

# Morrow SWCD urges conservation

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District is interested in helping farmers find practical ways to save soil, water and energy. Using the land wisely is the best path towards conservation and the district has many suggestions to help steer farmers in the right direction.

If soil is kept in place on the land, it won't have to be dredged out downstream, bulldozed off streets or filtered out of water supplies. Similarly, if fertilizers and agricultural chemicals are kept in place on the land, they won't have to be removed as pollutants somewhere else or more energy won't have to be spent manufacturing, transporting and spreading additional chemicals to replace those that were lost.

If minimum tillage practices are used instead of clean tilling, 50 per cent less fuel is used. A reduction of 50 per cent in soil loss may also be realized by using minimum tillage.

Improved pasture management results in increased forage production which indirectly lowers the amount of fuel used for each unit of forage produced. Adding legumes to the grass mixture reduces the amount of nitrogen required.

The right amount of water used at the right time through a good irrigation system eliminates wasted energy in the pumping stage.

All told, natural resource conservation practices and systems could save one in every seven gallons of fuel used in U.S. agriculture. Other

not all conservation practices will succeed everywhere under all conditions. Many call for more careful management by the land operator and

conservation practices may not reduce energy needs directly but do make it possible to grow more food and fiber without increasing

the amount of energy used. most of them call for an investment that won't be repaid immediately.

Contact the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District for more important and practical ways to save soil, water and energy.

# BMCC spring classes start next week

Blue Mountain Community College spring classes are scheduled to start in this area next Monday, March 27.

Pre-registered students who have already mailed in their course form and check to the college may report to class at the scheduled time and place. Those who have not yet registered but wish to take an offered class should also be present at the first class meeting and may register at that time if there is an opening.

Two classes, intermediate

tole painting and tennis, are closed as of press time but anyone still interested in taking tennis is asked to contact Nancy Brownfield, area BMCC coordinator, at 676-5039.

Any questions regarding class schedules or any aspect of the evening division classes should also be directed to Mrs. Brownfield. She said that all comments and suggestions concerning the classes are welcome and will be sincerely considered to help make the

evening program successful.

**CLASS TIME CHANGE**  
Persons who have not yet registered but are interested in taking the micro-wave cooking class are advised by Mrs. Brownfield that the first

meeting day has been changed from Thursday, March 30, to Thursday, April 6. Pre-registered students in this class will be contacted about the change.

## Dumping: When? Where? How Much?

This week during spring clean-up citizens are wanting to know when, where and how much it costs to dump refuse. **WHEN and WHERE:** Free dumping of household garbage and trash as usual between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at the county-operated Turner Canyon site, east of Willow Creek Country Club.

**HOW MUCH:** Harold Coulter is at that site every day except Monday when the site is closed. On the four week days, full truckloads of waste can be dumped for a \$10 fee, and pickup loads for \$5. The minimum charge for dumping there Tuesday through Friday is \$5.

Major appliances (stoves and refrigerators) and old car bodies may be left at the Lexington Dump, south of Lexington, on the first and third Saturday morning of each month. There is a \$1 fee for each appliance and a \$5 fee for disposing of an old car body.

# Sumner, other reps file death penalty petition

A preliminary initiative petition for a statutory measure to restore the death penalty in Oregon has been filed with the Secretary of State by State Representatives Jack Sumner, D-Heppner; Cecil Johnson, R-Grants Pass; and Bud Byers, D-Lebanon.

In filing the petition, Sumner said it is necessary to follow the procedure because the legislature has "failed to

submit the issue to the people for their determination".

"We plan to take the petitions to the people in securing the necessary 46,235 signatures," Sumner said. "During March, thousands of letters will be mailed to Oregonians asking their help in gathering the signatures."

The petitions will be available about April 1 and a concentrated 90-day effort is

planned for securing the signatures by July 1. The signed petitions must be presented to the Secretary of State's Office by July 7 to qualify the Capital Punishment issue for the November 7 general election.

Any interested person may contact Sumner at H276, State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97301 or at his home address, Route 1, Heppner.

# Farm tax relief bill gains approval in House

Legislation relieving farmers from Oregon and other states of drought-induced tax liabilities won overwhelming approval in the House of Representatives last week and will now move to the Senate.

The bill, which was introduced by Oregon Congressman Al Ullman last month, would allow farmers to treat certain federal disaster and deficiency payments received early this year as 1977 income, and thus avoid income bunching that would result in

excessive tax liability in 1978.

Ullman said he introduced the bill after learning that many disaster and deficiency payments owed farmers for 1977 crop losses were not made until 1978. The late payments resulted from a backlog of administrative work that built up during the extended drought of 1976-77. Those farmers on the cash method of accounting who received late payments would be forced to include them as 1978 income, under present law, thus increasing their 1978

taxes.

"Administrative delay should not be allowed to impose yet another burden on those already struggling as a result of the drought," Ullman said. "This bill would allow a farmer to elect to treat these payments as 1977 income if he can establish that, under his usual business practice, income from his crops would have been reported in 1977."

Ullman said he was delighted by prompt House action on the measure, and that he will push for rapid consideration in the Senate.

# Library to reduce book sale prices

The Heppner City Library's annual sale of surplus library books is ending this week. Those books not sold by Thursday (today) during the 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. library period will be marked down drastically.

The largest table of books will be sold by the bag at 60

cents per large bag full. Other books and magazines will be half price and some of the magazines may go into the bags.

Saturday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the remaining books will be closed out at 50 cents per bag as long as they last.

# Senior citizens' deadline for claiming state benefits, tax exemptions near

The Governor's Commission on Aging has issued a reminder to senior citizen homeowners and renters, stressing the importance of the April 1 and April 15 filing deadlines for older persons who are eligible for benefits under several state programs of property tax refund, senior citizen's property tax deferral, renter refunds, and veteran's property tax exemption.

There are benefits under each of these programs for thousands of older Oregonians even if they are not required to file an income tax return. Homeowners and renters who may be eligible for refunds are urged to submit a claim by

April 15.

The Commission on Aging and the State Council of Senior Advocates pushed hard for improvements in the refund programs in past legislative sessions and points out that several of the programs, which could provide important cash benefits for older persons on fixed, low incomes, have not been fully utilized. Last year, 812 homeowners, age 62 and over elected to defer all property tax under a state program which has been on line since 1963. But many

other older home owners who have no heirs and who fall in low income brackets, would benefit from the deferral because they are also still eligible for the property tax refund benefits.


The deadline for filing Veteran's property tax exemption and senior citizen property tax deferrals is April 1. Within the Veteran's program there are potentials for unremarried widows of war veterans, many of whom may be older widows who are unaware of the program.

Information about the programs may be obtained from local Area Agencies on Aging,

local Revenue and Assessor offices, or by calling the State free number: 1-800-452-2838.

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