

Dismal report says water scarce for Buttercreek farms

Of the estimated 20 farms in the Butter Creek area, probably two will be receiving irrigation water for the upcoming season.

This dismal report comes from Tony Holcomb, deputy water master, Pendleton. "So many things can happen, though," said Bill Gilbert, irrigation district manager for Stanfield, West Extension and Westland irrigation districts. Gilbert said he preferred not to elaborate on what those things were.

But even a record snowfall in the mountains couldn't make up the needed water, according to Holcomb.

McKay Reservoir is 80 per cent below its normal water intake. Last year at this time the Umatilla River was running at 800 second feet. Presently the flow is 100 second feet.

At the end of the 1976 irrigation season, Oct. 1, the reservoir held 11,000 acre feet of water. As of Feb. 1, the measurement had risen to 13,500 acre feet. "That's just

2,500 acre feet since October," said Gilbert.

Stanfield and Westland irrigation districts take water out of the Umatilla River and McKay Reservoir. The West Extension District is served from the Umatilla River at Three Mile Dam. "If Westland had to go on strictly reservoir water, I would estimate an 8 to 14 day supply," said Gilbert.

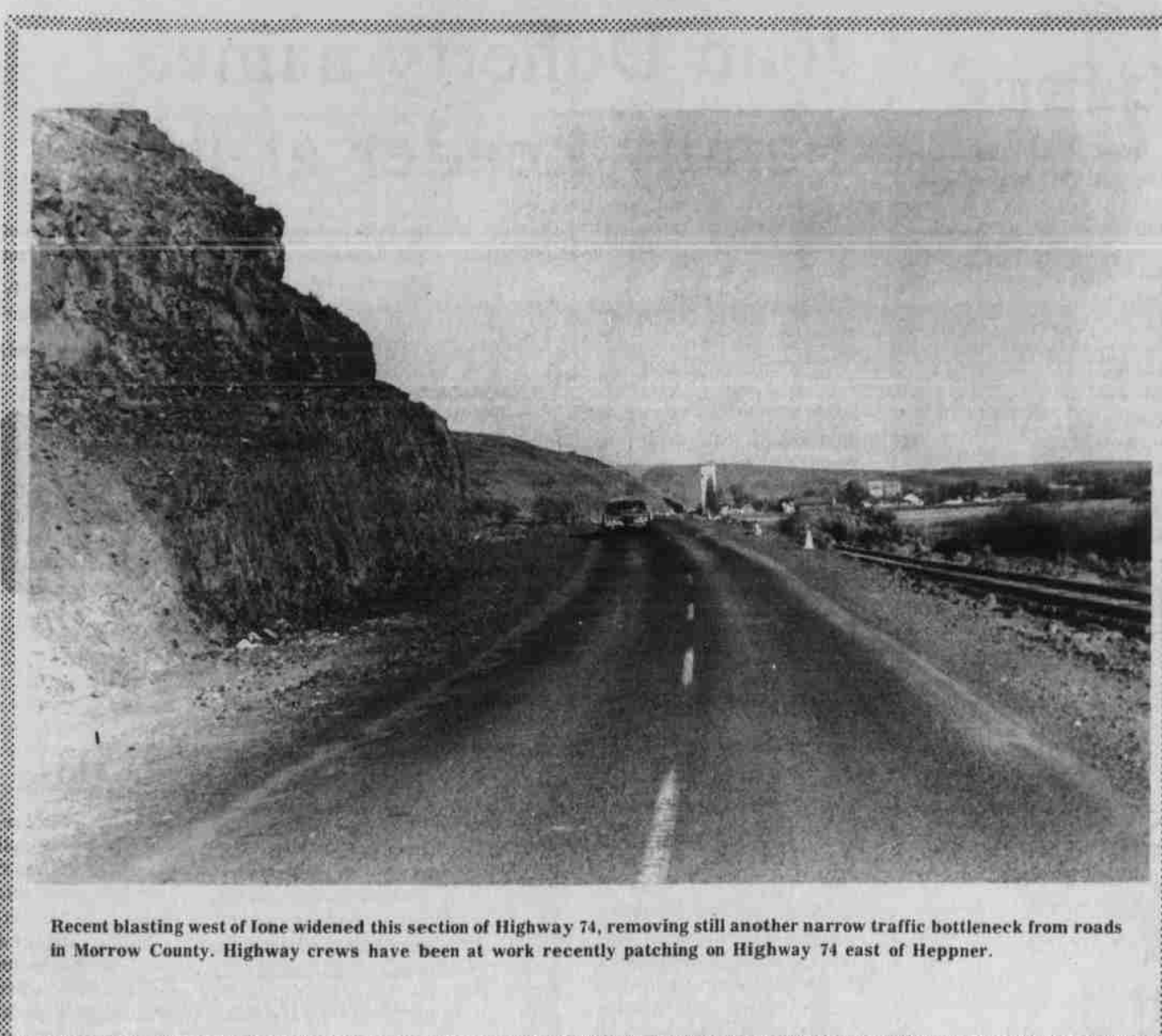
Farmers are frequenting the Stanfield office with inquiries about the water outlook. They are asking for

advice on what crops to plant. "It's pretty hard when you can't tell them," stated Gilbert.

"I just wish farmers would start planning now," notes Holcomb. "I wouldn't recommend putting on a lot of fertilizer."

Water distribution is handled among irrigation district members on a water right date priority system. Between the three districts 750 land-

owners share the district's water resources. Their combined acreage makes up 24,000 acres.



Recent blasting west of Ione widened this section of Highway 74, removing still another narrow traffic bottleneck from roads in Morrow County. Highway crews have been at work recently patching on Highway 74 east of Heppner.

Feb. 28, Mar. 1, 2

Community theatre sets auditions

Auditions for 19 parts in the first production of the Heppner Community Theatre will be held at the high school cafeteria Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 28, Mar. 1 and 2, at 7 p.m., according to Connie Lewiston.

Selected by the reading committee of the new community theatre group is "You Can't Take It With You" for the first production. The play is a three act comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, she said.

Martha Matthewson of Heppner will direct the play. The cast of seven women and 12 men will be announced following the Mar. 2 session of auditions.

Tentative performance dates are Thursday and Friday, Apr. 14 and 15. The play is set in a house near Columbia University in the Manhattan borough of New York. The comedy centers around the varied interests of a hyperactive family whose members pursue projects ranging from the arts to the manufacture of fireworks. The cast is comprised of the

parents and two daughters, grandfather, the husband of one of the daughters and the fiancé of the other daughter. Other cast members include the maid and her boyfriend, a delivery man who has been living with the family for years and many assorted friends, including a ballet instructor and a duchess from Russia.

All of the 19 parts sparkle with comedy in the Hart and Kaufman style. The play takes place against a background of history in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

The production offers an opportunity for actors who can portray parts with age ranges from 20 plus to 60 plus.

About 15 people have shown an early interest in launching the Heppner Community Theatre. Michele Portmann, high school math instructor, has been instrumental in initial organization.

Marsha Matthewson holds a degree in theatre from Pacific University, Forest Grove. She has a varied background in community theatre. (See related feature on Page 4.)

School budget info organization plan studied

Information in school budgets can be organized into more meaningful formats and summaries as a way to increase public understanding, an Oregon State University Survey Research Center publication reports.

The improved formats include a clear presentation of revenue sources as well as a meaningful description of operating expenses grouped by activities that are important to people. Inclusion of salary breakdowns by classes of occupations within the school system, for example,

was cited in the OSU study as a particular improvement.

Authors of "Public Preferences for School Budget Formats" are Robert G. Mason, professor of sociology, and G. David Faulkenberry, associate professor of statistics.

Oregon law presently specifies minimum requirements for financial summaries, the specific items to be included and the years to be covered. Budget summaries are printed in local newspapers from 15 to 25 days prior to a budget hearing, which is held before a budget election.

The requirement that schools must publish an operating budget was intended, in part, to promote greater public understanding of a school's financial situation, the two researchers point out. The budgets presented for public perusal are often so complicated and hard to follow, however, that understanding is hampered, public surveys have shown.

Public preferences for three school budget formats were tested in the OSU survey. One format was the one presently

employed by almost all districts: a second was a Planned Program Budgeting effort developed by the superintendent of Salem public schools; and the third was a format developed by a group of Medford civic leaders.

The 617 Oregon adults surveyed gave top preference rating to the Medford format; second to the Salem format; third to the traditional format. Adoption of either the Salem or Medford formats also would result in a publication cost saving to the school district, it was noted.

Couples attend convention

Shirley and Dean Connor and Phyllis and Gene Cole will be in Portland from Sunday through Thursday next week. Dean and Gene will attend the Region 3 Woodworkers' Union Convention.

These men were chosen delegates from local 3-312 at Kinzua Mill here.

Surprise anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Magill, Pendleton, and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Robinson, Arlington, hosted their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Creston Robinson, to a surprise anniversary dinner at the Sky Room, Pendleton, on the occasion of their thirtieth wedding anniversary. Following dinner, the group went on to Indian Hills for dancing and entertainment.

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Cooper, McLaughlin named Elk's 'Valuable Students'

The Heppner Elks Lodge, B.P.O.E. 358, has named two Heppner students for top awards in the annual Elks'

Koflar, contest committee chairman, said.

Second place in the girls' division went to Vicki Ed-

receive \$400 and a trip to the district contest in La Grande this Sunday, Feb. 27. Second place is awarded \$200 and third place \$100.

There were no second and third place finishers among the boys. There were nine girls entered in the contest.

"Basis of the selection is scholarship, leadership and need," Koflar said. The contest awards are used for continuing education. Entry in the annual contest is open every February to any senior student in Ione or Heppner high schools.

Koflar said the Elks were assisted by Vi Lanham and Gordon Meyers, who in turn assisted students in submitting entry packets for the contest.

Committee members for the contest were Koflar, Jim Swanson, Ione, Jerry Martin,

Ione, Eddie Gunderson and Mike Sweeney, both of Heppner.

Enroll free

Residents of Morrow and Umatilla counties who have reached their 60th birthday may enroll in Blue Mountain Community College free of charge, President Ron Daniels announced.



Steve McLaughlin

Most Valuable Student Contest. Gaining top honors were Steve McLaughlin and Darla Cooper, both seniors at Heppner High School, George



Darla Cooper

monson of Heppner. Third place was a tie between sisters Donna Palmer and Debora Palmer, both of Ione. First place winners will

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