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The Heppner
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Weather
By Don Gilliam

	Hi	Low	Pre.
Tues., Jan. 29	16	-3	
Wed., Jan. 30	15	-3	
Thurs., Jan. 31	21	9	
Fri., Feb. 1	39	14	.02
Sat., Feb. 2	53	27	.11
Sun., Feb. 3	52	30	.17
Mon., Feb. 4	51	33	

2.54 January participation
1.29 normal
1.37 January 1979

Lana Reid serves some french fries to an anxious grade school student, Douglas Marlatt.

School lunches for only 30c laid to 'good management'

By Steven A. Powell

Where can you buy a meal of such favorite foods as fish and chips, macaroni and cheese, pizza, and corn dogs for 30 cents?

Certainly not in a restaurant and even frozen TV dinners are more expensive than that.

But Morrow County school students can buy a hot lunch for 30 cents and for teachers it only costs 40 cents.

Why are the meals so inexpensive?

"Good management," said Gladys Van Winkle, head cook at Heppner elementary who has worked there for 20 years.

"We recycle leftovers and use them in another dish," she said.

Van Winkle said they cut costs by bid buying large quantities of food in the spring to be used in the fall for meals. They take advantage of all sales and government commodities too.

"Without the commodities, we could not make it," she said. "When we buy the commodities, all we have to pay is the freight costs."

Van Winkle said commodities are all types of food products the government buys each month to give that food product a push in the food market industry.

The school hot lunch program is very popular as about 80 percent of the students and 60 percent of the teachers and other adults at the schools buy the meals daily.

Some students can get their meals for even less than 30 cents if their family size and family income meet certain criteria.

"You can make good money and still qualify because of the liberal standards," said Don Cole, grade school principal.

An example of the district policy to receive a free meal would be—in a family of five—if the income is $10,390 a year or less. Reduced-price meals of 10 cents are available to the same size of a family with an income of $16,200.

"We have about 50 kids in the reduced price lunch program so not all who qualify are taking advantage of it," Cole said.

Another reason the school lunches are so inexpensive is because the state reimburses the school district for part of its costs.

Currently the state reimburses the school 17 cents for a regular meal, 66 cents for a discounted (10 cent) meal and 76 cents for a free meal.

"We do not make any money—the state keeps us from doing that," said Linda Padberg, office secretary who keeps the books for the school lunch program.

"But we do not lose money either," she said. "The total reimbursement fluctuates depending on expenses."

Padberg said the reimbursement rate changes twice a year to keep up with inflation. She said the Heppner schools serve approximately 7,500 meals a month.

The schools are not reimbursed automatically however.

Continued on page 9

Federal grant aids hospital expansion, Felt says

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator A.K. Felt, speaking before the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce meeting recently, told about the expansion of the hospital.

Felt said the Health Education and Welfare grant will pay for 75 percent of the project as the grant was raised from $151,000 to $312,000.

In order to receive the grant, the hospital is now obligated to give service for citizens who are eligible under certain HEW criteria. This free care must be given until the amount of free care equals the original amount of the grant.

"Unlike most businesses, if we have a non-paying customer come back to us, we cannot say no," Felt said.

"Before we write someone off as a bad debt, we will try to see if the person is eligible for the free care if at all possible," Felt said.

Felt said the hospital is taking $104,000 out of the contingency fund to match with the HEW grant but there still is money left in the fund.

The expansion and renovation will include new metal casings, fire doors, electrical work and smoke detectors to make the building legal from a fire code standpoint. The building had been operating with a fire code waiver which could be revoked at any time, Felt said.

There will a be a ramp in front of the hospital to the parking lot for persons in wheel chairs, a reception room a waiting room, an office, a restroom, an ambulance port, and emergency room with equipment, and four other rooms. Those extra rooms can be used as an x-ray room, a physicians office or extra emergency rooms, Felt said.

He added that the current x-ray room is being renovated and the processor and x-ray machine are being sold. He said practically all of the excavating for the addition is done and no penalty had been assessed for breaking into hard rock.

Felt reported that occupancy at the hospital is under 40 percent so none of the addition needs to be patient rooms.

"Our problem is not having enough patient rooms—but having enough patients," Felt said.

Filing deadline nears for school board

The deadline is Feb. 19 for applications for the four Morrow County School Board positions that expire this year.

Jean Bennett's Zone V position ends this year. Anyone living in the rural area of Heppner at least five miles out of town may apply for the position.

Anyone living within the five-mile radius of Heppner may apply for the Zone VII position presently held by Jim Wishart.

The term of the county at-large position also expires this year. Anyone in the entire county may apply for Pauline Winter's position.

John Matthews' position for Zone II expires this year so anyone living in Irrigon may apply for it.

The election for school board members is March 25 and they will begin their terms July 1. All the positions are four-year terms except Jim Wishart's in Zone VII, which is a one-year term.

Interested persons may obtain applications from the school district office in Lexington. Petitions are available and 25 signatures are needed for a school board member application and 10 needed for a position on the advisory council.

Instead of petitioning for a position, persons may file at the county clerk's office in Heppner for a filing-fee cost.

Three persons have filed for school board positions. Pauline Winter of Heppner has petitioned to run for re-election for the at-large position but she is being challenged by Sharon S. Hill of Boardman. Robert L. Greene of Heppner is running for the Zone V. position.

The three positions on the school board that are not being voted on this year are held by Ken Broadbent of Boardman, Irvin Rauch of Lexington and Harold Snider of Ione.

Voters will select the school board members at the same election when they will pass on the school budget and choose advisory committee members. Two advisory positions in Irrigon will be voted on March 25.

The positions are currently held by Louella Conboy and Bob Byrd. Position V is a three year term and Position VI is a one-year term.

Two positions are also available in Boardman. Jack Strege is in Position I, a one-year term, and Zon Billings is in Position II, a three-year term.

Ione also has two openings. Position I is held by Paul Tews and it is a three-year term as is Position V, held by Wilma Cheney, for the Ione and Cecil areas.

Gail Hughes' three-year term for Position V in Heppner is up for election as is Paul Sumner's Position I three-year for Heppner.

Heppner and Lexington Position III, held by Sharon Harrison, expires this year. It is a three-year term.

Ione market seeking state liquor license

Bristow's Market in Ione has applied for a state liquor license to sell liquor in the store according to owner E.W. Bristow.

Bristow said he may be one of many applicants because applications are being taken statewide because of the vacancy. Applicants will be investigated and screened and final selection will be made by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission at its public meeting in Milwaukie March 25 and 26.

Work 'on schedule' for Willow Creek Dam

Work on the Willow Creek Dam project is right on schedule said Dug Dugger, public affairs coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in a telephone interview Monday.

Dugger said there will be a public meeting in early March to discuss the final approved project with interested persons in the community. The meeting is required by law.

The acquisition of land will proceed after the meeting. Real estate appraisers will value the land and make offers to the owners.

"If we have all willing sellers, the process will go quickly," Dugger said. "Otherwise we will have to go through the condemnation process in court where the court decides the price and that takes added time."

Dugger said the tentative schedule for construction to begin is the late summer around August.

He said the corps is awaiting final approval of the design from the chief of enigineers in Washington D.C. The corps is also waiting for the final environmental impact statement to be completed but Dugger does not foresee any problems in either area.

School building project cuts bank deposits

The Heppner branch of the First National Bank of Oregon reported deposits of $13,964,000 as of Dec. 31, 1979. This compares with $17,430,000 a year earlier.

Bank officials in Portland said the drop in deposits resulted from the spending of general obligation bond monies that were on deposit for Morrow County and the State of Oregon. The funds were used in the construction of the new school in Boardman.

News briefs...

City budget announced

City administrator Marshall Lovgren was scheduled to present the city budget to the city council last night at the budget meeting in city hall.

The budget requests a 15 percent increase in salaries for the 13 city employees. Last year voters approved a seven percent increase in salaries.

The total budget requested for the next fiscal year is $600,839. The budget adopted for 1979-80 was for $465,908.

The major increase, Lovgren said, is in salaries, reserve cash, supplies and materials.

Salaries for the four maintenance persons, four city policemen, two office personnel, one librarian, one mayor and one fire chief will go up $23,366.

Materials and supplies will go up $70,094 and the reserve cash fund, which is used in emergencies to offset expenses, is getting smaller every year so Lovgren wants to put $78,992 in that fund to build it up.

Residents oppose combined court

North Morrow County residents voiced opposition to the merger of the two county justice courts at a meeting last week in Irrigon. Approximately 20 persons met with the committee named by the county court to discuss the possibility of the merger. They were concerned that they would not have good service from the justice court if they were combined.

The committee will meet again in Irrigon Feb. 13 to prepare a report of its recommendation to the county court.

Easter choir being formed

A community choir is being formed to sing at an Easter program.

Arnie Hedman will be the music director and the Rev. John Maas is the coordinator.

The rehearsals will being in the middle of February.

Interested persons may contact either Maas or Hedman.

Former Kinzua plywood plant employees find employment in Boardman

Leon and Dorene Reed, 460 S. Main in Heppner, are like many other Kinzua Mill in Heppner employees. They do not work at the mill any longer.

The Reeds worked in the plywood plant at the mill before it shut down in December.

He was an electrician there for 2½ years and she worked on the stringing machine for five years.

They said they were not surprised about the closing of the mill.

"We were looking for it," he said, "but we were hoping it would wait a couple of years."

Unlike many of the Kinzua employees who were laid off, the Reeds have been successful in finding other employment.

Leon Reed was hired recently as an electrician at Gourmet Foods in Boardman. Mrs. Reed said she is waiting for a day job to open up at Gourmet Foods before she goes back to work.

He said they did not even look for jobs around Heppner, even though their home is here, because, "There are not any jobs here that pay."

He said the unemployment office sent him "all over" applying for jobs and Gourmet Foods was the first place to call him.

"I did not do anything and got bored not working," he said.

"I kind of enjoyed the month off," Mrs. Reed added.

The Reeds said they know a few people who have not done anything since the layoff.

As for the long trip to Boardman everyday, the Reeds said it won't be bad when they can go together if the job for Mrs. Reed materializes.

The main reason the Reeds are not going to move away from Heppner, like many others have done, is because of Dorene Reeds's son, Clay Grace. He is a junior at Heppner High School and is engaged to be married once he graduates so it would be "difficult to move," she said.

"When Clay gets out of school, we plan to go back to Oklahoma where Leon grew up," Mrs. Reed said.

Leon Reed was born and raised in Oklahoma but came to Oregon when he was 17 "for one year" but he has never moved back.

He has worked in the lumber industry since he was 17 except for a few years when he was a farmer near Pendleton.

The Reeds also said they cannot move because market conditions are not favorable to sell their home in Heppner.

"We would like to sell the house in 1½ years," he said.

The Reeds said the closing of the plywood mill four days before Christmas hurt a lot of people at the mill but it made sense from a management standpoint because they did not have to pay for the New Year's holiday, they said.

Reed has quit at Kinzua and acquired his accumulated vacation pay but Mrs. Reed will not quit until her job is finalized with Gourmet Foods because she cannot collect unemployment benefits once she quits.

Mrs. Reed said she will not just take any job because, "Everywhere pays so much lower than at the mill."

Dorene and Leon Reed.