

HHS band holds last 1978 concert



Heppner High School's final band concert of the year is scheduled for tonight, May 18, in the school gymnasium. The concert will feature the school's band, stage band, choir and swing choir. Showtime will be 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

Poppy sale coming up

Thursday and Friday, May 25 and 26, members of Heppner's American Legion Auxiliary No. 87 will be asking people to wear the red memorial veteran's poppies.

Disabled veterans make each poppy, for which they receive a small sum. This enables them to buy personal items not furnished by the hospital. Many save it for the day they can be discharged or send it to help their families. Making the poppies helps them to pass the long days, months or years they face.

The basic purpose of the Poppy Day is to offer the American public an opportunity to honor the war dead and to assist the living.

Donations of any amount are accepted. All funds received are used to aid disabled veterans, their families and the families of deceased servicemen.

Weather

	Hi	Low	Pre.
Wed., May 10	63	41	.01
Thurs., May 11	60	43	.01
Fri., May 12	64	40	.02
Sat., May 13	62	48	.04
Sun., May 14	57	47	
Mon., May 15	62	44	.48
Tues., May 16	63	40	

School Board authorizes school improvements

The Morrow County School District Board of Directors met Monday night in Boardman to authorize Superintendent Matt Doherty to begin work on a number of improvements to county schools. Improvements include remodeling at the Heppner

Junior High School shop and home economics room re-vamping the library at Heppner High School, and repairing a boiler at Ione High School. The projects will be let out to bid as soon as specifications are prepared.

Money to pay for the improvements will come from a school bond issue approved earlier this year. The bond issue will also finance a new shop and elementary school in Boardman, a multipurpose elementary room at Irrigon, and a new junior high school at Irrigon.

The new school construction and additions were discussed, and preliminary drawings from architects received. The board set a June 5 date in Irrigon to meet with school district's architect to review construction plans.

Sale of the \$4.8 million in bonds used to finance the construction program will be held June 13, in the office of Portland bonding attorneys Reagan and Roberts.

During Monday's meeting, the board heard financial consultant Tom Mitchell discuss methods of investing money that will be available for short-term periods following the bond sale. Some funds may be on hand for up to 18 months before they can be spent on construction.

Mitchell suggested placing the majority of such short-term funds in the state operated Local Government Investment Pool, with smaller amounts to be deposited in local banks. Final action on what course the board will take on the short-term invest-

ments is expected to come during its June meeting.

The board also approved recommendations for hiring new classified workers, and for extra-duty jobs for teachers. Included in the extra-duty recommendations that were approved was the release of Riverside High instructor Mike Wetherall from duties as football coach. The coaching slot remains vacant.

In other action, the board authorized the superintendent to appeal to the city of Irrigon to annex the site for the proposed new junior high school. If annexed, the school could receive city services such as water, sewer and police protection.

The board also authorized the sale of a surplus school bus, which may be seen at the district shop in Heppner.

Range forage recovers from last year's drought

Range forage in Eastern Oregon has bounced back from last year's drought, prompting researchers from Oregon State University to predict the best production in 20 years. Estimates for range forage production, based on precipitation received up to May 1, have been set at 128 per cent of normal for the Morrow County area.

"The overall average for Eastern Oregon as of May 1 is 147 per cent," said Forrest Sneva, research rangeland scientist at the Squaw Butte Experiment Station near Burns. "This contrasts to last year's drought index of 49 per cent. One has to go back 20 years to find a year with as favorable an outlook for range forage yield as what appears to be forthcoming," Sneva said.

Above-normal winter precipitation was reflected in high soil moisture percentages on April 1. This year, soil moisture on a 40-acre range unit averaged 19.2 per cent in the surface to 10-inch depth, and 19.6 per cent at the 10-20 inch depth.

"These readings are among the highest obtained over the past 13 years of sampling," said Sneva. By comparison, the same soils last year contained only 1 and 8.3 per cent soil moisture for the 0-10 inch depth, and 10-20 inch depth respectively.

The Wallowa and Baker county areas received the highest range yield estimates, set at 166 per cent above normal.

P.O. expand Heppner mail delivery

A total of 68 Heppner households have become eligible for home mail delivery within the last month, according to Heppner Postmaster Hubert Wilson.

This expanded service was made possible by shifting the path of existing Route 2 from Court to Gilmore Street, Wilson said. Federal regulations state that anyone living one-fourth mile from a Post Office along an existing route may have box service.

Since no residents on Court Street were taking advantage of their eligibility for free mail delivery, Wilson applied through the district postal supervisor for a route change.

Only 24 houses on the new route through Gilmore Street and the new Rock Street addition have provided mail boxes and arranged for the mail service so far, but Wilson said even this number has helped alleviate the box shortage problem in the post office "temporarily."

With 733 post office boxes constantly rented with a waiting list in the past few years, Wilson said he now has eight unrented boxes. "I expect these to be rented within the month," he commented.

The postmaster added that at present there are many situations in which two or three families are getting their mail in one box.

He said that persons living off the existing routes could get mail delivery by establishing boxes along the route. "I don't really consider this good service, though, because they're not on the street to protect their mail," he said.

A few new houses have also been added to Route 1 delivery because of a recent regulation change which allows for service within one-fourth mile from the Post Office instead of one-half mile as was previously the case.

Wilson commented that route expansion is not a new thing: "It's part of the program of the past few years to get better service to postal patrons."



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