

County judge says tax will increase 35¢ per \$1000

Judge Don McElligott talked to the Chamber of Commerce Monday about the county budget up for election May 20.

He said the county is asking for a 35 cent cost per \$1,000 increase, just like the school district.

McElligott said Pioneer Memorial Hospital is included in the budget, along with the North Morrow County Medical Clinic.

That is controversial because the people in the north end do not come to the hospital in Heppner because other hospitals are closer, the judge said.

"It is a county hospital so I think it should be in the budget, so if you want to

blame someone—blame me," McElligott said.

He said there has been dissension in the courthouse about the county pay scales not being equal for equal jobs. A committee was formed to look into building a salary scale.

It was too high so Commissioner Dorothy Krebs worked on an alternate plan for two weeks.

Instead of \$21,729 for an elected official, Krebs's plan is to have them receive \$19,618, an increase of 25 percent from \$15,595. With Krebs' plan, employees will be awarded with raises for longevity with the county rather than merit.

"It is easier to measure

time rather than merit," Krebs said. "Who do we (the county) have to judge merit? We would need a personnel officer."

Even with the increases, Krebs said 12 county employees will make less than \$6 an hour, five under \$7, six more under \$8, four under \$9,

five less than \$10, elected officials will get less than \$11 an hour, the assistant district attorney will receive less than \$12 an hour, the Public Works Director less than \$13 and the County Judge less than \$14 an hour.

McElligott said the county has lost a third of its employees since he has been

judge (for seven months) and a major reason for many of them leaving was salaries.

McElligott said the road budget is up more than \$600,000 with major increases in gas, diesel, asphalt, equipment (including a new grader) and funding for six more employees.

He said the 1,050 miles of

county road (357 paved) needs to have gutters cleared so water will drain off the roads so they won't wash out.

About 65 miles of road will be resurfaced. Roads are also supposed to be resealed every

six years and it has been 10 to 15 years for some of them, McElligott said.

The judge estimated that it will cost about \$20 million during the next five years to fix the county road system.

Orville Cutsforth family plants 17,000 trees

Last fall and early this spring the Orville W. Cutsforth family hand-planted 17,000 trees on cutover forest land at Rasmus Meadows on Ditch Creek.

The young trees are mainly Douglas firs along with several hundred ponderosa pines.

O.W. Cutsforth went to the Wind River forest nursery on the Klickitat River in Washington to purchase the trees, which will not mature for 80 years. Orville, now 78, has contributed to Morrow County the forested part on upper Willow Creek bearing the family name, a plaque in the Library-Museum building indicates he gave toward the completion of that memorial building; and he has also been instrumental in major past improvements at the Pioneer

Memorial Hospital, such as the solarium wing.

Barbara Cutsforth planted 3,100 trees by herself on the land that the Cutsforths had logged recently in an effort to get ahead of the westward spreading mountain pine beetle infestation. Orville Cutsforth states that this infestation is moving west at a rate of about 15 miles each year.

In addition to their tree-planting efforts, the family paid more than \$5,000 for aerial seeding of a mixture of five kinds of grass on more than 800 acres of cutover land. When Cutsforth checked the result of the fall seeding recently, he found that "the grasses are now developing into a beautiful stand." social

Blue Mountain summer term enrollments continuing

Registration for summer term at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, will continue through noon on Friday, June 20.

About 25 different courses will be offered ranging from "Introduction to Data Processing" to "Beginning Guitar." Courses start the week of June 23 and run for a six-week term through Aug. 1.

Academic, transfer courses will be offered in the areas of business, physical education, nursing, electronics, art, mathematics, and social sciences.

Summer school schedules are available through the Admissions Office at BMCC. A summer schedule of classes

will be mailed to every postal patron in Umatilla and Morrow counties early in June.

Named to Committee Bob Hawk, dean of occupational education at Blue Mountain Community College, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Oregon Occupational Information Coordinating Committee by Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

The committee coordinates activities among the Employment Division, the Department of Education and the Vocational Rehabilitation Division. The committee's aim is to develop information concerning the needs of the labor market and to relay these needs to education institutions.

Aeronautics hearings set

The first of several hearings in Oregon before a Civil Aeronautics Board appeal panel to review essential air service will be held in Pendleton May 27, starting at 2:30 p.m., at the City Hall, 34 S.E. Dorion St.

Testimony will be taken from Pendleton officials, who have joined with the state in an appeal to an original determination by the CAB under the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 on routes in Oregon.

Dinner, dance set for 8th graders

Parents of students in the eighth grade class at Heppner Jr. High are organizing a dinner and dance for tomorrow to celebrate the students' graduation to high school.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. at the West of Willow. Jim Rogers is planning a meal of chicken strips, French fries, salad bar, roll, choice of beverage and ice cream.

A dance to records will follow at the Elks Club in Heppner.

About 45 eighth graders are expected for the gathering along with about six other students that would have been in the class except that they have moved away.

The dinner, dance and group picture will cost each student \$5.

Ullman encourages lending rate cut

Oregon Congressman Al Ullman has urged the Federal Reserve Board to move immediately to lower its lending rates to banks specifically for the purpose of extending credit to local customers who are farmers and small businesses.

In a letter to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volker, Ullman said these borrowers face particularly acute problems in Oregon because of the state's heavy dependence on forest products and the health of the

homebuilding industry.

"Specifically, I urge that the discount rate for banks serving the seasonal credit needs of local farmers and small businesses be lowered immediately to 10 percent," Ullman wrote.

The discount rate is the rate at which banks borrow from the Federal Reserve System. It is currently 13 percent. The lower the discount rate, the lower the rate of interest the bank can charge its customers.

Traffic deaths drop

Estimated miles traveled, the mileage death rate, and the number of people killed in traffic all show decreases for the first quarter of 1980.

The 146 reported Oregon traffic deaths for the period were nearly 14 percent below the first three months of 1979. The mileage death rate—the number of people killed in each 100 million miles traveled—was 3.02 compared with 3.27 for the comparable period a year ago.

Travel miles, based on highway use of gas and other

fuels, dropped from an estimated 4.4 billion miles in the first quarter of 1979 to 4.1 billion miles this year.

Although the first quarter figures look good from both a safety and energy conservation standpoint, the Motor Vehicles Division has noted that in April 55 traffic deaths were reported—10 more than in April a year ago.

Contract negotiations settled

Contract negotiations between the college and the Blue Mountain Community College Faculty Association have reached a satisfactory conclusion, with the Faculty Association voting recently to approve the tentative agreement reached earlier by the faculty and college negotiators.

The agreement covers a three-year period, beginning July 1, 1980, and expiring June 30, 1983.

The agreement provides for a three percent increase on the base salary at Level II (M.A. degree) and the college will also pay the six percent PERS (retirement) for the employee. The base salary at Level II for 1980-81 will be \$14,755, an increase of \$430 over the current year.

Cost to the college for the three percent increase, the PERS pick-up, and regular experience increments will be \$152,921, which amounts to an overall increase of 10.7 percent.

Senior buses take 1,342 trips

Buses operated by the East Central Oregon Association of Counties on behalf of senior citizens made 1,342 trips during the first quarter of 1980, according to a report issued by the Public Transit Division, Oregon Department of Transportation. The buses traveled a total of 4,170 miles.

The report from Salem covered all transit systems, from urban area operations, to small city and rural systems, and special transportation services. The latter category includes the senior citizens' buses.

Band concert Tuesday

Heppner band director Bruce Martin has announced that the junior high band concert will be May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the junior high auditorium.

The fifth grade, sixth grade and junior high bands will perform. An assortment of music from Barry Manilow to the Bee Gees will be presented.

On one song, "Salsa Rock," the junior high drum section will be featured.

The program will last about 45 minutes.

Baccalaureate...

(Continued from Page 1) Readings will be given by the Rev. John Maas of the Valby Lutheran Church and Father Patrick O'Brien of the Lone Catholic Church.

Senior students will usher at the service and all the seniors will wear their caps and gowns.

Baccalaureate for Riverside High School will be this Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Irrigon Assembly of God with the Rev. Al Gordinier as the featured speaker.

The Rev. Dave Piper of the Boardman Baptist Church will give the invocation and the Rev. Steve White of the Boardman Community Church will give the benediction. The Rev. Roy Plant of the Boardman Assembly of God will present the Bible.

Carol Wallace, of the RHS music staff, will sing a solo accompanied by Kathy Kenton.

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