

Virginia Grieb elected chairman, Fair Board considers rodeo posts

Virginia Grieb of Lexington was elected to a one year term as chairman of the Morrow County Fair Board at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 9. She succeeds Paul Hisler.

Beginning her third year on the five-member Board, Mrs. Grieb said her interest in fairs stemmed from her childhood on a farm near Walla Walla where her family raised and showed Angus cattle, and she participated in 4-H. She and her husband Gary also raise Angus cattle on their ranch near Lexington and show them at many fairs.

Much of the Monday night meeting was given to discussion of possible new members to be appointed to the Rodeo Committee, which will put on both the jackpot rodeo and the Friday night Morrow County show.

The Board decided to reduce the Rodeo Committee from 11 to nine members, eliminating an assistant dance director position and shuffling duties in other directorships. In addition to a chairman and secretary, positions on the reorganized committee will include directors responsible

for prizes and promotion; parking, tickets and concessions; dance; racing; grounds; livestock; and court.

Members of the Rodeo Committee will include both old and new appointees, and the Fair Board expects to finalize and announce the committee appointments within the next two weeks.

In other action, the Board voted to use Frank Beard of Outlook, Wash., as livestock contractor for the 1978 jackpot rodeo if a satisfactory contract can be negotiated.

Members agreed on two

suggestions to improve the county fair rating and evaluation system: 1) that credit be given for volunteer hours used and 2) the same rate be used for two consecutive fairs so that improvements can be noted.

Jim Launer, who took over fairground caretaker duties from Jack Wallace on Jan. 1, discussed with the Board maintenance and improvement work that needed to be done on the grounds. Persons who need to use the fairground buildings should contact Launer at 676-5290.



Kevin McCabe goes high for a rebound as Cards Dennis Thompson, Robin LaRue and Dennis Stefani look on. Ione tagged Ukiah twice over the weekend for the Cards first wins of the season.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

VOL. 96 NO. 2

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1978

HEPPNER, OREGON

10 PAGES

15c

School budget proposal shows 15.4% hike, committee members begin deliberations

Morrow County School District Supt. Matt Doherty Monday presented budget committee members with a proposal of \$3,538,459—a figure which represents a 15.4 per cent increase over the current school year budget.

In his budget address to the committee, Doherty said the budget package presented was \$472,241 higher than the 1977-78 budget but added that coupled with a reduction in available resources of the District, the additional amount to be raised by taxes would be \$615,015. Based on a projected District value of \$325,000,000, this would require an increase of \$1.90 per thousand over the current tax rate of \$7.58.

Doherty said the budget proposal had been prepared by staff members, administrators, advisory committee members as well as by members of the Board and central administrative staff. He pointed to several areas responsible for the increase, including:

—Increased staff to care for a growing student population, education of the handicapped and improvement of the educational programs offered.

—Salary increases as a result of adjustments to meet

negotiated agreements.

—Increased costs in Social Security and Retirement Benefits.

—Increased purchased services due to inflation and additional requirements for handicapped children.

—Increases in supplies due to added student population, inflation and shortages resulting from under budgeting last year.

Increases in capital outlay

due to inflation, increased student numbers and the need to improve programs and maintain facilities.

Approximately one quarter of the proposed budget—\$873,677—represents flexible items where the costs are not fixed and can therefore be adjusted by the committee as they see fit in their deliberations. The remaining \$2,644,782 represents fixed cost items such as negotiated salaries

and fuel costs.

Doherty said in order to reduce the budget to a 14 per cent increase over the current year, \$42,971 would have to be cut; achieving a 13 per cent increase would mean trimming \$73,633; and to reduce it to a 10 per cent increase, a total of \$165,579 would have to be eliminated.

Committee members were told that prior to the current year's budget deliberations,

the District was boosted by a \$248,000 beginning cash balance carried over from previous years. Most of that amount was used up last year to reduce the budget after it was defeated by county voters. This year, Doherty said,

the District is expected to have a cash balance in the \$50,000 range.

"We went down to the bottom of the barrel to reduce

the budget last year and this year we had to borrow money to pay our bills," Doherty said. "So you can see we have an interest problem."

The budget committee elected officers for the year and set dates for upcoming budget meetings. Jim Wishart was elected to serve as chairman, Pauline Winter as vice chairman and Alice Vance as secretary.

Emergency telephone system gains approval

The approval of the "911" emergency telephone system by the Heppner City Council last week means the system

can now be installed in south Morrow County. Approval was given late last year by the City Councils of Ione and Lexington, and by the County Court.

Special lines will be installed to the courthouse by Pacific Northwest Bell and the system should be operational on or before July 1. After that time, dialing 911 in an emergency will connect the

caller with the sheriff's office where a special phone will be used to quickly contact the proper persons to handle the emergency.

The total annual operating cost of the system in south Morrow County is projected at \$1,610, plus \$340 for installation. The cost is determined by the number of phones involved, with each city paying for phones within its limits and the county covering the cost of rural phones.

Heppner, with 725 or 51 per cent of the total in the area

covered, will pay \$821 operating costs plus \$173 installation. Ione will pay \$195 for operation plus \$41 installation, having 172 phones or 12.1 per

cent of the total. Costs for Lexington with 110 phones or 7.7 per cent will come to \$124 for annual operation plus \$26 installation.

The county will pick up the rest of the tab, paying \$571 plus \$101 installation, for 416 rural phones or 29.2 per cent of the total in the area.

Ione Planning Commission seeking public comment

The Ione Planning Commission and City Council invites comments from residents on the Ione Draft Comprehensive Plan at a public hearing to be held on Monday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ione City Hall.

Ione is the only city in the county to propose to expand their urban growth boundary beyond the present city limits. Gene Rietmann, vice-chairman of the Ione Planning Commission, explained: "This is because at this stage of the game, most of the built-up limits of the city have

been declared flood hazard plain, so most of the buildable land is under that cloud at this time."

Rietmann said that the Planning Commission decided to include land in their growth boundary above the present 11 foot flood hazard level so the city wouldn't be locked in by possible future restrictions. "We're hedging, not knowing the whims of the bureaucrats," Rietmann commented.

Agricultural land included in the expanded boundary may still be continued to be

farmed after the growth plan is adopted until the landowner decides to convert the land to urban uses, subject to city, county and state regulations.

After the public hearing on Monday, the draft plans will be revised, after review and comment, to be adopted as city policy.

Anyone who has questions or comments concerning the draft plan, sent to all Ione residents, may contact Marie Hall, ECOAC, P.O. Box 339, Pendleton, OR 97801, or may call toll free 1-800-422-8112.

Applications open for Ione Recorder

Applications for the position of Ione City Recorder are now being accepted by the City of Ione, to be considered at a special meeting on Monday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. in the City Hall.

Interested persons should contact Mayor Robert Drake on or before that date at

422-7222.

Elizabeth Ernst of Ione has held the recorder position for the past three years. She said her resignation, effective Feb. 1, was tendered because she didn't have enough time to give to the job. Mrs. Ernst is an employee at Morrow County Courthouse.

News Briefs

Pole fire plunges area into darkness

An insulator failure caused a poletop fire and pulled the power plug on south Morrow County for as much as three hours Monday afternoon.

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op general manager Dave Harrison said the pole fire occurred in an area east of Lexington. The power outage put a temporary kink in the routines of residents in Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Ruggs, Olix and Sand Hollow.

Harrison said the fire was touched off by Monday's heavy rains which soaked through a bad insulator. The power was grounded and in the process, the fire spread to an arrester on an adjoining span that serves Lexington, causing additional outage time.

The lines went dead at 2:22 p.m. and CBEC was about to begin sectionalizing tests to determine the location when CBEC member Jim Bloodworth called in to report a fire flash east of Lexington. CBEC workers began patrolling the lines in that area and after locating the blaze, it took them about 30 minutes to extinguish it.

"We had checked with Bonneville and were just about to open the switch to start sectionalizing when we got the call," Harrison said. "When we located the fire, the extinguisher we had didn't do the job so we had to return for more."

Harrison said once the fire was controlled, workers sawed off the top of the pole and completed their repairs. Harrison said a new pole will have to be set, adding that it will be done while the "line is hot" to avoid another shutdown.

Power in Olix, Sand Hollow and Ione was back on line by 3:35 p.m., Heppner got its juice at 4:41 p.m. and Lexington was back in business by 5:47 p.m.

Charter night set for Arlington Lions

A charter celebration for the newly-founded Arlington Lions Club is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, featuring a social hour, dinner and guest speaker. The new Lions Club is the first to be sponsored by the Heppner Lions, said president Dave Harrison.

The new club will have 29 charter members—the same number that started in the Heppner club, Harrison said. Included are five present or former Lions, three having served as Lions presidents in other clubs. The first president of the Arlington Lions will be Dean Robinson, past president of the Sherman Lions.

The evening will begin with a social hour from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the PGE building in Arlington. Dinner is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlington Elementary School. Vern Hawn, a past Lions International director will be the guest speaker.

Good timing.... wrong county

The Morrow County stork finally made his first trip of the year to Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, but the new baby boy is unfortunately ineligible to collect the gifts offered in the first baby contest because his parents are Umatilla County residents. Under contest rules, the parents of the first baby winner must be residents of Morrow, Wheeler or Gilliam Counties.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Kubin of Pendleton are the proud parents of their second son, still unnamed, born at 1:08 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10. He weighed in at 6 pounds 14½ ounces.

Dr. Richard Carpenter delivered Mrs. Kubin's first child, Bryan, now two years old, when he was practicing in Pendleton. Mrs. Kubin wanted him to deliver her second child, so regularly traveled to Heppner for prenatal care. And he delivered her second son Tuesday morning.



Bank of Eastern Oregon employees Judy Barber and Pam Mabe pick out their favorite paintings from the collection of Richland artist Robert Thomas on display at the bank through Jan. 20. The paintings may be purchased; for information ask any Bank of EO employee.