

Gusher...

City Foreman Don Penny told the Times Tuesday that during the night Monday the water main on Morgan Street, near the high school, broke sending about 150,000 gallons of water cascading down the hillside. The force of the water cut a crevice in the soil seven feet deep in places.

## Pool, library snubbed

Last Wednesday's city council meeting left the swim pool and library in a continuing—and apparently permanent—financial limbo for the year beginning July 1.

Both facilities will operate under the current year's budget until June 30, at which time service will be curtailed.

Discussion in recent weeks about "raising" additional monies by turning off every fourth street light was found to be not feasible when it was learned that each light would have a disconnect-charge, eliminating virtually any saving.

A time certificate of deposit amounting to over \$12,000,

that was inadvertently overlooked in previous budget meetings, was split between the street and general funds for regular operations and maintenance. The budget committee had eliminated all street fund monies from the budget after the levy's second defeat.

Councilman Larry Mills voiced what seems to be the only way either the library or swim pool will be kept open... "if revenue for the entire next fiscal year can be raised in full by an interested group by July 1."

The council also adopted a motion by Councilman Hubert

Wilson that in the event of funds becoming available, the library and pool will be treated equally in financing.

The council came up with some money for the water department, meters specifically, by eliminating \$3,599 currently being paid a caretaker to check daily, the city's water wells.

At Councilman Wilson's motion the council also adopted a policy whereby no city vehicle would leave city hall except on official business. In the case of city foreman Don Penny, the council allowed a gas allowance for his personal vehicle until Penny can find living quarters in town.

## New well soon for Ione

The city of Ione will soon be retiring a public servant that has performed an important role in community activities for nearly 25 years. But no gold watch ceremony is planned because the retiree happens to be the city well.

Indications that the present 142-foot well was going dry were first apparent last summer, according to Ione Mayor Robert Drake.

"The well is intended for 300 gallons per minute, but now the pump is screwed down, so we're lucky to get 200 gallons per minute," Drake said.

Realizing the problem, Ione voters passed a \$100,000 bond issue on Feb. 28, to be used for a new well and other water system improvements. The bond passed by a 109-9 margin.

The funds were made available this week and Larry Burd Well drillers of Pendleton has been contracted for the drilling. Work is expected to begin in early June.

"If things go right, we hope to have the new well in operation this summer," Drake said.

Although the contract with Burd calls for a drilling fee of approximately \$19,000, other costs involved include about \$20,000 for 4,000 feet of line, \$25,000 for a new pumphouse and motor and a substantial amount for engineer and lawyer fees.

Drake said the new well will require a rise in water rates for Ione residents. Beginning June 1, present residential rates of \$3 for the first 1,000 gallons and 15 cents for each additional 1,000 gallons will increase to \$6 for the first 1,000 and 25 cents for each additional 1,000. Drake said the

increase is needed to cover the bond interest.

Last fall, the city submitted an application for a federal Public Works grant to finance the new well, but the application was refused.

Drake said the new well is to be located about three feet outside the eastern city limits on property owned by Henry Krebs. An arrangement has been made to supply Krebs with water in exchange for the use of his property.

Plans call for the well to be drilled 450-500 feet and serviced by a pump capable of 500-700 gallons per minute. Once the well is in operation,

the city will be able to spare the 250,000 gallons necessary to fill the swimming pool located at the high school.

Until then, residents will have to get by with the old well. The reduced flow has necessitated watering restrictions for the city. Currently, the city is divided into quadrants with watering limited to one day of the week for each of the four areas.

Throughout the shortage, the city has been able to maintain a full reservoir of 190,000 gallons.

"We've been lucky with the old well," Drake said, "but the time's come for a new one."

## Pioneer picnic here Sunday

The 24th Annual Morrow County Memorial Picnic will take place Sunday, May 29, at the Fairgrounds pavilion, with more than 200 people expected to be in attendance.

The host families—descendants of pioneers Olaf and Erik Bergstrom—said an afternoon of "good fun and fellowship with friends from far and near" is planned.

Following registration, which is handled by the Soroptimist Club, a memorial service will be conducted by Edward Baker, Commander of Heppner Legion Post 87. Gene Rietmann of Ione will present taps.

A group singing of "America, the Beautiful," with accompaniment by Mrs. Ola Mae Groshens will precede introductions and presentation of prizes donated by Morrow County business firms.

A highlight of this year's picnic will be the display of a 25-block historical quilt recently completed, at the museum in Heppner. (Story and photo of the quilt appear elsewhere in this edition of the Gazette-Times.)

The museum will be open Saturday from 10-5, Sunday from 9:30-5 and Monday from 10-5.

# School levy sweeps County, favored by 2-1 vote

By more than a 2-1 margin, county voters have approved a trimmed down version of the Morrow County School District budget.

The levy of \$1,583,886 outside the six per cent limitation in support of a \$3,025,591 total operating budget carried in each of the six voting districts during the Tuesday balloting. Although the total turnout was only slightly higher than the April 19 vote, the result this time was nothing the same. The final tally showed 716 in favor and 330 opposed compared to the earlier count of 466 in favor and 546 against.

"I am pleased it carried in all districts," Supt. Matt Doherty said Tuesday night. "It indicates strong support countywide for the budget."

Strongest support was shown by Boardman voters where the budget carried by a 163-13 margin. Other district totals included: Heppner 217-168 in favor; Ione 121-66; Irrigon 147-29; Lexington 57-51 and Hardman 11-3.

Doherty pointed to the work of individuals and groups such as the Committee for Support of the School Budget Levy which "had a lot to do with the passage."

"Part of the success had to do with the people who worked very hard since the budget was last defeated to get out and inform many of the voters concerning budget matters," he said.

Doherty also said that recent rainfall in the county was a blessing not only to farm crops but also to the school budget.

"The rainfall played an important role. At the time of the last vote many residents were facing a very bleak economic outlook because of anticipated crop failures but now the picture is brighter," Doherty said.

The newly passed version of the budget is nearly \$188,000

lower than the proposal rejected on April 19 and will cost taxpayers about 10 cents per thousand less than the current budget. The reason for the tax cut is the projected county valuation increase of \$25 million in Federal Forest Fees which bring another 67,354 to the district.

Even though the district now has a budget to work with, it is still considerably less than school officials had hoped for.

"We'll have to tighten our belts," Doherty said. "Especially in the areas of supplies, maintenance and repairs."

Doherty said the cutbacks in those areas will put additional

pressure on budgets in upcoming years because of more rapid deterioration from lack of maintenance. But he says that keeping a high quality standard in the personnel area is the district's primary concern.

"One of the things we have been able to preserve is personnel. We had to hold up on filling some positions until we had a budget. Now we're in a better position to fill the openings," he said.

Doherty was pleased with the night's proceedings despite the financial strains ahead.

"I guess we'll get by," he said.

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

VOL. 94, NO. 21

HEPPNER, OREGON

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1977

12 PAGES

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## \$660,672 in permits

# Boardman building up

The city of Boardman has taken in \$660,672 worth of building permits for the month of May, the city council learned Tuesday. That compares with \$2 million for all of 1976.

The 22 permits issued in May covers 15 single family dwellings, one 19-unit apart-

ment complex, two duplexes, a medical clinic, two larger single family dwellings and a commercial building.

The council approved the installation of three new stop signs in the Hillview and Boardman South projects. They will be located at W.

Kinkaid and S. Main, Mt. Hood and Wilson Road and Mt. Adams and Wilson Road.

The council approved a Corps of Engineers' request for release from its relocation contract. The contract was entered into between the city and the government during the relocation of Boardman when the original townsite was flooded by the backwaters of the John Day Dam.

City Manager Jim Thompson announced the city would be going before the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) at St. Helens on June 10 at 11:30 a.m. The appearance will give the city an opportunity to prove its compliance with LCDC goals and guidelines.

Rezoning of 40 acres in the Boardman South project will need another public hearing. Due to an oversight, the proposal was never brought before the council for approval. As a result, changing the farm property to limited residential use will have to be requested again.

"It's just placing it in double

jeopardy," said Thompson. "In my opinion this is needless bureaucracy." The new public hearing was set for June 21, 7:30 p.m. at city hall.

The Boardman Girl Scouts gave two new garbage cans to the city park. Mayor Gerry Peck commended the action of the troop.

## DMV schedule changes

Notice has been received by the City of Heppner that due to budget restrictions, the Oregon State Department of Motor Vehicles is forced to

cancel some travel service. They will not be in Heppner as scheduled on June 15, 1977. Their next visit in Heppner will be on July 13, 1977.

## Memorial holiday

State and federal government offices and most businesses will be closed in observance of Memorial Day next Monday.

The Morrow County museum will be open Monday

between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; however, the adjoining library will be closed.

The Gazette-Times' office will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.

## Ione auction June 4

Plan to attend the Ione United Church of Christ 14th Annual Auction and Bar-b-que June 4, "because the attractions range from pit-cooked beef to a genuine Australian boomerang."

Held at the Willows Grange Hall in Ione, the Country Store opens at 10 a.m., the auction begins at 10:30 and lunch is served at 12:30.

## Historical quilt now on display

By Justine Weatherford

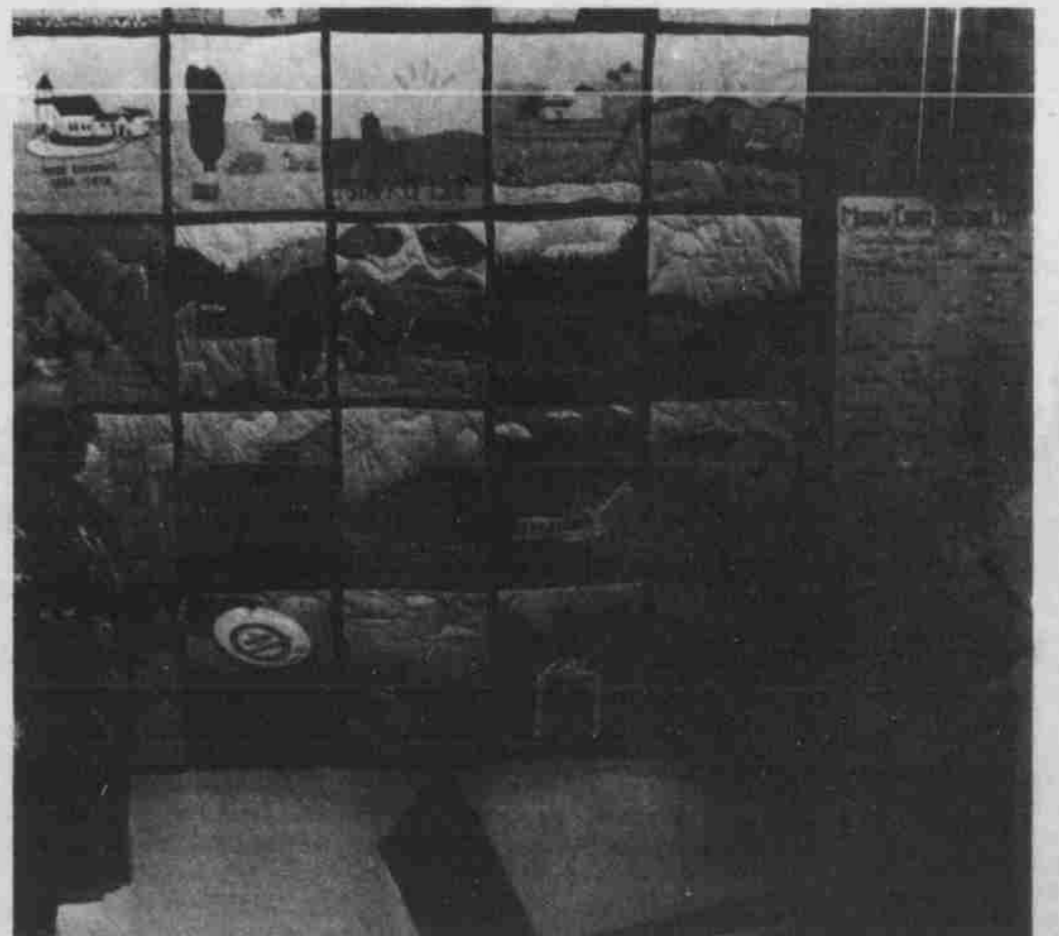
One of the nicest Bicentennial developments in this county is the historical-pictorial quilt created by Mrs. Theta (Bob) Lowe and a good many others. It has now come to its intended, final resting place in the Morrow County Museum.

Heppner residents and the many who will return for the May 29 Pioneer Picnic may visit the expanding museum and see the quilt. Beside it will be a chart which identifies each block. Judy Laughlin, Heppner, made the neat and helpful poster.

The story of the creation and completion of the quilt has been written by Theta Lowe and is near the displayed treasure. The Bicentennial plate, a special award presented at last fall's Oregon State Fair, is also on display.

Rachel Harnett, curator, will be at the museum all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 29, 30 and 31. She welcomes county folks and visitors and speaks with authority of the pioneer times in the county. Her grandparents and parents lived here. She has compiled many facts about county families which she willingly shares.

A special weekend display will feature pictures of the Olaf and Erik Bergstrom families, whose descendants are the hosts for this year's pioneer fathering.



Proud exhibitors

Theta Lowe, standing in front of the historical quilt, holds bicentennial plate won by the quilt as Rachel Harnett, museum curator, looks on. The quilt and plate are now on permanent display at the Morrow County Museum which will be open for public viewing throughout the Memorial Day holidays.