

Fair, Rodeo on separate weekends

Fair Board moves to jackpot rodeo, other changes noted

The Morrow County Fair & Rodeo—an annual, week-long symbol of the rural lifestyle here—takes a different shape for 1978.

The Fair Board, which oversees and controls the purse strings for both the fair and rodeo, decided recently to, 1) have the fair one week and the rodeo a week later, both on weekends; 2) discontinue the RCA approved rodeo and go with a jackpot event, 3) cut the number of girls that appear on the prestigious Fair & Rodeo Court from five to three.

The dates set for the 1978 fair are Saturday through Tuesday, Aug. 19-22, about a week earlier than past years. The rodeo is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 26, 27, with a Morrow County

show tentatively set for Friday evening.

Moving the fair up a week—and to a weekend—will attract more viewers, Fair Board members feel. In addition, it will take the Morrow County Fair out of conflict with the State Fair, enabling more exhibitors to leave their prize winning exhibits here for local fairgoers and still give them time to make the State Fair.

The reason both events can't be held on the same weekend is limited exhibition space that is also used for rodeo dances and a lack of parking.

"We'd like to keep them together and we're working on getting some more land for parking," said Paul Hisler, chairman of the Fair Board. "We think we can improve

the quality of the fair by moving it up a week, give our exhibitors a better deal and increase participation and attendance, especially from the North End," Hisler said.

Also split, however, are feelings about the changes between members of the three groups that plan and carry off the dual extravaganza each year.

The Fair Board made the decisions and, for the most part, have the blessings of the Fair Committee. Sitting on the other side of the fence is the Rodeo Committee, which does not look favorably on two of the Boards decisions.

The Rodeo Committee does not want to see the RCA approved status dropped from

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Fair dates change

In an effort to boost attendance and give exhibitors a better chance to show their accomplishments, the 1978 Morrow County Fair will begin on a Saturday and continue through the following Tuesday, August 19-22 has been scheduled for the 1978 fair.

It is felt that more people will have an opportunity to participate and view exhibits at the fair over a weekend instead of during the week as in years past.

Also, by moving the fair up one week, a scheduling conflict between the local fair and the State Fair in Salem is avoided. Last year about half of the exhibits at the Morrow County Fair were removed immediately after judging so they could be taken to the State Fair.

Following is the 1978 Morrow County Fair schedule:

Friday, Aug. 18—Exhibits arrive.
Saturday through Tuesday, Aug. 19-22—Exhibits on display, with Sunday tentatively set as "Family Day"; Monday and Tuesday reserved for livestock judging.
Friday, Aug. 25—Morrow County Open Horse Show (tentative).

Rodeo Committee wants RCA approved show only

Although the decision to drop Rodeo Cowboys Association (RCA) sanctioning from the Morrow County show, members of the Rodeo Committee and others interested in seeing the RCA rodeo preserved, haven't given up.

Bob Mahoney, chairman of the Rodeo Committee, told the Gazette-Times that a "new proposal" will be sent to members of the Fair Board by the end of this week.

"We're going to try to put on an RCA rodeo next year," said Mahoney. "We've had three meetings since the Fair Board decided to drop RCA last month and we've come up with some ways to cut expenses and hopefully increase revenues."

Mahoney said Rodeo Committee members and most of

the people that work the rodeo are "flat opposed" to a jackpot rodeo.

"If it comes down to a jackpot rodeo or nothing, the rodeo people you have working now won't have a thing to do with it," said Mahoney, adding, "although we'll maybe try to put together a Morrow County show."

Rodeo Committee members are also upset with the Fair Board's decision to break with tradition and cut the size of the Fair & Rodeo Court.

"If they insist on dropping back from five to three girls on that court, we won't have anything to do with that either," said Mahoney.

While the Rodeo Committee doesn't like the idea of splitting the fair and rodeo over two weekends, they say

that can be lived with.

The Gazette-Times asked Mahoney if the Rodeo Committee felt they had been properly heard before a decision was made.

"Well, a special committee was formed by the Fair Board in September and the decision was made on Oct. 10," said Mahoney. "During that time, the special committee never met, never came up with any recommendations."

"Only after the decision to cut RCA was made have a group of us been able to get together and try to come up with a way of cutting our losses," Mahoney said.

He noted the rodeo lost about \$2,500 last year, \$2,000 the year before, while it

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THE Morrow County's award winning newspaper...

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State-wide and local issues on Tuesday ballot

Oregon voters will go to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 8, to cast their ballot on two state-wide measures that would create loan funds for irrigation projects and the development of non-nuclear natural energy resources. At the same time City of Heppner residents will decide the outcome of a special serial levy for construction of the Morgan Street Bridge.

While complete explanations of the ballot measures and the Heppner special levy appear in

following stories, it is important to note that only the Heppner special levy is a tax measure. The state-wide ballot measures have no relationship to taxes paid by Oregonians.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Heppner—for all precincts—at City Hall; in Lexington at City Hall; in Irrigon at the North Morrow County Office Building; in Ione at City Hall and in Boardman at the Greenfield Grange Hall.

Last chance for bridge

The choice of replacing or abandoning the Morgan Street bridge across Willow Creek will be determined at the polls Tuesday as Heppner voters cast their ballots on a special levy election.

An \$18,000, five-year serial levy for a new structure was placed on the ballot by the City Council in September. 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 bridge has already been closed to bus

and truck traffic and city engineer Steve Anderson has flatly told the City Council that "the bridge is shot."

According to mayor Jerry Sweeney, state law requires an inspection of bridge structures every two years by a professional structural engineer. Anderson made the most recent inspection last year and at that time urged the

Council to make a decision on closing or repairing the bridge.

"I'm sure the bridge would be condemned on the next inspection," Sweeney said. "There's no doubt about it." Sweeney said if the levy is defeated, the city can not reapply for grant funds for a two year period and then the city can only ask for a maximum grant of \$50,000.

2 backs non-nuclear energy

Ballot Measure 2 calls for the establishment of an Energy Conservation and Production fund of more than \$350 million to be used for supporting development of hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, wind, wave, industrial waste and other non-nuclear energy sources.

The measure amends the Oregon Constitution to permit

loaning of the state's credit for management, conservation and development of natural energy resources which are non-nuclear in nature. Accompanying legislation which would go into effect upon the approval of Ballot Measure 2, requires that the energy resources pay back the money loaned at a higher interest rate than the rate paid by the

state on the bonds.

The bonds to be sold would not exceed one per cent of Oregon's taxable property value. In 1976 that amount was \$350 million and the measure would establish a maximum bonding limitation of \$439 million.

The measure does not increase taxes. It is a self-supporting development fund in

which revenues from the energy projects will pay back the costs of the bonds without requiring state tax funds.

Funding would be available for public and private utilities or agencies involved in development or conservation. Utilities and agencies currently operating in Oregon will have priority in funds allocated and energy developed.

1 authorizes water loan fund

A Water Development Loan Fund will be created for Oregon farmers if voters approve Ballot Measure 1 at the polls next Tuesday.

Essentially, the measure authorizes the State of Oregon to sell bonds—up to 1.5 per cent of the true cash value of the state's taxable property or an estimated \$658.5 million in 1978—to create a fund from which farmers may borrow.

These funds could be used for water storage, irrigation through wells or pumping

plants and pipelines, and water drainage.

Differing from ballot measures proposed to voters in 1972 and 1974, the ballot measure proposed this year is aimed at the small farmer or family farm. Large, out-of-state corporations, for instance, could not benefit from nor participate in the Water Development Loan Fund if it is created.

Operating like Oregon's veterans home and farm loan programs, the Water Development Loan Fund would cost

Oregon taxpayers nothing. The fund would be created by bonds issued by the state and those bonds would be retired through repayment by farmers using the funds. Repayment would include all cost incurred by the state in setting up the fund and administering it.

Repayment is secured by liens on the farmer's or developer's real property, and all real property irrigated or drained by the project. The lien taken by the state is prior

and superior to all other liens and property claims.

Proponents of the fund maintain that Oregon's drought this past year stress the need for a comprehensive state-wide water development plan and they feel Ballot Measure 1 would be the first step in that direction.

Passage of the measure could have a tremendous effect in Morrow County where about 30,000 acres of

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Grain Growers meet Monday

The annual business meeting and dinner of Morrow County Grain Growers is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 7 in the pavilion at the fairgrounds.

Grain Growers Manager Larry Mills said a 6:30 p.m. dinner will be followed by the business meeting and program. Election of four directors and five associate directors will highlight the business session, along with reports by Mills and Steve Green of Pendleton, according to Ron Haguewood, MCGG president.

Dr. Warren Kronstad, professor of agronomy at Oregon State University will speak to the group on "Food and the

World Population". Kronstad has been closely associated with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center.

Weather by Don Gilliam

Wed., Oct. 26	58	41
Thurs., Oct. 27	50	30
Fri., Oct. 28	61	35 .01
Sat., Oct. 29	62	40 .03
Sun., Oct. 30	53	42
Mon., Oct. 31	53	38 .06
Tues., Nov. 1	65	41 .03
Precipitation for October		.36
Normal for the month		1.29
1976		.24

CBEC annual meeting today

The main pavilion at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner will be the site of the 33rd Annual Meeting of Columbia Basin Electric Co-operative scheduled for this afternoon. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m. with lunch following at 12:15 p.m. and the business meeting getting underway at 1:15 p.m.

Members will hear reports covering the fiscal year ending June 30. Secretary-Treasurer Paul Tews will comment on some aspects of financial operations which showed revenues of \$1,524,836 for the year and margins of \$177,525. Energy sales were up

11,894,535 kwhs for a total of 121,198,212 kwhs sold for the year.

Co-op President Van Reitmann will also detail some financial strengths of the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. Reitmann will talk about recent line improvements and

the problems associated with the severe "frost storm" of last February.

Manager Dave Harrison will show a few color slides concerning the Co-op operation.

An election of directors for three-year terms will be held.

Day Care Center opens Tuesday

The Heppner Child Development Center, closed since Oct. 1, will reopen on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at its temporary facility in the 4-H Annex at the fairground.

The opening, termed "almost an anti-climax" by one observer, follows months of effort by the Center's Board of Directors and other advocates to find a building to replace the Seventh Day Adventist gymnasium which had been the Center's home since its beginning three years ago.

The Morrow County Fair Board recently agreed to allow the Annex building to be used as a day care facility for a six-month period as a stop gap solution. As soon as the

Center is operating smoothly in its temporary home, the search will be on for a more permanent base.

Terms of the contract with the Fair Board specified Oct. 24 as the starting date of the six-month occupancy period, but difficulties were experienced getting a necessary sanitarian inspection. State Sanitarian Jim Frost from Pendleton finally conducted an inspection on Monday, Oct. 31 and the building was certified for use later that day by Margaret McBride of the Childrens Services Division.

Kathy Hazen, temporary director of the Center, said that day care hours will be 6:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Mrs. Hazen said mothers who wish to use the Center and have not already registered

their children can contact her at home this week, 676-9408, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mail Christmas packages early

Heppner Postmaster Hubert Wilson announced this week the recommended dates for mailing letters and packages to assure timely arrival for Christmas.

Nov. 8 is the date recommended for mailing of international surface mail to military personnel living overseas. Military air mail should be mailed by Nov. 21.

International air letters to persons overseas should be in the mail no later than Dec. 5.

On the domestic front, surface mail to Alaska and Hawaii should be mailed prior to Dec. 1. Domestic parcel post should be mailed by Dec. 12 and letters and cards sent in the continental United States should be mailed by Dec. 16.