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HEPPNER, OREGON



The Easter bunny was very popular during his visit to Heppner Saturday as he shakes hands with a youngster while others are given candy.

At Monday's meeting

School budget cut \$58,276

Morrow County's school budget for 1980-81 was cut \$58,276 at a special school

board meeting Monday night in Irrigon. With the budget cuts, tax-

payers in the county will have a 35 cent increase per \$1,000 valuation more than they paid this year for the school taxes.

erty would have been \$411 with the original proposal. The school board decided to

postpone work on a new tax base until the November election.

Ullman chairman named

Oregon Congressman Al Ullman has named Betty Brown and Mike Sweeney co-chairmen of his Morrow County Re-Election Committee. Ullman will make the announcement during his visit to Heppner today.

"I am very honored that Betty and Mike have agreed to head up my local campaign effort," Ullman said. "I've known Betty and Paul Brown for over 25 years and am thankful for their generous support and assistance. Their advice has always been sound and their recommendations helpful.

"I also look forward to

working closely with Mike. He's a fine young attorney and a credit to the Heppner community."

Mrs. Brown, who, along with her husband, operates the family wheat farm, explained her strong support of Ullman. "Paul and I have known Al for many years. He's not just our Congressman; he's our friend. Heppner's not a large community and it's not on a main thoroughfare. But, over the years, Al has never forgotten his friends. He always works us into his busy schedule and the people of Morrow County appreciate it."

If the new budget is approved by the voters at the May 20 primary election, taxes will be assessed at \$8.08 per \$1,000 instead of the \$8.22 per \$1,000 that would have been assessed if the first budget passed. Taxpayers paid \$7.73 per \$1,000 this year.

The school board budget committee cut a bus from the budget, a bus route, reduced the expenditures for lawn care equipment, cut district travel, cut unemployment costs and cut one teacher's salary.

The board added \$9,650 in receipts so the new levy for May 20 is for \$3,595,445, cut from the original proposal of \$3,670,160.

The amount voters will see on the ballot which is outside the six percent limitation is for \$3,006,935.

Taxes on a \$50,000 home, for the school budget, will be \$404 while a person paid \$386.50 this year for the same valued property. Taxes on that pro-



Easter bunny cuddles a small girl.

Wheat growers need herbicides to retain water in soil

Wheat is unique in Morrow, Umatilla and Wasco counties because more bushels are grown per drop of water than anywhere else in the world, according to Tom Zinn, Wasco County Extension Agent.

Zinn spoke at two recent meetings of the Morrow

County Wheathearts on the topic of "Pesticides—What They Mean to You."

He explained the wheat growing process to the women saying that during the spring, farmers till the soil to make sure that no water escapes.

"Weeds and all plants

extract water from the soil and in dry areas like this, farmers need to save as much water as possible," Zinn said. "With the rod weeder and chemical tilling, farmers starve the weeds and kill them at the roots."

When farmers plant the wheat seeds, they use a deep furrow drill to make sure the seeds are planted in moist soil six to eight inches down so the seeds can germinate. The farmer then covers the seeds with about three inches of soil, he said.

Zinn said if a farmer seeds late, he will have a smaller crop with up to 18 bushels per acre difference.

"They need to get the weeds to conserve the moisture," he explained. "It is like having a milkshake with straws in it. The more kids that go after it, the faster it will go."

To get rid of the weeds, Zinn said farmers have to use herbicide chemical sprays.

"If we forget chemicals and do it by hand, we would need thousands of people," he said. "It would be physically impossible on the large farms."

If the weeds are not controlled, they will reduce the total crop yield 10 to 20 percent, slow the harvesting time, tear up combines and reduce crop grades and quality, Zinn said.

"We cannot go back to the small farms," he said. "There

is too much of a demand for food. Malnutrition kills 150,000 people in the world daily. That shows we are not exporting enough."

He said the controversy over the use of herbicides is not valid because the only risk is in the misuse, not the use, of chemical sprays.

"If you don't take the precautions that are on the label, you are in trouble," he said.

He said farmers are becoming more aware of the problems associated with chemicals and that misuse before was caused by lack of education. Zinn said 2, 4-D is a safe and inexpensive herbicide that is used. He added that there is a ban on the use of the chemical 2,4,5-T because it has a dioxine that has been found to be carcinogenic in rats at certain temperatures causing abnormal cell growth.

"The Environmental Protection Agency ban on 2,4,5-T has caused industry to suffer," he said. "The protection agency did not do its homework. There is no chemical proof that the chemical caused abortions. The scare tactics are being used because the spray has destroyed marijuana hidden on forest lands. The press in the metropolitan areas has sensationalized the accusations and put the scientific results in the back pages."

Zinn said if poison is expected, a person should call the Poison Control Center in Portland 24 hours a day at 1-800-452-7165.

A spokesman for the Portland General Electric Carty coal-fired plant near Boardman said Monday at a Chamber of Commerce meeting that he personally thinks that nuclear plants are safer than coal plants, although that may not be PGE's stance.

Dave Sickle, permanent planner scheduler for the maintenance supervisor, said scare tactics are slowing down the process of nuclear energy. He said he worked in "nukes" for 12 years and found them to be much safer, cleaner and required less maintenance and less land.

"Coal is more hazardous to work in but I am biased toward nukes," he said. Sickle told the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber members that he is all for having a road built across the bombing range that would connect south Morrow County to the Carty plant. He said it

would especially benefit the plant workers who live in Lexington and Lone who have to drive either miles out of their way or have to cut across the range on gravel roads that "destroy cars."

On the possibility of building a second plant next to the existing one, Sickle said, "I still don't know. It's a well kept secret."

Sickle said the maintenance part of the plant has about 60 people who will work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. once the coal plant is fired up June 1 but currently they are working six days a week for 10 or 12 hours getting the plant ready. He said 300,000 tons of coal have been delivered to the plant already and there has been a lot of breakdowns in the conveyor belts that move the coal.

"Instead of the trains coming every 2 1/2 days as planned, they are coming in back to back which requires high

maintenance," Sickle said. "We can now unload a train in four hours when it took seven hours at first."

He said the plant pulverizers will require about 900 hours of maintenance a year and there are eight of them at the Carty plant. He said they are looking into preventative maintenance by monitoring and lubricating the equipment so it does not break down as often.

Some chamber members expressed concern about the smoke that will be emitted from the plant but Sickle said about \$30 million has been spent to try and keep the ash inside the smokestack. He said if a second plant is constructed, a scrubber will be added to the emission system to clean the emissions even more.

Sickle said there are week-end tours at the plant and that is when coal is usually

dumped. "PGE is a good neighbor," Sickle said. "They do not just do what they want to as some utilities have done in the past. They are willing to listen."

In other chamber announcements, Randall Peterson said there will be a Moonlight Sale in Heppner April 25. Mayor Jerry Sweeney said there will be a meeting on flood insurance at the county courthouse May 1. It was also announced that a committee composed of chamber members has been formed and will talk to Al Ullman this morning about the Willow Creek Dam.

Next week's Chamber of Commerce speaker will be Buddy Toadvin, Port of Morrow manager, who will discuss what the port can do for south Morrow County. The following week, Gene Murty, of the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Heppner, will show a film on forgery.



Tom Zinn uses a visual aid to show that chemical herbicides are sprayed very thin over cropland.

Nuclear plants better than coal, PGE employee says

Recreational vehicle park for downtown Heppner approved by council

John Skow's recreational vehicle park for north of the R&W Drive In and west of Trish's Beauty Shop in Heppner was approved by the Heppner City Council Monday night.

The RV Park will be allowed a conditional use in a commercial zone under the supervision of the Heppner Planning Commission. The planning commission previously approved the change.

Skow, who owns the Northwestern Motel in Heppner, cannot build a structure on the land so instead he wants to build a RV park with 16 spaces. It will be designed for

temporary occupancy only. A daily fee, will be charged. The amount of time a RV can stay in the park is still under consideration.

The size of the RV's is also under consideration but it will probably be 40 feet long or less, Skow said. No mobile homes will be allowed.

"I want no part of a mobile home park," Skow said.

Skow said Heppner needs the park for hunters in the winter and for summer travelers. If the Willow Creek Dam is built, the councilmen said they do not want workers to stay there any longer than 30 days.

Warren Plocharsky was the only councilman not to vote for the conditional use.

Charlene Papineau spoke to the council about writing a letter to the Forest Service saying the city is against the sale of the Willow Creek Watershed. The Forest Service is planning to sell the land in 1982, she said, and the land must not be logged because the wells in Heppner area will run dry.

Papineau said timber sales are important, if the county gets the timber, but Kinzua Corp. has only had two of the last seven sales and the rest

have gone to outside sources.

"Future generations here will be in trouble if the 4,000 acre watershed is not preserved," she said.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney said city engineers are currently studying the water system and that when that study is completed, the council will make a decision on where it stands on the watershed controversy.

Jerry Samples spoke to the councilmen about the use of the city swimming pool.

Since the city budget did not pass at the election two weeks ago, the councilmen said they did not know if the pool will

even open this year. They said if it does, the swim team will be able to use it as usual.

Samples said the swim team is "desperate" for a coach so that when a pool manager is hired, he asked that the swim team pay part of his salary so he could be their coach. The council will look into it, members said.

The council heard from city attorney Bill Kuhn about the city suit with Jim Dowe over some overtime he said he had coming.

The city lost the case but only for \$440 of the requested \$4,400.

"We set a precedent because I don't think too many people will sue the city over overtime again for that amount of money," Kuhn said.

Attorneys fees were also awarded but Kuhn is still arguing in court over that amount. Dowe's attorneys are asking the court for \$2,600 but they are willing to settle out of court for \$1,300. Kuhn said he did not think the judge will award even that amount and the city council decided to see what the judge will award rather than settle out of court. Kuhn received more than \$1,600 for his work on the case. Mayor Sweeney said the city

council budget committee has 2 1/2 months to work on another budget for the June 24 election and that the budget must be certified at the county clerk's office by May 19. Budget committee meetings will begin April 16.

Sweeney recommended, even though he is not on the budget committee, that the members seriously think about using the same budget because "it is a good budget" and just work harder on explaining what it means to the city and what will happen if it is reduced.

He said the last thing they

should cut is personnel because the city has trained personnel now that they don't want to lose.

City Administrator Marshall Lovgren said he thought the Letter to the Editor published in the Heppner Gazette-Times written by councilmen and budget committee members Joe Miller and Warren Plocharsky hurt the city's chances of passing the budget.

He also said resources will be down from past years and the contingency fund is being used up so the budget has to be bigger to keep the same services.