

# Boardman Harvest Festival this weekend

Boardman Lions will host the 6th annual Harvest Festival this Saturday and Sunday Sept. 10 and 11. From the Cowboy Breakfast to the boat races and watermelon pitching contest, the celebration is expected to attract more than 1,000 people.

Originally the event was called Spud Days when Jim Havnaer, publisher of the Boardman Beacon, began advertising the upcoming event.

"No one really knew about it," said Earl Trudeau, Boardman Lion. When Trudeau realized that the city wasn't going to do anything to organize the festival, he and three

other people took over the project.

"The city was really committed, so my wife (Lucy), Alice Tatone and Kay Trumbull put together a barbeque, parade and paid for a dance band out of our own pockets," Trudeau recalls.

The Lions Club took over organization of the event the following year and has handled it ever since.

Zearl Gillespie, Boardman resident since 1926, was picked as grand marshal of the parade. Due to illness,

he doubts whether he'll be able to serve in the honorary capacity. He was chosen by the Lions

Club earlier this summer.

No one had been named to replace Gillespie's place at press-time.

Because of a lack of teams, the unique Northwest Watermelon Pitching and Loading Championship may not be held. Rupert Kennedy, event organizer, attributed the shortage of contestants to the time of year.

Most of the students have gone back to school and many of the growers' crews have been released. "So far we just haven't had any luck," Kennedy added.

"But we're still hoping." The melon eating contest for the children is

still on. So is the seed spitting contest if the wind doesn't blow. "Last year, if you spit in one direction, the seeds went clear to Irrigon, and the other way they all came back in your face," Kennedy laughed.

This year's parade court is composed of Boardman and Irrigon girls who competed in a talent contest held this spring. Debbie Denton, Irrigon, a senior at Riverside High School, is the reigning Harvest Festival queen. She is the daughter of Carl and Alice Denton.

Jill Murphy and Julie Hug, both of Boardman, are attending princesses. They are the daughters

of Bob and Mary Ann Murphy and Deimer and Bobbie Hug. Jill was a senior at Riverside last year and Julie is a senior this year.

Last year's festival attracted more than 1,000 spectators. All events will be held at the Boardman Marina Park.

This year's Main Street parade will include floats from the Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Heppner. It will also feature the Walla Walla drum and bugle corp.

Local churches, the Tillicum Club and the Lions will have concession booths at the marina park. The Lions will

also be selling Harvest Festival T-shirts. An afghan, crocheted by Rose Marie Seiger, Irrigon, will be one of the donated items for a public auction from 12 to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Most of the auction items are farm products. All proceeds go back to the Lions' fund for the blind.

Boardman's answer to the Tri-Cities' Gold Cup hydroplane races will fill Saturday and

Sunday afternoons. Beginning at 1 p.m., racers, including contestants from that July competition, will commence chewing up the water at the Boardman Marina.

## Schedule of Events

Day	Time	Event
Friday	8 p.m.	Talent Show at Riverside High School, Boardman, \$1 adults, 75 cents for students. Six years and under are free.
Saturday	6 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Cowboy Breakfast at Greenfield Grange Hall.
Saturday	11 a.m.	Parade
Saturday	1 p.m.	Hydroplane races on Columbia River.
Saturday	2 p.m.	Public Auction at river park north of Boardman.
Saturday	Following auction	Northwest Watermelon Pitching and Loading Championship, seed spitting contest and children's watermelon eating contest. Contestants needed.
Saturday	9 p.m. to 1 a.m.	Street dance at river park.
Sunday	1 p.m.	Hydroplane races.

WEATHER

Day	High	Low
Wed., Aug. 31	67	48
Thu., Sept. 1	76	45
Fri., Sept. 2	81	48
Sat., Sept. 3	79	56
Sun., Sept. 4	88	61
Mon., Sept. 5	78	57
Tue., Sept. 6	79	45

THE Morrow County's award winning newspaper...

# GAZETTE-TIMES

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**BLOOD DRAWING**  
MONDAY, SEPT. 12  
2:30 to 6 p.m.  
ELKS LODGE

## Penney out as city foreman

By Jim Summers

With the unanimous consent of the five council members present, Mayor Jerry Sweeney Tuesday night dismissed City Foreman Don Penney from his city duties.

The decision was reached after more than 45 minutes of discussion on Penney's performance and medical records. The council agreed that the maintenance deterioration in the city of Heppner had reached an emergency situation and called immediately for a working city foreman capable of heavy labor.

Penney has been unable to work for the past month due to a back injury. Tuesday afternoon he told Councilman Hubert Wilson he could possibly return for light work and supervisory tasks but not for heavy labor.

Doctors reports, which included myelogram and brain scan test results, indicated Penney could return to work within two or three weeks. The reports said an initial brain scan performed on Penney showed no damage from the injury or treatment. The reports further showed that Penney refused to appear for the second part of the test.

A workman's compensation claim filed by Penney on July 25 stated the injury occurred May 16 while moving city equipment.

After hearing the doctors information, Councilman Jim Rogers suggested, "We better look very seriously at a replacement."

Sweeney replied that he planned to dismiss Penney at the session, "if I get the consent of the council" as required by city statute.

The mayor began the discussion by stating his decision had "absolutely nothing to do" with Penney's injury. Penney was in the fourth month of an initial six month probationary period.

"The minutes are replete. There are pages and pages..." Sweeney said, referring in part to the complaints received from residents regarding city water service and general maintenance.

The council was split from the start with Warren Plocharsky stating that Penney should not be fired because his "past performance has been satisfactory."

Other councilmen were caught in the middle with Cliff Green saying, "As far as his

work goes, I can't go along with firing him. But we do need a working foreman."

According to Sweeney, Penney's handling of city projects and his subsequent injury had affected other city departments as well as his own.

"The morale of his department is zero and the problem has spilled over into the police department and to the city office," Sweeney said.

Vacationing Police Chief Dean Gilman was unavailable

for comment on police morale but City Recorder Marshall Lovgren said he had received more complaints since Penney's arrival "than any foreman we've ever had."

The city crew was cut in half last week when two CETA summer employees left the crew. With Penney unable to work, city operations have been left entirely to Jim Dile and Chris Healy. Sweeney said the city is already four months behind in general

maintenance, adding that it would be unfair to the residents to get any further behind.

Following Penney's dismissal, Wilson suggested the council look for both a working foreman and another crew member. Sweeney said he had a couple names in mind for the foreman position and he would further check with the individuals as well as any other applicants.

## Serial levy set for Morgan Street bridge

The choice of replacing or abandoning the Morgan Street bridge across Willow Creek was shifted to city voters Tuesday night when the city council agreed to place an \$18,000, five-year serial levy for a new bridge on the ballot.

According to the county assessor's office the levy, if passed, would amount to approximately 30 cents per \$1,000 valuation. The estimate is based on projected city valuation increases at an eight per cent interest rate.

The \$18,000 would be added to the \$103,000 available in

federal and state grant funds for the new bridge. The council opted for a "no frills" version of the bridge rather than the originally designed plan which would have pushed the city's payment portion up to \$30,000.

Council opinion on the Morgan Street bridge was split almost as badly as the rotting beams supporting the present structure. The vote for the levy was 3-2 in favor.

Councilman Cliff Green opposed the move, saying, "\$140,000 is a ridiculous figure for a bridge on Morgan Street over Willow Creek."

Councilman Warren Plocharsky also voted against the levy because he thought the present bridge could be adequately repaired for a fraction of the cost.

The condition of the sagging bridge necessitated some kind of council action—either a commitment to repair or a decision to abandon the span.

"If the city wants to play it safe, the bridge should be abandoned," Mayor Jerry Sweeney said. "We're just holding our breath."

Those voting for the levy pointed to the inconvenience

the restricted bridge is causing for school operations as well as the safety and welfare of those residents at the west end of Morgan Street.

A date for the serial levy has not been set.

## School enrollment jumps to 1,607

Enrollment in the Morrow County School District showed an increase of nearly 100 students over last year as each of the schools except Lone added to their pupil rosters.

According to the district office, the 1,607 students attending Tuesday's first day of classes was "about what was expected" and more student arrivals are anticipated throughout the first week. Last spring, the district schools closed the year with 1,511 students.

Riverside Jr. Sr. High School recorded the biggest

jump as 321 students were present Tuesday compared to last spring's closing enrollment of 276. Second on the increase list was Heppner Elementary where enrollment rose from 432 to 462.

A.C. Houghton broke the 400 mark as 403 students were present after the Irrigon school closed the 1976-77 year with 382.

Heppner High School experienced an 11 student increase over last year's 214.

At lone schools, enrollment dropped to 196 students after counting 207 last spring.

## Millie Yocom buys Jerry's Barber Shop

Three months after setting up practice there, Millie Yocom last week purchased Jerry's Barber Shop on Heppner's Main Street.

Former proprietor Jerry Holloman will be shifting emphasis from head to toe as he returns to the Shoe Box farther up the street.

About the biggest change Millie has in mind for the shop

is a new name—destined to become Millie's Barber Shop. Millie said she would also be doing more hair styling for both men and women. Of course, kids are welcome and the magazines aren't bad either.

Millie came to Heppner in June after graduating from Moler Barber College in Portland.



George Stillman pulls piece of metal banding from "junk pile"

## Water damaged property headache for owner, city

By Jim Summers

Patience isn't paying off for George Stillman.

It's been more than three months since a ruptured city water main ripped a two to eight foot wide gully through his hillside property below Morgan Street near the high school. And at this point he's farther away from having the damage repaired than he was at the time of the rupture.

On May 23, the eight-inch city water line under Morgan Street broke, beginning a 75-minute torrent that came over so close to ruining the newly remodeled basement of a house at the bottom of the hill.

Instead, the 150,000 gallons of water stayed on Stillman's property, inundating his barn floor, corral area, strawberry patch and a portion of pasture are under a layer of silt.

For most of the summer the

gully on the hillside remained untouched as city attorneys and the construction firm responsible for laying the pipe maneuvered to determine which party was at fault.

The city claimed that improper procedures used by the Ray Kenny Construction Co., Ontario, was the cause of the break. Attorneys for Kenny answered by pointing out there was a certified city inspector on the job site who gave his approval of the work. The city engineer who designed the pipe system was also brought into the fray as another possible culprit.

Meanwhile, as the legal bartering continues, Stillman is faced with a non-existent strawberry patch, a useless piece of pasture for this year and possibly next and a deep gully on his hill.

To compound the problem, the city crew last Wednesday dumped into the gully some 300 yards of "fill" consisting mainly of old lumber, scrap

iron, cable, chicken wire and soil approximating the texture of flour. The loads were taken from a refuse pile accumulated by Union Pacific track side cleaning recently.

Stillman was a little miffed, to say the least, but he still managed to snap a few pictures of the garbagemen in action.

He brought the pictures to a city personnel committee meeting the following evening. Noting that the four committee members were also city councilmen, Stillman asked that they consider the removal of the refuse.

"Somebody gave somebody the authority to dump all that refuse on my property and I don't want it," Stillman told the committee. "I've got cable and lumber and boards and concrete and junk dumped there."

Stillman was told his request was acknowledged and he should return to the regularly scheduled Tuesday

council meeting. Prior to that meeting, Mayor Sweeney asked Jim Dile of the city crew if the refuse had been removed. Dile replied that he was not aware that it was supposed to be removed.

During the regular session, Dile told Sweeney he could begin the removal the next morning (Wednesday) but that it would probably take about a week to complete. Then the trench will have to be covered with proper fill and anchored with rock.

Throughout the entire circus, Stillman said he has not been contacted by an insurance adjuster from either the city or the construction company, although he was told an agent representing the city did get around to view the damage this week.

After consulting with his attorney, Stillman was told he should best sit back and wait for further developments... and continue snapping his pictures.