to spend some time with their former neighbors. Dave and Sue and girls spent Saturday night and Sunday with Grady and Margeret Rogers. Old friends in the area will be glad to hear that Grady is feeling better after a bout of lung trouble.

Earl and Carol Norris went to John Day on Saturday to take care of some business.

Laura Hire went to Hermiston Monday for a Home Interior meeting.

Jill and Kris Wood, young children of Bart and Yvonne Wood, Baker, have been in Kinzua visiting with their grandparents, Henry and Hallie Spivey, while Yvonne is

recovering from surgery. Hallie and Bonnie Campbell will take the two children to John Day Tuesday to meet their parents for the trip to Baker.

Mel Bailey and Bonnie Campbell accompanied Hallie Spivey and her grandchildren to Bend Friday where they visited with Hallie's daughter and son-in-law, Rainy and Curt Harrison and their son, Shad. Following the visit and a medical appointment, the group returned home.

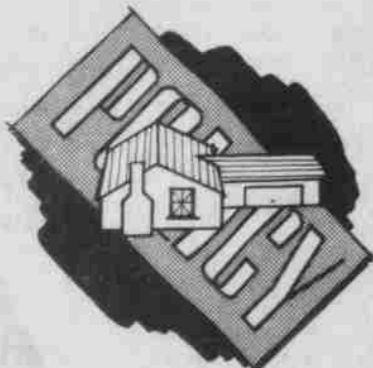
Spending the weekend at the home of Chuck and Melba Mitchell was her father, Robert Reid, Hermiston, and Melba's niece, Marla Wilson and infant daughter from Umatilla.

LDee Larangel was visiting this weekend at the home of his parents, Louis and Betty Larangel. LDee went back to Hermiston Sunday evening.

Robert Misener, Bend, and Steve Conlee went to Lexington on Sunday to take care of some business.

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"Hearing Loss is not a sign of Old Age"

Electronic hearing tests will be given by the Beltone Hearing Aid Service office at the Northwestern Motel, Friday, Feb. 4, 12-6 p.m.

Factory trained hearing specialists will be at the Northwestern Motel, Heppner, to perform the tests.

Anyone who has trouble hearing or understanding is welcome to have a test using the latest electronic equipment to determine if his loss is one which can be helped. Some of the causes of hearing loss will be explained and diagrams of how the ear works will be shown.

Everyone should have a hearing test at least once a year if there is any trouble at all hearing clearly. Even people now wearing a hearing aid or those who have been told nothing could be done for them should have a hearing test and find out whether the latest methods of hearing correction can help them hear better.

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