

Federal disaster status may mean funds for bridges

Morrow County's federal disaster area status, granted last week by President Carter, has thus far not had any immediate effects on the area, but county officials are hopeful that some federal funds may be available to repair flood damaged bridges and roads.

The county has applied for federal grants expected to total in the vicinity of \$300,000 for the repair of three flood-ravaged bridges, according to Judge D.O. Nelson. Morrow County would pay only a small fraction in matching funds to replace the spans. Bridges to be replaced under the federal program are located at Willow Creek adjacent to Lone High School, at the Valby "Y", and in Blackhorse Canyon near the Doherty ranch.

The bridges would be built by an outside contractor, freeing the county's road crew for road repairs. Judge Nelson indicated that the lone bridge may be relocated at the lower end of town to keep traffic away from Lone High School. The move was suggested by Lone City Council.

Another grant for approximately \$30,000 is being sought to help pay for repairs on certain county roads—such as

Willow Creek and Rhea Creek roads—that were constructed in conjunction with the federal FAS program. Some 150 miles of county roads are eligible to receive repairs under the terms of the grant, though the \$30,000 would not be able to cover the costs of repairing all qualifying roads.

If the county succeeds in securing the grants, much more repair work would be possible in the county. Nelson noted that the \$300,000 federal grant for bridge repair accounts for nearly half of the coming year's road budget.

In other county road news, Nelson reported that Don Ball, a veteran of more than 20 years on the county road crew, has been named acting road foreman, following the retirement of Roadmaster Harold "Doc" Sherer.

Road repair crews are working full swing during the recent spell of good weather, stretching their work schedules to include Saturdays. Two additional laborers have joined the county's road repair work force.

But a patch-up job is about the best county residents can expect for Morrow County roads and highways this year, Judge Nelson said. "I doubt if

even half a million dollars would be enough to really get the roads back in shape," he said.

In other flood related news, President Carter's granting of federal disaster status to Morrow County resulted in the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) being authorized to begin processing low-interest loans to farmers who suffered losses in the February flooding.

In order to be eligible for an FmHA emergency loan, one must be unable to secure financing from other sources. Loan funds may be used to finance the farmer's share of costs, when part of the costs come from ASCS programs. The interest rate on loans to finance actual losses is five per cent.

Applications for physical losses must be filed before Dec. 5. Applications for production losses must be filed prior to March 10 of next year.

Applications for loans may be made at the Farmers Home Administration office at 1229 SE Third in Pendleton. A representative of FmHA will be available to help with claims on the first Wednesday of each month at the ASCS office in Heppner.

City clean-up drive underway soon

Cont. from page 4
are the city dump. Many people are not tying brush down and covering their trash which sometimes blows or bounces off pickups and trucks and causes the parts of town they drive through to look particularly trashy and unkempt.

The committee noted that everyone has seen carelessness on Main Street where persons coming out of stores or the Post Office drop bags, envelopes, letters, third-class mail and other litter with no concern for civic pride. They stressed that this seems to be a contradiction to what most people like to believe—that people who live here are proud of Heppner and want to keep it an attractive, clean, pleasant community.

The clean-up campaign leaders hope an ongoing program of strengthening civic duty and re-awakening strong town pride will become a top

priority in all citizens' lives—beginning right now.

The campaign committee and interested citizens will meet again next Monday evening, March 26, at 8:00

p.m. in the Parish Hall of All Saints' Episcopal Church. Chairman Miller can be reached at 676-9970 during the day or at 676-5158 evenings.

Western Route closes until thaw is complete

The Western Route Highway, linking Heppner and Ukiah through the Umatilla National Forest, was closed Wednesday to prevent further damage due to springtime thaw conditions. U.S. Forest Service officials announced.

Barricades were set up above Cutsforth Park and near the Ukiah junction to bar traffic from using the road.

The Blue Mountain snow pack had melted enough to allow the road to become passable early last week. The weeklong use of the road showed that severe damage would result if it were to remain open.

Forest Service officials said they would reopen the highway when frost leaves the ground and the roadway has stabilized.



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\$1586	\$1986	\$2186	\$2486	\$2586	\$2786
1975 Olds Delta 88 <small>2 dr. V-8 auto, air, truck, jet up to 70 mph, 28,000 miles. Stock No. 0033</small>	1976 Ford Granada <small>2 door coupe, 6 cylinder, stock, vinyl top, economy 2800. Only 53,000 miles. Stock No. 0043</small>	1977 Dodge Aspen Wgn. <small>Sport 44, 4 spd, roof rack, great economy, family car, only 25,000 miles. Stock No. 0006</small>	1977 Plymouth Fury <small>3 see wagon, V-8, auto, air, nice wagon, only 28,000 miles. Stock No. 0017</small>	1975 GMC Sierra Grande <small>4 ton, V-8, auto, air, heavy duty. Stock No. 0021</small>	1977 Pontiac LeMans <small>Coupe, V-8, auto, vinyl top, only 20,000 miles. Stock No. 0048</small>
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