

Donna Palmer named '78 Fair & Rodeo Queen

Donna Palmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Palmer of Ione, will reign over the 1978 Morrow County Fair & Rodeo it was announced this week.

Selection of the remainder of the Fair & Rodeo court will take place Monday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at the West of Willow Restaurant.

Girls interested in interviewing for a place on the 1978 court should call Dennis Doherty at 676-5269 before 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10. Applications can be filled out Monday evening and one parent should accompany their daughter to the interview session.

Queen Donna, a member of last year's court, is a freshman at Blue Mountain Community College. She is a 1977 graduate of Ione High School.



Queen Donna Palmer

Dam public meeting set tonight at 7 pm

A large turnout is expected at tonight's (Thursday) public meeting concerning the proposed construction of Willow Creek Dam. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the circuit court room at the Courthouse.

hensive plans and flood plains. Further construction and extensive remodeling of commercial property in those cities will be sharply curtailed because of the existing flood

plains, which would be nearly eliminated with the construction of the dam.

A decision must be made by local officials before the middle of March.

Ray Schierman assumed his new duties as Heppner city foreman on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Schierman was named to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Paul Sumner by the Heppner City Council at its first meeting in January.

Schierman said that so far he was just getting acquainted with his new responsibilities, but he suspected that street maintenance would be among the worst of his problems.

As new city foreman, he is

working with a city crew that includes two persons who are also new to their jobs, Vincent Ternes and John Mahan, working for the city under the CETA program. Jim Dile, employed by the city, and on the job for three years, is the old-timer of the crew.

Schierman's responsibility as city foreman includes maintenance of city streets,

sewer and water systems, parks and other city-connected upkeep.

"I like the people here. If I could just find a place to live," commented Schierman, who was employed in construction work for 30 years. He needs to find a lot before his wife, Ellen, can move with their mobile home to Heppner.

The public meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse

Hillview Church builds Boardman youth center

Groundbreaking ceremony for a new youth center building in Boardman was held Sunday, Feb. 5, at the corner of Olson and Wilson Road.

The construction is being financed by the Hillview Christian Center but the

facility will be open to the entire community, according to Rev. Roy Plant, pastor of the Boardman church.

The multipurpose youth center building will contain 10,560 square feet and include a gymnasium. Cost of the building is estimated at \$140,000.

"We've had a lot of good support from people who have no affiliation with our church but who recognize the need for youth recreation facilities in Boardman," said Rev. Plant. He added that hopefully construction of the center should be completed by mid-May.



Ray Schierman

Pinpointing students strong and weak areas helps overcome learning problems



George Rex deals with both learning disabilities and behavior problems as district school psychologist, visiting each of Morrow County's schools on a regular basis. Above, Rex goes through identification exercises with a student.

After three months of kindergarten instruction, a student is still having problems completing simple classroom exercises such as tracing and coloring. He can't remember sequences of colors and doesn't recall the alphabet well enough to spell his name.

Apparently a learning handicap, but pinpointing the causes, and more importantly working out a solution, is usually beyond the scope of most classroom teachers. That's why the Morrow County School District has seen fit to work with Morrow County Mental Health Services in providing a district psychologist for the students. MHS has maintained the arrangement with the school district since the fall of 1975 and for the past year, George Rex has filled the role of school psychologist.

The description of the kindergarten student is typical of the problems Rex has dealt with in his year at the schools.

"There's a lot of potential problem areas leading to learning handicaps," Rex said. "I try and get a better understanding of the situation through testing and counseling before I can come up with a solution."

In the kindergarten student's case, the first step was a standard intelligence test which showed that the youngster was of average intelligence. Next came the possibility that the problem was disciplinary in nature. But conversations with the teacher indicated the student did put out effort and was well liked by his classmates.

Next came one of those alphabet soup designations for an important test which attempts to isolate various channels of communication used by the student. The Illinois Test of Psycholinguistic Abilities (ITPA) testing procedure charts 10 different communications functions including auditory reception and association, visual reception and association, grammatic closure and manual expression.

"During this part of the process, I'm interested in finding the student's strong and weak points," Rex said. "The results of the test are used as a guide and are correlated with the teacher's assessment."

In this case, the ITPA showed a weakness in visual and auditory sequential memory, which involves the ability

to reproduce sequences from memory. Because this was the only area in which the student showed a weakness, Rex worked with the teacher to develop an educational program to remedy the specific area.

If however, the test had shown weaknesses in all but a few areas, the program would have been structured around the strong points, using them as building blocks to reinforce the lacking areas.

Suggestions were made to the teacher using techniques that wouldn't single out the student from the rest of the class. If possible, the exercises actually involve the other students and seldom do they require materials not already available in the classroom.

Matching colored blocks with the appropriate spot in a color scheme or studying color sequences and then reciting them from memory were two of the exercises recommended for the student. Rex also met with the parents and suggested exercises such as reading short repetitive stories and having the child retell the details or playing simple repetitive games such as Simon Says.

Because Rex visits each of

the five district schools every week, and still maintains his duties at the Morrow County Mental Health Services office, the entire process takes about a month, with a follow-up visit made a few months later.

Dealing with learning handicaps is only part of Rex's duties as student psychologist. He also handles behavior problems, working with the student, the teacher and the parents.

When a teacher experiences behavior problems with a student, the parents are contacted for their consent before Rex enters the picture. Through observing in the classroom, counseling with the student and conversations with the teacher, he sets up a program to deal with the problem.

"Each evaluation is tailored to the individual," Rex said. "But in many cases the problem involves lack of attention span or disregard for the teacher's requests."

The teacher and the psychologist try to focus on some part of the school routine that interests the student and then try to work in the rest of the classroom activities around the interest areas.

If it appears family pro-

blems are involved, Rex refers the case to Mental Health Services where the rest of the family can get in on the counseling.

"I actually wear two hats, working with both the district and Mental Health Services," Rex said. "I've been with both for a full year now and the schools are starting to use our services a lot more than before."

The use has increased to the point where Rex now faces a backlog of cases. Most of the casework comes from the elementary grades where it is easier to determine learning problems. At the junior high and senior high levels, Rex is more involved with counseling, which in many cases is initiated by the students themselves, after first obtaining parental consent.

As school psychologist, Rex conducts classes covering subjects as mental health and effects of crime. With MHS, he also holds classes for students on alcohol abuse. Whether working with students in the classroom, or counseling their families at the Mental Health Services office, the objective is the same—to provide a full array of mental health services for the community.

U.S. National Bank announces Boardman Branch opening

United States National Bank of Oregon has named Steven F. Hertel to manage the firm's new Boardman Branch scheduled to open Monday, Feb. 13.

Hertel joined the organization in 1972 as an accelerated management trainee at the firm's St. Helens Branch. He later worked as operations officer at the bank's Clatskanie Branch before assuming the managership of the Gar-

den Valley Branch in Roseburg, his most recent position.

The grand opening of the bank, located at 203 First Street N.W., will include a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, to be followed by a week-long open house. Sylvia McDaniel, Treasurer, Morrow County, will cut the ribbon to mark the start of business. Also in attendance will be Robert R. Mitchell, U.S.

Bank's president and C.W. Beckett, senior vice president and manager of the bank's eastern region.

Refreshments will be served at the open house and small gifts and balloons will be offered to those attending.

Regular lobby hours for the Boardman Branch will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 10 to 6 on Friday. The drive-up window

will be closed on Monday, February 13, but afterwards will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 to 6 on Friday.

The new 2,200 square foot facility will feature full banking service to local merchants and residents, including drive-in window, letter drop, night

depository, safe deposit boxes and ample parking.

Construction was by Timber Company of Hermiston and U.S. Bank invested about \$81,000 in the project, plus costs for equipment, fixtures and supplies. The new branch is U.S. Bank's 156th office in Oregon.

News Briefs

Michael Olds trial scheduled Friday

The trial for Michael Olds, accused of murdering 72-year old Mary Lindsay of Ione last April, will begin Friday morning in front of Malheur County Circuit Court Judge Frank Yraguen.

Olds was found to be mentally competent to assist in his defense according to a ruling filed by Judge Yraguen last Saturday.

The defendant has pleaded innocent by reason of mental disease or defect. Judge Yraguen's ruling has no reflection on whether mental disease or defect were involved at the time Olds is alleged to have killed Mrs. Lindsay.

Olds was convicted last July in the murder of a Walla Walla cab driver near Helix. At the conclusion of the trial in LaGrande, Umatilla County Circuit Court Judge Jack Olsen sentenced Olds to life imprisonment.

V-G Tavern takes new 'old time' look

The V & G Tavern in 'downtown Lexington' is getting a face lift. Proprietors Gay and Patti Harsman expect the outside remodeling work on the building to give the business an "old-time saloon" look.

Cliff Aldridge and John Mollahan are putting up rough lumber on the front of the building and adding a balcony. A silhouette of a dance hall girl in an upper window will add to the old-time atmosphere.

Gay is also looking for a special painting to put over the bar to enhance the effect.

The Harsmans invite everyone to Lexington this weekend to inspect their remodeling job.

Weather

	HI	Low	Prec
Wed., Feb. 1	43	30	.04
Thur., Feb. 2	47	34	.11
Fri., Feb. 3	58	43	
Sat., Feb. 4	52	38	
Sun., Feb. 5	58	37	
Mon., Feb. 6	53	40	.17
Tues., Feb. 7	51	41	.07