



New city pumper provides Lexington area with increased fire-fighting protection

The Lexington Volunteer Fire Department has a new fire engine, a 1978 International 1,000 gallon pumper with a 750 gallon tank. And it's not painted the traditional fire-engine red.

New pumper adds color

The Lexington Volunteer Fire Department tested out its new fire truck this week. The new vehicle is a 1978 International, 1,000 gallon pumper purchased from a bond issue approved in November, 1978. The yellow truck replaces the old red fire engine, a 1954 Ford, which will now serve the department as an emergency backup.

Instead, Lexington residents will be seeing a new yellow fire truck. The yellow color is the latest innovation among fire and emergency vehicles and supposed to be more visible at night, Fire Chief Ed Baker told the Gazette-Times.

The fire truck cost residents about \$48,000 in a bond issue approved last November replacing a 1954 Ford with 200

gallon and 500 gal. water tank. Chief baker said the department would keep the old vehicle as a backup in emergencies and would be installing a larger fire door to accommodate the city's two-truck fleet.

Chief Baker and Bill Sheirbon, a member of the department left May 19 on a trip to Tipton, Indiana to pick up the

vehicle and save the residents \$900, then drove it back to Oregon. The pair experienced a windstorm in Wyoming but other than that, Chief Baker said the trip was smooth.

In addition to the fire engine, the department purchased new hoses, 1200 feet of two and a half inch hose adding to its complement of 800 ft. of one and a half inch hosing.

The new fire engine gives the department greater fire-fighting capacity and could be the impetus towards creation of a rural fire district. At present, the 8 man department serves only the immediate boundaries of Lexington. Chief Baker said he will invite the Deputy Fire Marshall from Pendleton to see their new vehicle and discuss proposed boundaries for the district. To create the district,

boundaries must be outlined and the issue voted upon.

Baker told the Gazette that when fire occurs outside the city limits, the Morrow County Grain Growers respond with its equipment.

The chief hopes to arrange a public demonstration of the truck to residents of Lexington after storing and installing air masks, hoses and other equipment.

He urges anyone interested in joining the fire department to contact him. Men or women may apply and receive \$2.50 per meeting (50 cents is deducted for refreshments) and \$7 per fire call.

The department currently has seven men, Gary Munkers, Floyd Barman, Ray Shuman, Bill Sheirbon, John Ripple, Harry Green and Charles Hutchinson.



The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 97, NO. 22

HEPPNER, OREGON

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1979

PAGES

20 cents

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., May 22	88	53	..
Wed., May 23	81	54	.12
Thur., May 24	75	49	..
Fri., May 25	83	46	..
Sat., May 26	76	40	..
Sun., May 27	63	43	..
Mon., May 29	61	45	trace

County budget committee meets to analyze defeated budgets

What caused last Tuesday's voter rejection of the requested Morrow County tax levy dominated the discussion at Thursday's budget committee meeting at the County Courthouse.

Except for revaluation of property in the county it was a mystery to County Judge D.O. Nelson and Warren McCoy and the small group which attended the informal meeting. Most of the members of the committee were missing for a variety of reasons, Don Kramer was home nursing an injured knee and the chairman Gary Grieb wasn't able to attend. Barton Clark, a newly appointed member of the committee, attended but is still learning the budget details. And his predecessor, who declined to be identified, felt the light turnout of voters was the reason behind the budget defeat.

At the end of the marathon brainstorming, the court deferred its decision until Thursday when the budget committee will again meet with the court.

The chairman of the hospital board, Fred Martin, also attended the session and said a decision to resubmit the Pioneer Memorial Hospital to the voters must be taken by the County Court which first divided the county and hospital tax levies two years ago into separate ballot issues.

When asked why the hospital vote failed, Martin responded, "I feel it was primarily a matter of communication; it's a very complex issue and hard to break down the misunderstandings."

County Commissioner Warren McCoy, Irrigon, said 90 percent of the problem is that state and federal government keep raising their demands on county government and voters here "took their wrath out on the county government."

Nelson and McCoy were disappointed with the election results, noting the low attendance at public meetings held in both north and south ends of the county.

"We went to Boardman and had five people at the meeting,

four of which were city officials," Nelson said.

McCoy thought a direct mailing to taxpayers might achieve better results but Nelson said they are used to tossing such material away.

In one instance, flyers were sent to all parents of school-age children and when McCoy and Nelson arrived at the Irrigon meeting, "not a soul came," Nelson said.

A former member of the budget committee said he had heard some discontent from taxpayers over the inclusion of \$18,000 in the District Attorney's budget for hiring a Deputy District Attorney.

Nelson said the D.A. is required to do more and trying to rid the county of drug abuse. A portion of the D.A.'s expenses are borne by the state (\$5,796) but the county

Vandals strike Heppner High

Heppner High School was the scene of vandalism early Thursday morning.

Someone made entry into the school, overturned desks and tables in two classrooms, broke coffee cups in the faculty room, discharged fire extinguishers and damaged a water fountain in the boys' physical education room.

The incident has been reported to Heppner City Police and the case is under investigation.

Both Police Chief Dean Gilman and Principal Jim Bier do not suspect a connection with the latest vandalism and the vandalism last week to four buses at Ione.

Bier told the Gazette-Times, vandalism has been on the increase at the high school but felt other school districts were noticing greater problems. He noted that there is an Oregon law which requires assess-

ment of the office and secretarial expenses. The personal services of the D.A. total \$39,186.

At one point, Nelson said if we could sit down with every taxpayer in Morrow County and explain our budget, we would receive their votes. But he said the Court doesn't have the time.

He believes the proposed 1979-1980 budget to be a fair budget based on the necessary road requirements and governmental expenditures. "We can't lower salaries."

"If we made cuts, we might set the county back 20 years," Nelson said.

"I think the county does a real good job to take care of what it has—with 1200 miles of roads to maintain."

McCoy said some north end voters felt they weren't getting a fair share of the

county's tax dollars on their roads and he felt the proposed stationing of road workers at Irrigon and Boardman would alleviate that feeling.

Instead of placing road expenditures in the general fund, Nelson said the budget committee might consider a one year road levy.

To offset the inflationary pressure on property-owners from increased valuation, it

Pioneer Picnic draws 300 for annual event of fun and fellowship

More than 300 guests attended the 26th annual Pioneer Picnic held at the fairgrounds in Heppner Sunday.

Hosting this year's event was the Peck family, descendants of Clinton North Peck who first homesteaded on Clark's Canyon with a 10-acre timber culture in 1892.

Chairmen of the 1979 picnic were Harold and Edna Peck, Upper Rhea Creek residents, who were honored by their children for the couples 45th wedding anniversary, coming soon. The Pecks were presented with a handmade quilt, made of blocks done by many friends of the family and depicting bits of Morrow County history. Making the presentation were the Peck children, Patricia Hardy of Albany, Shirley Palmer of Eightmile and Marjorie Church of Elk City, Idaho.

Door prizes were given to Reidun Martinsen of Norway, traveled farthest; Letha Archer, Heppner, oldest person in attendance; Melody Marlatt, Heppner, name drawing. Miss Martinsen is an International Foreign Youth Exchange student staying with the Roger Palmer family.

Greeting the picnic-goers were Heppner Mayor Jerry Sweeney who delivered a short welcome; Harold Kerr, county extension agent, who

was suggested that taxpayers unhappy with the hike in their property values appeal directly to the board of equalization or appeal directly to the state.

County Assessor Everett Harshman told the court that property tax relief may be coming from the state legislature which is debating a bill to lower taxes on homes by 30 percent; it would only be in force for one year.

told the audience what was happening in Morrow County agriculturally and industrially; and the Morrow County Fair & Rodeo Court, consisting of Queen Debora Palmer, Princess Lori Edwards and Princess Jennifer Wenzholz. The Rev. John Maas of Hope and Valby Lutheran churches gave the invocation.

Highlighting the picnic—as it does every year—were the acquaintances renewed by former classmates and neighbors and even relatives who haven't seen each other over the years.

Chairmen of the 1980 Pioneer Picnic will be Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Vinson of Heppner.

Juveniles arrested for Ione bus vandalism

Two Ione juveniles, a 16 and 17 year old boy, were arrested Friday and will be charged with a Class C felony, criminal mischief in the first degree in connection with the vandalism of four Ione High School buses last week.

Morrow County Sheriff Larry Fetsch said the youth were "detained" by sheriff's deputies and handed over to juvenile authorities. The juvenile Court Judge, D.O. Nelson

GOP nominates Krebs for county commissioner post

Dorothy Krebs, Ione, has been recommended to the Morrow County Court by the County Republican Central Committee as its choice to fill the position of County Commissioner held by the late Homer Hughes.

If appointed, Krebs will be the first woman commissioner in Morrow County history. The County Court meets Wednesday to consider the recommendation.

Her selection was made public by Central Committee Chairman Steve Peck following a closed caucus of 16 Republican committee members at the County Courthouse in Heppner, Wednesday, May 23.

Krebs won the nomination on the first ballot in competition with 10 other candidates, Merle Cantin, Ralph Crum,



Dorothy Krebs

Don Peterson, a committee member, Arnold Braat, Irrigon City Manager Jack Baisden, Dick Wilkinson, June Lindstrom, Paul Taylor and Truman Messenger. The rules committee rejected Baisden's

candidacy because he wasn't a resident of the county.

The wife of a sheepgrower, Henry Krebs, Dorothy holds a master of science degree from Oregon State University, is a former member of the board of directors of Blue Mountain Community College and says she is interested in finding solutions to governmental problems.

"I didn't know which way it would go. Obviously, she had good support. I think we found an electable Republican," the committee chairman said Thursday following Krebs' selection.

The committee notified all the applicants of their decision Wednesday night and thanked them for their participation. Peck said the committee felt there were several good candidates for the position.

More than 150 contestants expected

Junior cowboys ride into Heppner for weekend rodeo

Junior Rodeo is slated this weekend at the Morrow County Fairgrounds with an estimated 150 contestants expected to compete from Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California.

Three shows are scheduled; Friday night starting at 7:30

p.m. and again on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. The events are divided into two categories, Senior (15-18 year olds) and Juniors (9-14). Cost of admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students. Refreshments will be sold by the Lion's Club.

Senior boys will be competing in a variety of events from saddle bronc and bareback riding, bulldogging, calf roping and bull riding and Senior girls will be participating in such events as cow-riding, breakaway roping, pole bending, barrel racing, goat-tying and team roping with one header and the other, heeler. Junior boys' events include breakaway, calf riding and calf-tying. The girls will be barrel racing, pole bending, calf riding and team roping.

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court will make an appearance at the grand opening of the rodeo each

night, which will also feature a colorful ceremony of horsemanship, outfits and rodeo hats.

The rodeo is approved by the Western States Junior Rodeo Association and is one of a series of rodeos attracting young rodeo stars. Silver belt buckles will be given away to the top competitors with a \$15 entry fee charged to participants.

Joe Nichols will serve as the announcer for the annual event.

DMV office closed from June 4-15

The State Motor Vehicle Dept., Heppner, will be closed from June 4 through 15, to enable the examiner to attend school in Salem.

It will reopen on June 18.