



All the speculation about what kind of crop would be produced in this "year of the drought" is being put to rest as farmers move to the fields for harvest.

Barley and wheat harvest is well underway in the areas north of Lexington and Morrow County Grain Growers General Manager Larry Mills says, "it doesn't look good."

Mills said most farmers in that area are getting about half the yields they normally expect—reaping little more than 10 bushels to the acre this year on wheat. Barley is coming off that good—with about one-third production being the average—about 450 pounds to the acre.

Mills said dryland farmers in that area generally get about 20 bushels to the acre on wheat and between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds of barley.

"As we move farther south the yields will be up a little bit, but still not good," said Mills. Harvest is expected to move into the areas south of Lexington and close to Heppner by the end of this week.

"Even with crop insurance there isn't any way to come out on that kind of production," said Mills.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

VOL. 94 NO. 28 HEPPNER, OREGON THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1977 8 PAGES 15 c

Byrnes seeks hospital funding

With two weeks on the job behind him, Pioneer Memorial Hospital's new administrator Robert Byrnes is moving into the early stages of a process aimed at establishing a health service district to facilitate hospital funding.

The district, with boundaries encompassing Morrow County and parts of both Wheeler and Gilliam Counties, would, according to Byrnes, give the hospital "Complete autonomy and allow us to establish a new tax base." He added it would also clean up the administrative process by removing the county court as another level of management.

"It would be my opinion that to carry out expansion plans we will have to find other funding sources and the district concept is one option," Byrnes said. The establishment of the district arrangement is an involved process and Byrnes estimated it would require a minimum of 10 months.

At present, inquiries have been sent to various community organizations regarding the district possibility. If the response is favorable, Byrnes said the hospital board would proceed in that direction.

"Everyone involved is positively directed toward delivering the best system of health care with the resources available," he said. "Obviously remodeling and expansion has a high priority with us because until we get more space to work with, we are somewhat limited."

Byrnes brings his enthusiasm to Heppner from Lincoln City where he served as administrator of North Lin-



coln Hospital. He has taken up residence in Heppner with his wife Mary and their twin daughters Cindy and Debbie. Cindy is currently attending Lewis and Clark College, majoring in International Affairs and Debbie is attending school at Eastern Oregon State College.

Byrnes has previously served in administrative positions in hospitals in Seattle, Wash. and Anchorage, Ala. He is a delegate to the House of Delegates of the American Hospital Association and a past member of the Regional Advisory Board with jurisdiction over hospitals in the Western states.

Town Hall meet; focus on welfare

Welfare is the topic and public response is the target as the Town Hall Meeting concept comes to Heppner to elicit views on the nation's income maintenance policies. The meeting, entitled "Wages, Welfare or What," is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heppner Elementary School multipurpose room. It is one of 33 similar meetings to be held

across to answer basic questions concerning economic security for Americans.

Cathy Peck, Lexington, the Legislative Affairs Chairman of A.A.U.W., will moderate

the Heppner version of the state-wide Town Halls which are sponsored in the interest of community education, by a broad coalition of business, labor, academic, civic, public interest and social service organizations in Oregon.

In a statement issued by Gov. Bob Straub urging citizens to attend, Straub states, "Social welfare and income maintenance policies are among the most crucial issues facing our country today."

The conclusions drawn from the meetings will be summarized in public opinion surveys and sent to Pres. Carter, the Oregon Congressional Delegation and to special Congressional hearings scheduled for later this summer.

Clearly, something has to be done to overhaul the welfare system before it hauls our country over the brink of financial disaster," Straub said of the spending programs which by 1980 will reach \$550 billion.

A discussion of the problems concerned with economic security, employment and government intervention will follow the film and then participants will have the opportunity to complete the public opinion survey.

Ullman optimistic about Carter

Rep. Al Ullman offered words of praise for the new man in the White House and hopefully a sympathetic ear to the plight of local ranchers during a luncheon held Wednesday, July 6, at West of Willow Restaurant.

"Jimmy Carter has done away with the imperial presidency," Ullman told the crowd of approximately 40 diners. "I talk to him several times a week, and I think his approach is refreshing in this post-Watergate era."

The U.S. representative for Eastern Oregon, on his annual visit to Heppner, called Carter a man who is "strong-minded yet flexible," adding that it is an exciting challenge to work with the man.

"If he does what he proposes, and I think we have a good chance of doing it in eight years, it will be somewhat of a miracle," Ullman said, citing Carter's ambitious programs in the areas of tax reform, welfare reform, energy plan-

ning and government reorganization.

Regarding his work with the House Ways and Means Committee, which he chairs, Ullman said, "This year we're working together as a committee and I'm pleased with the results."

"We're spending a lot of time on problems you have here. We're trying to get a better drought relief program going but the problem is that programs are tailored to the entire country instead of specific regions."

After Ullman's brief address, the floor was turned over to questioners and Don Peterson, president of Oregon National Farmers Association, took the opportunity to read a prepared statement on the current situation faced by cattle and wheat ranchers.

"We are in a crisis situation and we wanted to have a house full of ranchers today," Peterson told Ullman.

"We are alarmed about the current price levels being discussed in the proposed H.R. 7171. The last Oregon State cost study, for this area, places our cost of production at \$4 per bushel, and this is for an above average yield. Obviously, drought conditions raise that cost even higher. Our family farm structure is headed toward oblivion and we don't believe this is what our country wants," Peterson said.

"We ask that parity prices be the goal of congress for agriculture. We ask for a loan tied to the parity calculation, a storage program without mandatory release levels below parity, supply management based on bushel control and payment limitations in the \$20,000 per farmer range to protect the family farm."

Ullman acknowledged the bleak outlook faced by Oregon ranchers but offered no promises or solutions at the time.

Economic development association is formed

Persons interested in the economic growth of Morrow County are invited to attend an organizational meeting of a group being formed to act as a citizen's advisory committee for land use planning.

The Morrow County Economic Development Association (MCEDA) will meet next Tuesday, July 19 at 8 p.m. in

the West of Willow conference room.

Birth of the organization came this week as proponents of a proposed road leading from Portland General Electric's coal-fired generating plant site to Southern Morrow County, met to discuss the road issue.

Beecher Emert, an Ione

businessman who started a petition drive asking for support of the proposed road, told those at a meeting last Tuesday, "The road to Carty is a complex issue...one that needs the input and organization of a group."

The proposed road would cross land Boeing leases from the State of Oregon and would lead to PGE's plant. Boeing officials have expressed opposition to the road.

Emert and a half-dozen other Morrow County residents are seeking to form the MCEDA and have retained the services of Heppner attorney Michael J. Sweeney to draw up articles of association.

The association will have a dues-paying membership; the monies to be used for an

economic analysis of the proposed road, which is the group's first project.

"We're not only looking at the Carty Road deal," said Emert, "but we think this association can continue to work for the economic benefit of Morrow County with the county court, the Chamber of Commerce and all the towns in the area."

The association will elect officers and a board of directors next Tuesday. Emert said the association would be non-profit in nature and would be controlled entirely by the voting membership.

Persons interested in becoming members or who wish more information are urged to attend Tuesday's meeting.

Teacher hiring progresses

With the 1977-78 school year still a month and a half away, Morrow County School District administrators are close to filling all of the 27 vacant teaching positions needed for the fall.

Of the 27 openings, seven are new positions created by enrollment expansion and attempts to equalize educational opportunities around the county. All seven of the new posts will be added to the staffs of A.C. Houghton and Riverside Schools. The remaining hirings were necessitated by six retirements, and 13 resignations.

Assistant Administrator John Edmondson said the number of resignations was a little higher than usual but added that all were attributed to valid personal reasons such as advancement opportunities in other districts.

Eighteen of the teaching contracts have already been accepted and an additional seven have been offered with the district office waiting

return. Administrators are still seeking applicants for the remaining three positions which includes a replacement for Chris Borgen, basketball coach and language arts teacher at Heppner High School last year who recently resigned to take a job at a larger school in Washington.

A breakdown of the vacancies from last year at each of the district schools includes: A.C. Houghton, 8; Heppner Elementary, 7; Ione Elementary, 2; Riverside, 4; Heppner High, 4 and Ione Jr.-Sr. High, 2½.

"Having been involved in quite a bit of the interviewing, I feel we have an excellent group of teachers coming in next year—some beginners and some experienced," Edmondson said.

He added that the district office welcomes applications for substitute teaching positions for the coming year.

Actions taken by the School See.... school page 3

Class of '47 reunion here

The Heppner High School Class of '47 will host a reunion of classmates this weekend with activities planned for Saturday evening and Sunday.

A banquet will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday evening at the Wagon Wheel Cafe & Lounge, in the banquet room. The class will adjourn to live music and dancing in the lounge following the banquet. Friends of the class are invited to join in the evening's dancing.

Sunday a class picnic will be held at Cutsforth Park.

School board to meet July 18

Morrow County School District will hold their first meeting of the new fiscal year on July 18 at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon, the meeting will be at 9 p.m. Prior to the meeting the Board is expected to tour several properties which are being considered as future school sites.

In regular session the Board will select a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Currently John Matthews from Irrigon is Chairman and Pauline Winter from Heppner is Vice Chairman.



Ullman visits here

Congressman Al Ullman and wife Audrey (left) make their way through a crowd that heard the Representative speak

here last week at the West of Willow restaurant. In the inset Ullman makes a point in response to a question from the audience.