

MOONLIGHT MADNESS Sale Thursday

Stores open from 7-9 p.m. tonight for special sale--See Section B, pages 2-3

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night as Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, April 29.



The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES Morrow County's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

HEPPNER, OREGON

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Morrow County's 1979 Fair and Rodeo Court and Penant Bearers were honored at Queen's Coronation activities following the Lumberjack Show Saturday. Seated are Princess Lori Edwards, Queen Debora Palmer and Princess Jennifer Wenholz. Standing are Penant Bearers Anita Palmer, Tammi Holtz, Sylvia Ladd and Melanie Seitz. For the remainder of spring and summer these gals are ambassadors of good will for Morrow County.

Fair Court!

Area state highways scheduled for improvements this summer

Two local sections of frost-damaged state highway were included among 10 resurfacing projects authorized last week by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

The local highway segments scheduled for resurfacing during the upcoming construction season are the Heppner-Condon highway, between Lone Rock junction and Rock Creek, and the Heppner-Hermiston highway, from south of Lexington to the Bombing Range Road cutoff. The latter repaving project

would start at the end of the widened, improved section of highway between Lexington and Heppner, and proceed more than 12 miles north of Lexington to the Bombing Range Road intersection. The cost of resurfacing this winter-ravaged highway segment was set at \$2 million.

Cost for the six-mile repaving project between Rock Creek and Lone Rock on the Heppner-Condon highway was estimated at \$156,000.

The Heppner-Hermiston segment was the second-most

costly project authorized by the OTC, exceeded only by a \$2.2 million, 9.9 mile repaving

job on the Pendleton-John Day highway near Beech Creek Summit.

As most county motorists are aware, the Heppner-

Hermiston highway was virtually impassible for several days in February, when months of hard freezing ended suddenly in a spring-like thaw, accompanied by warm rain.

Total cost for the 10 repaving projects was estimated

at \$10 million, involving some 90 miles of highway. Most of the projects are located in Central and Eastern Oregon.



Prom people

Roads, increased services, inflation boost County budget; increased valuation expected to offset tax rate

A \$100,000 supplement for county road repair, inflation in the cost of supplies and materials, and the creation of a new deputy district attorney's position contribute to an increased general budget request by Morrow County government for the coming fiscal year.

The proposed county budget, to go before voters on May 22, would require \$419,190 to be raised through property taxes outside the six per cent limitation. Not counting Pioneer Memorial Hospital's budget request, which will appear on a separate ballot, the county budget will require a total of \$961,350 to be raised through property taxes.

The request is up \$280,259 from last year's total county budget requirement. But due to the county's sharp rise in total taxable value, now set at \$430 million, the millage rate for the proposed budget will actually drop to \$2.14 per \$1,000 of property from the current rate of \$2.20.

Of course, steep increases in the valuations of residential and business property will offset in many cases the decrease in the millage rate, meaning that many tax bills may be higher.

Morrow County's winter ravaged road system accounts for the biggest slice of the budget request. In addition to the \$195,000 in tax dollars

required to continue the three year road serial levy, the county court is seeking an additional \$100,000 supplement for road supplies, asphalt, repair work and fuel for road crew machinery. The proposed budget also calls for assigning two additional road crew workers to permanent duty in the county's north end.

The \$100,000 earmarked for supplemental road work "may just about keep us solvent" in terms of maintaining passable roads, according to Judge D.O. Nelson. "We

probably should have asked for \$300,000," he said. Judge Nelson noted that this week's heavy rainfall "put us back to where we were two months ago" in keeping abreast of spring road repair work.

Under the proposed budget, the sheriff's department would receive \$184,235—up slightly from last year's rate of \$171,527.

District Attorney Dennis Doherty's office, which received only \$19,146 last year, would receive \$54,146 under

the proposed budget. The increase includes about \$18,000 for a deputy district attorney, plus funds to hire another secretary and purchase office equipment and supplies.

The budget also calls for allocating \$82,640 to the fair and rodeo; \$13,600 for the county airport; \$3,900 to the county's law library; and \$4,800 to the county mental health program.

The county court tentatively plans to hold a budget hearing on May 16.

Planning, staff, MD recruiting up PMH budget

Funds to recruit, pay, and provide a staff and support services for an additional physician, plus funds for management consulting, planning and development are included in Pioneer Memorial Hospital's budget request for the coming year.

On May 22, voters will be asked to approve the hospital's request for \$398,587 in property tax money in order to balance the hospital's budget

during fiscal 1979-80. The budget would require an estimated \$1.33 per thousand dollars assessed valuation from Morrow County property owners. The proposed operating budget would be \$451,989 greater than the amount received through tax funds last year.

According to PMH Administrator Bob Byrnes, the hospital's budget committee met six times in lengthy sessions to hammer out the proposed document, which he said "reflects an attempt by the governing body to discharge services to the community in terms of doing what needs to be done to enable the hospital to meet the minimum needs of the community."

The budget proposes that \$139,588 be allocated for physician services, including doctor recruitment funds, a proposed \$50,000 salary for one physician, start up and support services, back-up medical personnel to cover for vaca-

tioning doctors, malpractice insurance, and medical services for the North Morrow Clinic at Boardman.

A total of \$50,000 was earmarked for management consulting and planning and development. The hospital board recently hired the Oregon Association of Hospital's director of management systems to develop a long-range plan for Pioneer Memorial. "A structured planning process will be implemented through the budget," Byrnes said. "We've got to let the community know how we're identifying goals and priorities" and how they should be met.

The hospital's "top priority is to bring in a new doctor, without a doubt," Byrnes said. The increased funding for physician services would "provide an incentive that needed to be built in" in order to attract and retain such an individual.

Continued on page 3

Oregon Association of Hospitals planner to speak at Chamber

Ron Ellingson, director of management systems of the Oregon Association of Hospitals, will be featured guest speaker at the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce meeting at noon on Monday, April 30.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital's board of trustees last week voted to enter a contract with Ellingson and the Oregon Association of Hospitals to implement the hospital board's recently developed strategic planning process.

During Monday's Chamber meeting, Ellingson will outline what that planning process will entail for Pioneer Memorial. The stated objectives of the program include documentation of the hospital's mission, goals and needs; providing accurate and timely

information to the hospital board and administration; organizing the planning process to delineate areas of responsibility and authority; and to identify alternatives for facilities planning, short and long-term medical programs, assuring that programs can be supported by available resources.

In addition to providing developing sound business and management practices, the planning process offered by Ellingson will enable Pioneer Memorial to meet new government requirements for developing a health planning process. This planning process relies heavily on community and medical staff involvement, as well as participation at all levels of the hospital organization.

Ruggs to Ione Bike-A-Thon tests peddle power Saturday

Registration will get underway at 9 a.m. Saturday at Ruggs for the annual Ruggs to Ione Bike-A-Thon to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

For the past several weeks, area schoolchildren have been soliciting pledges from the community, in order to make their pedal-power worthwhile for St. Jude's.

During the past two years, youthful bike riders and their sponsors in the Ione and Heppner areas have contributed nearly \$3,000 to aid in the research of catastrophic childhood diseases.

The 22-mile long route along lower Rhea Creek will be patrolled by members of the Morrow County Search and Rescue Posse. The fundraiser is sponsored by the Ione and Heppner chapters of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha international sorority. The sorority hopes to raise \$1 million for St. Jude's, through similar projects across the nation this year.

Should Saturday prove to be a rainy day, plans call for

holding the marathon bike ride on May 5.

Wheat Growers set annual spring meet

The Morrow County Wheat Growers League will hold its annual spring meeting this Friday, April 27, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner, starting at 8 p.m.

Oregon Wheat Commission President Frank Tubbs will speak on a proposed merger of Western Wheat Associates and Great Plains Wheat, according to Joe McElligott, president of the Morrow Wheat Growers.

Also on the program will be Sen. Ken Jernstedt and Rep. Bill Bellamy, who will report on items of local concern being considered in Salem.

Morrow County's Conservation Man of the Year will be

announced, and Brok Tucker will give a brief report on gasahol in Oregon. Refreshments will be served.

DMV office closed

The Division of Motor Vehicles Office in Heppner will be closed on April 30, May 1 and 2.