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Award winners at Tuesday night's Future Farmers of America banquet are, left to right, Ken Bailey, af mechanics; Marie Van Schoiack, Star Chapter Farmer, dairy efficiency, diversified livestock production; Scott Sherer, placement in sales and service to agriculture; Ann

Van Schoiack, swine production, Star Greenhand; Julie Grieb, public speaking, beef efficiency, Outstanding Senior Student; Ron Young, placement in ag production; and Terry Gray, Outstanding Beginning Student.

Council to put Willow Creek Dam question to Heppner voters

Heppner City Council agreed Thursday to give citizens a voice on the question of whether to build the proposed Willow Creek Dam, by placing the question on the ballot during the April 3 election.

The move to seek citizens' opinions on the dam was introduced by councilmen Joe Miller and Cliff Green. Miller and Green made their feelings known on the "straw ballot" after Mayor Jerry Sweeney had attempted unsuccessfully to bring the council to a vote on whether to reaffirm support for the project.

During the same election, the city will once more be seeking funding in excess of the six per cent limitation, Sweeney reported. Water system problems, damage done to streets by the recent flooding, and other expenses will mean that "we will have to go farther out of the six per cent limitation than we did last year," Sweeney remarked.

"We could use three times the amount that we currently have budgeted for paving," Mayor Sweeney noted, stating that the recent quick-thaw has left many streets "beyond patching—it's a paving job, now."

At some point in the near future, a three mile stretch of 1930-vintage water main along Willow Creek just outside the city limits "will have to be replaced," Sweeney said. "That's a foregone conclusion."

It is that stretch of water line that is believed responsible for the current impure drinking water situation in Heppner. City Administrator Marshall Lovgren reported that the problem area is believed to be located on a three-fourths mile stretch of line near the Wilkinson Ranch. Whether impurities are entering the system through a pipe rupture or a series of perforations is unknown. A possible cave-in below the casing in a city well has not been ruled out as being the source.

City crews have kept water flowing through the line in order to maintain pressure, so that any leakage may be spotted. City Engineer Steve Anderson recommended turning on all three pumping stations along the Willow Creek line to increase pressure, making any leakage all the more visible. "You might not find the leak at all until the ground dries up," Anderson commented.

Meanwhile, precautionary boiling of drinking water remains the order of the day, as water tests continue to indicate that bacteria content is above the safety level. The bacteria count has been slowly dropping, but two consecutive safe readings must be taken before the boiling order may be lifted.

The city has been chlorinating the water supply at the recommendation of health officials, and the chlorine content has been monitored in tests to assure that the proper

level will be maintained.

In other action Thursday, the council agreed to allow the Heppner Planning Commission to decrease the number of commissioners from nine to seven. Planning Commission Director Terry Hager, in a letter to the council, termed the nine-member board "unworkable," and noted that it was difficult to obtain a quorum with so many members.

The council appointed John Shaw to fill one of several vacancies on the panel, bringing the number of commissioners to the requested level of seven.

Heppner banker Ken Miller was appointed to fill a vacancy on the city's budget committee, and Sweeney presented outgoing councilman Bob Jones a plaque commemorating his eight years of service on the council.

Boiling order continues; dye used to trace leak

Heppner City Administrator Marshall Lovgren said residents should continue to boil their water before using it as city crews are still attempting to locate the broken line.

Lovgren said the city will use a yellow-green or red colored dye sometime this week to assist in locating the break. Although the dye is not expected to get into the city's reservoirs, he said it might and informs residents that the dye is non-toxic and bio-degradable. The coloring does not further contaminate the water, however, it could cause some problems with washing clothing. Lovgren urged caution if water appears that is colored with the dye.

Hospital Board seeks bids from health management corporations

Pioneer Memorial Hospital's Board of Trustees voted Tuesday night to seek firm bids from a variety of health care management corporations interested in contracting for the operation of the Heppner medical facility.

The bids are to be submitted within a 30 day period, so that they would be available for consideration during the next regular board meeting. Voting on the proposal to seek the bids—submitted by new board member Dan Sweeney—was unanimous.

Earlier in the meeting, Sweeney had unsuccessfully attempted to bring the board to a vote on "which management philosophy we're going to follow"—maintaining the status quo or contracting with a health care management corporation.

Board members resisted Sweeney's request for an immediate vote on the matter. Board President Fred Martin noted that a hospital in Burns recently canceled its contract with a medical management corporation, and a hospital in the Lakeview area, after lengthy deliberations on whether to contract with a management firm, decided against the move. "I want to know why this happened before we vote on this here," he said.

Martin also stated that the board "needs to know if the people of the county want to go this route. I'm not convinced the people will go for it. I want to be sure."

"We can't decide in one sit-down what we're going to do," commented board member Alice Bartlett, noting that most board members have less than four months' experience on the panel. "We have to look at more than one package."

Heppner resident Jewell Hager argued that board members "Have had long enough to investigate" the possibility of contracting with a management corporation. She asked for a show-of-hands vote of the 25 citizens attending the meeting on whether

they wanted an immediate decision on management corporation question, with a majority of those attending the meeting indicating that they did.

Prior to his motion calling for the vote to seek proposals from the hospital management firms, Sweeney stated that the hospital board needs "a level of expertise that we—or at least I—am not able to deliver." With a reliable management firm, "we can expect the leadership and resources...that are the basis of our problems now. I feel the community would support us if we show direction."

None of the board members spoke against Sweeney's proposal to solicit bids from management corporations.

In other developments, Pioneer Memorial Administrator

Bob Byrnes reported that the public's use of the hospital picked up markedly during January, with the average daily patient load 108 per cent over December's totals. A total of 58 admissions were recorded during January, and at one point during recent weeks, the occupancy rate reached 100 per cent.

January's increased patient load meant that "for all practical purposes, we just about broke even" for the month, Byrnes said.

However, thus far this fiscal year, the hospital has been averaging only 27 per cent occupancy, down from 39 per cent during the same period the previous year.

Hospital balance sheets now show that Pioneer Memorial has experienced a net loss of \$39,898 thus far this year.

Byrnes reported that a meeting originally scheduled for today between a board of trustees negotiator and a representative of the Federation of City, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, has been postponed at the request of the union.

School Board gives names to new North End schools

Names were selected for the two new North End schools, an updated report on flood damage to lone schools was given, and the proposed budget for the coming school year was approved during a Monday night meeting of the Morrow County School Board.

The board voted to name the new Boardman grade school Sam Boardman Elementary, in honor of the Boardman community's namesake, Samuel Boardman, the first man to homestead the area now encompassed by the city of Boardman. A native of Massachusetts, Boardman was a construction engineer and avid amateur horticulturist, who was employed for many years by the state highway department.

The new Irrigon junior high building's official name is now Columbia Junior High. The new school will be located a short distance from the banks of the Columbia River at Irrigon.

Contracts for the two schools were recently awarded, and work on the structures should move into full swing this spring, with classes expected to open midway through the 1979-80 school year.

Board members selected the names from a list of more than 20 suggestions for each school, many of them submitted by residents of the Boardman and Irrigon com-

munities.

Ione Principal Chuck Starr reported to the board that an updated review of damages done to lone schools as a result of the recent flooding shows losses estimated at just over \$41,000. Approximately \$17,000 of the total damage estimate was done to the elementary school building. In that structure, a wall was pushed in, a refrigerator and soft drink machine ruined, teaching equipment and classroom gear was destroyed, junior high athletic uniforms spoiled, and a large quantity of supplies washed away or ruined. A piano in the building was filled with mud and debris, rendering it useless. The only way it could be removed was by demolishing it with a sledgehammer, Starr said.

Damage was estimated at \$5,100 in the Ione High School Building where mud and water entered nearly every room through air vents and heat registers. Fencing around the athletic field was smashed down by flood-driven ice chunks and debris, with the field remaining covered with mud and trash. Miscellaneous damage to lone school property was set at \$19,000.

Starr praised the efforts of volunteers who pitched in to help with mop up and repair operations, including scores of lone area residents, Lions Club members, and school

Atiyeh gives Morrow disaster area status

Gov. Vic Atiyeh has declared Morrow County a disaster area, making county residents who lost property during the recent flooding eligible for aid from a variety of federal agencies.

Morrow was one of four Oregon counties to receive disaster status in the wake of the flooding. Also in line to receive federal assistance, mainly in the form of low-interest loans, are Crook, Sherman and Umatilla counties.

State Emergency Services Division Administrator Harvey Latham said the towns of Ione, Stanfield, Prineville and Rufus will require a total of nearly \$2.03 million in assistance to recover from the effects of the thaw-triggered flooding.

County officials estimated damage to Morrow at \$500,000, mostly to roads, bridges and lone schools.

Representatives from the federal Small Business Administration, Farmers' Home Administration and Soil Conservation Service were expected to arrive in Morrow

County this week to inspect damage. They were also scheduled to meet with county officials, and be on hand to help residents fill out application forms for the various federal relief programs. However, as of Wednesday morning, county officials said they had received no indication that the representatives had yet arrived.

The Small Business Administration can provide low interest, long-term loans to eligible businessmen and homeowners. The FHA provides similar services, plus can make loans to cities to repair damage. The SCS has funds available to help farmers repair agricultural land damaged or scoured by wash-outs, replace erosion control constructions, and defray the cost of replacing certain farm equipment and fixtures damaged or destroyed by floodwaters.

The governor's disaster declaration also generally serves to speed up the processing of insurance claims filed by residents suffering flood damage.

County schools to open early on day of eclipse

Morrow County Schools will open one hour early on Feb. 26, the day of the total eclipse.

This action is being taken for two reasons. It will provide an opportunity for a certain amount of activity related to the eclipse to be conducted at school, this capitalizing on the event for educational purposes, and it will remove students from bus stops and

unsupervised areas at the time when looking at the sun would be extremely dangerous.

Parents are urged to take every precaution to help their children understand the danger of looking directly at the sun during the eclipse.

Elks' 82nd Annual set for Saturday

Heppner Elks and their out-of-town guests are extended an invitation to attend the local lodge's 82nd Annual by Exalted Ruler Jerry Anderson.

The Annual will kick off Saturday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. with a Ladies Tea at the lodge. An initiation ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. followed by a social hour.

Dinner for the event will be prepared and served—from 6-8 p.m.—by the Heppner American Legion.

The Ritz—a contemporary show band—will headline entertainment in the downstairs lounge with a second band providing live music upstairs beginning at 9 p.m.

Annual goers may register at the door for \$25 per couple. Pre-registration is accepted by calling 676-9181 days or 676-5826 evenings, with special coupons given to those who register early. Those attending the dance only will pay a \$5 cover charge for entertainment.

