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DMV office opens

Heppner now has a full-time Department of Motor Vehicles office located at Center and Main—the former First Federal building—staffed by Rose McCoy, pictured above. The DMV office is open five days a week between 8 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5 p.m. The office is equipped to handle all driver licensing and vehicle registration, licensing and title changes. Two days each month Mrs. McCoy will travel to Condon and Fossil. Mrs. McCoy and her husband Ellis, who is semi-retired, moved to Heppner from Medford. Mrs. McCoy has been with the DMV for the past 14 years.

County, City told to enforce new flood plain zoning laws

Flood plain management measures are expected to be used in Heppner, Lexington, Ione and all of Morrow County by the Federal Insurance Administration according to Chuck Steele, Region X administrator for the agency administering flood insurance.

Steel told members of the County Court, Heppner City Council and Planning Commission in a meeting here last Thursday. "It is from this meeting on, that we expect the data to be used...you have it all there in front of you."

The data Steele referred to are detailed maps showing flood plain areas in which regulated construction can take place, and floodway areas in which no new construction will be allowed except to replace in-kind or where no increase in flood depth occurs. Also included are regulations and specifications for elevating homes to or above flood plain depths and floodproofing standards for non-residential buildings.

A timetable for Heppner gives local government until May to review the information when a final meeting will be held. Comments solicited locally will be included with the information and forwarded to Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in June. By July of this year HUD is expected to issue a preliminary report which notifies communities of proposed elevations and a 90-day appeal period begins.

Any appeal made during that time will have to be reinforced by scientific data challenging the hydrological information used in establishing the flood plain.

After the appeals period, in October 1979, HUD revises the draft, if necessary, and issues the final draft and elevations. The local government has six months from that time in which to adopt the flood plain management measures by

ordinance. In the meantime, the three towns and Morrow County must observe restrictions that will prohibit new construction or substantial improvement to existing property in the newly designated floodways. New construction and improvements allowed by local government—either in the floodway or flood plain fringe areas—will not have to meet floodproofing and elevating requirements until the city joins the regular program in 1980. Buildings constructed

prior to that time are "grandfathered" into the subsidized flood insurance program. Steel pointed out that few variances will be allowed for construction in the floodway and said that site inspections will take place in each of the towns and the county to make sure the local governments are observing the regulations. Flood plain maps may be viewed at the Heppner City Hall, Morrow County Planning Office, or by contacting city officials in Ione and Lexington.

Cleanup campaign sweeps into action this weekend

Heppner's spring clean-up campaign peaks this weekend with many groups and individuals participating in a city-wide drive. Trucks will be moving through zones in town on Saturday and Sunday to remove grass rakes, limbs and other rubbish piled by curbs for pick-up. The Columbia Basin Electric chipper will be available all day Saturday for limb removal and persons should call Karen Palmer by Friday at 5 p.m. to give locations for that service. The Heppner Lions Club is

making a sweep of the Willow Creek channel and youth groups are planning a general pick-up of roads leading out of town. Several persons are needed to help man the trucks picking up rubbish and interested volunteers are urged to call Mark Lovgren at CBEC or Ken Miller at 676-9970 or 676-5158 for assignments. The Heppner Volunteer Fire Department will burn off vacant lots on request by owners of the property. Persons wanting that service are asked to call City Hall.

Proclamation

Whereas, Heppner was hard hit this winter past, and
Whereas, Heppnerites consider their town special, and
Whereas, the city requires some hard work to make it attractive, and
Whereas we hope that every citizen will take pride in the appearance of the City of Heppner,
I hereby proclaim The Week of March 26th through April 1st as Clean Up Week and a Week devoted to City Beautification and Improvement asking every citizen of Heppner to participate in making Heppner a place and city of which we can be proud.

Jerry Sweeney, Mayor
and The Town Council

County's taxable value now estimated at \$450 million-- nearly half is from Carty

Morrow County's total taxable value this year is expected to rise to more than \$450 million—up sharply from last year's total of \$326 million. The lion's share of the increase will come from new construction at the Carty coal-fired power plant near Boardman. County Assessor Everett Harshman said Monday that officials from the utilities section of the Oregon Department of Revenue have informed him that this year's value for the Carty plant will rise to \$200 million—up from \$62 million a year ago.

The \$200 million figure takes into account a portion of last year's valuation that is currently being appealed by Portland General Electric, one of the principals in the Carty venture. The power plant is expected to be valued at more than \$500 million when completed.

Harshman indicated that he felt it unlikely that the new valuation for the Carty site would be appealed, following discussions with tax officials in Salem.

The new \$450 million total value estimate will mean a substantial reduction in the tax rate for a number of levies on the ballot this year, including Morrow County schools and Blue Mountain Community College, both up for a vote on April 3. Using the updated total value estimate, property owners would pay \$8.40 per \$1,000 worth of

property for Morrow County schools, more than a dollar lower than the rate they paid for schools last year.

County school officials had been using a more conservative estimate of \$400 million for the total value, which resulted in earlier tax rate estimates of \$9.46 per \$1,000 for the pending school levy. Last year, the rate was \$9.59. Even though the millage

rate will drop, Harshman said he doubted the increased total value "will benefit individuals," since property valuations for homeowners are skyrocketing. Harshman, himself, admits to having been pinched in the tax crunch during the current revaluation. "My house is valued at more than I paid for my whole ranch," he said. Increases to Morrow County

residential property under the new valuations, however, are not expected to add significantly to the county's total taxable value. The increases are expected to be offset by decreases in farm property classifications, and through the phase-out of taxes or inventories.

Utility companies with property in Morrow County, including the Union Pacific

railroad and the Pacific Gas Transmission Corporation, are currently appealing valuations totaling some \$16 million. If the county prevails in litigation over the valuations, the \$450 total value will increase accordingly.

Harshman announced the new \$450 million total value estimate during a meeting of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce.

Daniels outlines BMCC operating request in Heppner appearance

Blue Mountain Community College President Ron Daniels appeared in Heppner last week to outline the college's proposed budget for the coming year to the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce.

The new budget—which faces action at the polls on April 3—would require a 10 per cent increase in revenue from taxpayers in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Inflation can be blamed for much of the increase, since the budget contains no new major capital improvements, and adds only one new teaching position. Salaries for the BMCC teaching staff would rise about nine per cent, totaling about \$186,000 of the budget. Retirement and social security requirements, however, would take the steepest jump, rising 23.8 per cent to a total of more than \$73,000.

The total operating budget for 1979-80 is proposed at \$3.94 million—up \$359,492 from the current year, Daniels said. Precisely what that will mean to taxpayers is not yet known, since tax officials have not set true cash value figures for Morrow or Umatilla counties. Using the current true cash value for the district, tax rates would increase from the current \$1.56 per \$1,000 valuation to \$1.79.

However, true cash value is expected to increase anywhere from 7 to 15 per cent. Using the lower figure, the tax rate climb would be less dramatic—climbing to only \$1.67 per \$1,000 from the current \$1.56.

Using the current true cash value rate, the owner of a \$50,000 home could expect his or her BMCC tax bill to total \$89.50, up \$11.50 from the current rate.

Daniels noted that a decision by the BMCC board of trustees to use 1977-78 cash carryover to reduce the 1978 levy has a significant negative effect on the current budget proposal. Had the board decided to levy the total dollar figure approved by voters on the third go-around last year, and used the cash carryover to reduce this year's levy, "the result would only show an increase of \$193,772, instead of \$294,572," Daniels said.

★★★★

Be Sure
To Vote
April 3

★★★★

While the total budget for the coming year would require a total of \$3.94 million, only \$2.15 million would be raised through property taxes. State funding would pay for nearly a third of the budget, tuition and fees would pay for about 10 per cent, and federal and miscellaneous funding would pick

up the remaining five per cent. Property tax funds account for paying just over half of the budget.

Daniels noted that roughly a fourth of Morrow County's graduating high school seniors go on to BMCC, and that nearly 400 county residents are taking part in BMCC's

evening division program. BMCC does not have a tax base, Daniels noted, meaning that the amount being sought in the tax levy will go towards paying for the entire operating budget, not just an amount in excess of the six per cent limitation.

Heppner man faces more drug charges following grand jury probe

Secret indictments returned by a Morrow County Grand Jury resulted in 11 additional arraignments last Thursday for Noel Harshman Jr. of Heppner, who had previously been indicted for manufacturing (growing) marijuana.

Harshman faces a variety of drug-related charges, including criminal activity in drugs, criminal use of drugs, delivery of a controlled substance to a minor, delivery of a controlled substance for consideration, maintaining a place for keeping or selling a controlled substance, and possession of drugs, including hashish, butalbital, amobarbital, meprobamate, and codeine in two generic forms.

The Morrow County Grand Jury met in four daylong sessions before returning the indictments. Nearly 20 witnesses were summoned for testimony in the grand jury probe, many of them local high school students.

No pleas were entered during last week's arraignment proceedings. Dennis Hachler of Pendleton, Harshman's court-appointed attorney,

asked for a postponement until March 27, to allow the lawyer to take a previously arranged vacation.

In a separate drug case last Thursday, Todd Markillie, 19, of Boardman changed not guilty pleas to guilty on three drug charges. The move was

part of a plea negotiating agreement.

Markillie pleaded guilty to delivery of a controlled substance for consideration, possession of controlled substances (marijuana and hash-

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Concerned Parents to host speaker on drug abuse

The Concerned Parents group has scheduled an informative public workshop session on drug-abuse prevention for this Thursday evening, March 29, 1979, at 7:30 p.m. at the Heppner Grade School multi-purpose room.

Guest speaker will be drug-abuse program coordinator Bob Trickett of the Morrow County Mental Health Division. Trickett has worked with drug-abuse prevention programs throughout the state for

the past seven years and has lectured extensively on the subject.

Topics for discussion at the workshop are to include the physical and psychological effects of marijuana usage, various legal aspects of its use, social standards and public acceptance, an examination of marijuana vs. alcohol, and discussion on the prevention of drug abuse.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Julie Grieb elected to State FFA post during Klamath Falls convention

Heppner High School senior Julie Grieb was elected State Sentinel during last week's Oregon FFA convention at Klamath Falls.

Some 1,200 FFA members from chapters throughout Oregon attended the annual convention, including eight from Heppner. Local Future Farmers making the trip were Julie Grieb, Geri Grieb, Marie Van Schoiack, JoLynn Daly, Ron Young, Dan Nix, Todd Sherer and Terry Gray.

As part of her campaign for the state office, Julie mailed out brochures detailing her activities and the activities of the Heppner chapter and delivered a nomination speech. She was elected by the general assembly of FFA



members attending the convention. Each chapter had two votes.

Duties for the state office will include making visits to every FFA chapter in Oregon at least twice during the coming year.

The national FFA vice president and state FFA presidents from California and Washington took part in last week's state convention.

Julie and Marie Van Schoiack received coveted State Farmer awards during a ceremony at the convention.

Heppner has not had a representative on state FFA officers' panel since 1968, when Dave Hall was elected state reporter.