

	Hi	Low	Pre.
Tues., March 4	52	42	
Wed., March 5	45	26	23-2" snow
Thurs., March 6	38	20	
Fri., March 7	50	30	
Sat., March 8	53	38	.04
Sun., March 9	58	30	
Mon., March 10	62	35	

At county level

## Elected officials challenged in May primary vote

By Steven A. Powell

Seven applications for county offices were filed in the Morrow County clerk's office during the past week so, as of noon Tuesday, five hours before the deadline, races were developing for almost every position.

County Assessor Greg Sweek, Heppner-D, is the only person running for that position. If the salary approved by the county court budget committee is adopted by the voters in the May 20 primary election, Sweek and the other elected officials will be making \$19,618. His current salary is \$14,594 per year.

Sheriff Larry Fetsch, Ione-D, is the only one running for that position. His salary also will be \$19,618, up from \$15,695.

Ernest Jorgensen, fifth district justice, is the only person running for that office. His salary will increase from \$16,770 to \$17,945 with the approved budget.

Charlotte Gray, sixth district justice, requested a raise to be equal with Jorgensen's salary but the county budget committee decided to have that court meet four days a week when the new district court comes to Heppner, beginning July 1. The salary for the position will be \$14,356, up from \$10,939.

Dave Krumbein is the only person running for county surveyor.

But there will be races for all of the other elective offices.

John Mollahan, Heppner-D, has filed for the county judge position as has Daniel Creamer, Irrigon-D. They will be competing with Don McElligott, who was appointed about five months ago when D.O. Nelson resigned. The county judge position will earn \$25,000 a year with the budget committee's recommendations. The judge makes \$17,028 this year.

Merlin Cantin, Heppner-R, is challenging Dorothy Krebs, Ione-R, for the two-year term for county commissioner. The two county commissioners will split \$20,435, up from \$17,028.

Pauline Winter, Heppner-R, will compete with Barbara Bloodworth, Heppner-D, for the county clerk's position. Bloodworth was appointed to the position a few months ago to replace Sadie Parrish, who retired. That position will earn \$19,618, up from \$15,695.

The most interesting race should be for the county treasurer-tax collector position. Mary Martin, Lexington-R, has filed along with Margot Sherer, Ione-D, Alice Vance, Heppner-R, and Beverly Launer, Heppner-D. That position will also earn \$19,618, up from \$11,326. The two offices are being combined this year. In 1979-80, both offices earned \$11,326.

In what promises to be

another close race, Warren McCoy, Irrigon-R, is being challenged by Gene Allen, Boardman-R, and Jim Brooks, Boardman-R, for the four-year county commissioner position. As mentioned earlier, the two commissioners chosen will split \$20,435 for the part-time job.

### Committee persons needed

The nine county precinct committee persons will also be elected at the May 20 election. Each precinct is supposed to have two Democrats and two Republicans on the committee for a total of 36, 18 from each party.

Republican F.E. Glenn is the only person who has filed for the Boardman precinct.

Democrat Thomas Huston is the only one from Hardman.

From Ione, one Democrat position has not been filed for. Dale Conklin, D, has filed for one spot with Irene Holtz and Robert H. Jepsen filed for the Republican party.

Lexington has all four positions filed for with James and Barbara Bloodworth on the Democrat side and Stephen and Cathy Peck on the Republican side.

No one has filed in Irrigon. Ken Turner and Pauline

Winter have filed for the Republican positions for the Heppner Northeast precinct and no one has filed for the Democrats.

Paul Jones is a Democrat for the Northwest precinct in Heppner with Lynnea Sargent for the Republicans.

Terry and Karen Thompson are the Republicans filing for the Heppner Southeast precinct and Jerry Healy and Ida Lynn the Democrats.

Avon Melby has filed as a Republican for a Southeast Heppner precinct committee person position and the Democrats have Mary Bryant and Harold Peck.



Workers on the Pioneer Memorial Hospital expansion project continue working despite the crazy spring weather the county has had lately.

## Land acquisition set to begin for Willow Creek Dam

About 30 Heppner area residents turned out for the public meeting on the Willow Creek Dam project March 4 at the high school.

Army Corps of Engineer representatives explained that the design process is almost complete and the real estate acquisition phase is set to begin. The relocation of the city water tank and road relocation work will begin in a few months.

About 450 acres are needed for the dam site, construction areas, public use and access, and for relocation of public utilities, roads and highways.

A contract for construction of the dam is planned for

February of 1981. In 1982 the dam will be raised during the first six months of good weather. Finishing and miscellaneous items will follow.

Corps Public Affairs Officer Dug Dugger said there was not much opposition at the meeting last week but not all of the landowners were there either, he said.

Dugger said appraisals are being done now and the real estate acquisition phase is scheduled to be completed by May but that is "optimistic" he said.

"If we have to go into condemnation, it will take longer," he said.

## 2 from north end seek court seats

Two candidates from Morrow County's north end announced in Heppner Monday they were filing for county-wide offices in the May 20 primary election — Dan Creamer of Irrigon, Democrat, for county judge and Gene Allen of Boardman, Republican, for county commissioner.

Creamer, who made a bid for appointment last autumn after former County Judge D.O. Nelson resigned, said "I have nothing against Don McElligott," who would be his opponent in the election.

A former tugboat skipper and active in community affairs, Creamer had appeared before the county's Democratic Central Committee when a possible successor to Nelson was being considered. The committee nominated former Sheriff John Mollahan. But Gov. Victor G. Atiyeh named neither man to the judicial vacancy. Instead, he named McElligott, an Ione area farmer and former school board member.

McElligott will be seeking the Democratic nomination for a full term as judge.

Creamer said, "If I had a slogan, it would be 'Better Roads for Morrow County.'"

He said he felt the people of the county wanted to make sure that funds were used as, and where, they were intended and would support a serial levy of as much as \$2 million to finance road improvements.

With regard to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Creamer commented, "I opposed put-

ting the hospital budget in with the county budget. It would be healthy, clean and wholesome to have the hospital budget set aside from the county budget. Many problems could be solved by having a separate budget."

Creamer said A.K. (Lucky) Felt, hospital administrator, appeared "to be doing a real fine job." Felt was appointed last autumn to the hospital post.

"I would favor the formation of a health district, if that would benefit the hospital," Creamer said.

Creamer said he would represent all sections of the county. "I would like to do away with the north and south rivalry, and I hope that all of the people of Morrow County are as proud of the county as I am."

Allen, a real estate broker and a member of the Port of Morrow Commission, said he would seek the introduction of modern administrative methods to the county government if elected commissioner.

"The Morrow County government is big business," he said.

Allen, who was raised in Morrow County, serves as a member also of the County Planning Commission, Budget Committee, and as chairman of the Boardman Citizens Involvement Committee.

Besides Allen, Jim Brooks of Boardman, also a Republican, is challenging the incumbent Commissioner Warren McCoy of Irrigon for the GOP nomination.

## County salaries to increase 25% budget committee says

By Steven A. Powell

Salaries for county elected officials will increase approximately 25 percent or more if voters approve the county budget that was completed Monday by the county budget committee.

The county judge salary will increase from \$17,028 to \$25,000 a year. The county assessor's salary will increase from \$14,594 to \$19,618. The county clerk's salary will rise from \$15,695 to \$19,618. The county commissioners split \$20,435, up from \$17,028.

The fifth district justice will earn \$17,945, up from \$16,770. The sixth district justice will have an increase in salary from \$10,939 for five days a week to \$14,356 for four days a week. The county planner will have an increase from \$14,513 to \$16,102. The sheriff will receive \$19,618, up from \$15,695.

The tax collector-treasurer will have an increase from \$11,288 to \$19,618. This position is being combined for the first time so it will actually save the county money because the two positions this year cost the taxpayers \$22,614.

Other county employees will also have large increases. The county health nurse will earn \$18,468, up from \$14,242. The county janitor will receive a raise from \$11,718 to \$12,480.

Despite the large increase in many of the salaries for county officials, the total county budget that needs to be raised by county taxes is just \$347,321 more than this year. That is because other re-

sources will be much more than last year.

This year's county budget required \$1,543,044 to be raised by county property taxes and next year's request is for \$1,890,365.

County assessor Greg Sweek said at his current prediction of what the county valuation will be next year, property owners in the county will be taxed at a rate of \$3.57 per \$1,000 valuation for the county budget. That is up from \$3.22 per \$1,000 that was paid this year. Taxes on a \$50,000 property next year for the county will be \$178.50 while last year taxes were \$161.

Budget officer Alma Green said the approved county budget will only require an A Ballot. She said the county would have required a B ballot too if the budget was for \$148,000 more.

Voters will see the figure \$1,327,375 on the ballot May 20 because \$195,000 has already been approved by a serial road levy and \$367,990 is within the tax base and the six percent limitation.

The salary section of the budget could have been even more because a salary committee recommended that county officials make \$21,720, which is an average salary for the State of Oregon, they said. The budget committee decided that was too much of a jump all at once so the elected officials will get the \$19,618 figure next year and possibly the \$21,720 figure the following year.

County employees other

than the elected officials will receive a pay hike of 11.4 percent with the approved budget.

"That is the cost of living adopted by the county," Alma Green said.

At Monday's final meeting, the budget committee discussed the two county justice courts.

Commissioner Warren McCoy said he cannot see both justices receiving the same salary.

"This is not to downgrade Mrs. (Charlotte) Gray," he said. "The Irrigon court holds court on Monday but the secretary is always there. You can walk in any day and the clerk is at work. There is not the work in the office in Heppner. I just can't justify that much money."

In her budget request, Justice Gray wanted to have her salary raised to be equal with Ernest Jorgensen's salary at the Irrigon Court. Jorgensen pays his wife, who is the clerk there, out of his salary but since Gray is her own clerk, she argues that she should be paid the same amount. County Judge Don McElligott came up with the solution to pay the two justices at the same rate but cut the Sixth District Court in Heppner down to four days a week since a district court is going to sit in Heppner one day a week beginning July 1.

"It bothers me to have two judges here on the same day," he said.

(Continued on page 12)



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Greetings from Dublin:  
to the people of Morrow County

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Councillor William Cumiskey,

Office of the Lord Mayor  
Mansion House  
Dublin 2  
Telephone 76 18 45



GREETINGS

On the occasion of St. Patrick's Day I extend to all the readers of the Heppner Gazette-Times cordial greetings from the people of Dublin. We wish you a happy St. Patrick's Day.

Dublin this week is crowded with visitors from all over the world but in particular from the United States of America. Their presence among us, especially at our Parade, adds colour, excitement and spectacle and we are happy to wish them all a sincere Cead Mile Failte.

In many parts of Ireland today the most popular activity will be "drowning the Shamrock" in traditional style with good Irish whiskey. I have no doubt that many Irish people and their friends in Oregon will do likewise.

My colleagues on the City Council join me in wishing all Irish people in Morrow County, all their friends, the Editor, staff and readers of the Heppner Gazette-Times, a very happy St. Patrick's Day and success and happiness for the rest of the year.

Lá Fheile Pádraig fé mhaise dhibh go léir.



*W. Cumiskey*  
WILLIAM CUMISKEY  
LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN

## City contemplates \$500,000 water bond

Heppner City Council has agreed to have the Army Corps of Engineers pay \$1,543,700 and the city pay \$253,500 to move one of the existing city water reservoirs.

The Corps has agreed to relocate the reservoir that is in the area of the Willow Creek Dam. At no cost to the city, the Corps would move it to a spot that would not be any better than the water system is now.

The city council decided last week to improve the city's water system so it agreed to have the city pay the extra \$253,000 to have the reservoir moved to a site above the cemetery. With this plan, the city will have better water pressure in that extremely low pressure area. That area is

also prime area for development, the council said.

To pay for that plan and also to pipe water from that reservoir to the Rock Street area plus repairing existing water line that is old and deteriorating, the council has tentatively decided to try for a bond election for the May 20 primary election. The bond will be for \$500,000.

To retire the bonded debt, Scott Kvandall of the engineering firm Barrett and Associates, said the city will have to pay \$15,000 each year for 40 years. To raise that money he said, the city would have to raise its water rates \$1 a month and charge 35 cents per \$1,000 valuation more in property taxes for the city.

Kvandall made other recommendations to the council on areas of the water system that need to be improved but he added, "You can't afford it, all now but replacement is inevitable." He said with inflation and higher costs it will not get any cheaper to improve the water system so the sooner the city applies for Farmer's Home Administration grants and other types of aid the better chance the city has of obtaining financial help.

Councilman Warren Plocharsky was the only member who voted against having the bond election.

In other city council news, the revenue sharing procedure were discussed but no

citizens came to the meeting. City Administrator Marshall Lovgren said that of \$19,350 from federal revenue sharing, \$16,740 would be transferred to the street fund and \$2,600 to the sewer fund.

State revenue sharing will have \$6,200 in the street fund that was proposed by the city budget committee. "And since that's how they intend to spend the money—and there is no one from the public here to object—than that's how it will be spent," Mayor Jerry Sweeney said.

The council received a letter signed by three women requesting that the city pool open at noon instead of at 1 p.m. as it did last year so people who work can swim on

their lunch break. Council took no action other than to say it will consider the request.

The city council agreed to waive a city fee and let the Camp Fire girls sell cookies in the city permit.

Attorney Bill Kuhn said Coates Construction Co. is considering a suit against the city and the council members agreed to stand firm in their decision not to pay. The disagreement began when the company broke a sewer main line while working on a city bridge. Coates Construction replaced the line and wants to be reimbursed for it. The city council says it was the fault of the company.