

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Weather

by Don Gilliam

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., Dec. 30	55	40	
Wed., Dec. 31	44	36	
Thurs., Jan. 1	44	41	
Fri., Jan. 2	45	41	
Sat., Jan. 3	43	25	
Sun., Jan. 4	45	30	
Mon., Jan. 5	41	30	

Precipitation for the month of December was 1.48. Normal December precipitation is 1.38. December 1979 precipitation was .74.

For the year 1980, the total precipitation was 16.25, compared to a normal year's precipitation of 13.28. Precipitation for the year 1979 was 15.24.

1981-82 school budget up on expenses, down on expected revenues

School district budget committee members were presented with the proposed 1981-82 budget Monday night - a budget up on expenditures and down on revenues.

The proposed budget to operate the schools next year is up 17.8 percent over this year, an increase of \$983,839. The total proposed budget is \$6,499,421.

On the revenue side, committee members were told to expect less money from outside sources, and less money left over from this year.

In a message to the committee, budget officer Matt Doherty said that federal fees paid to the district expected to be off next year, and that cash carry-over

into the new budget would be drastically reduced also.

Doherty said the district will most likely lose about \$20,000 in forest fees because of depressed lumber market.

He added that last year the district started with a cash balance of \$507,568, but, because of repayment of taxes, under-realization of basic school support, loss of forest money, some flood damage and heavy inflation this year's estimated cash carryover has been reduced to only \$50,000.

What this means, Doherty said, is that the loss of this revenue "will place a heavier burden on local taxes in order to provide revenue to balance the proposed budget."

Taxes required for the proposed budget and for the district's bonds and interest obligations would be \$5,948,

233. This would require a tax rate of \$10.30 per thousand of valuation. This is \$2.18 per thousand more than the current tax rate," Doherty pointed out.

As proposed, the budget will require a vote by the people on both an A and B ballot.

"The amount of money which the district can levy for the support of the budget within the A ballot (partially funded by the state) is \$5,311,184. The total levy required for all funds including bond debt is \$5,948,233. This leaves \$637,049 to be funded by the addition of a B ballot," Doherty said.

A vote on the school budget is tentatively scheduled for March 31.

On the expenditure side,

Doherty pointed to five major causes for an increase of nearly 18 percent.

He said salary costs are up 15 percent, mainly because of more part time summer help required for building maintenance (\$18,464), and the proposed addition of a gifted-student program in the district (\$29,888).

Employee benefits are up 21 percent next year, with the major cost here being addition of a dental plan for employees. Cost of utilities, maintenance and repair, and travel are up 15.0 percent.

Supply costs are up 22 percent because of general inflation, and the cost of capital outlay is up 16.8 percent, Doherty concluded.

"In summary, the proposed budget request reflects a

considerable increase over the previous year, while at the same time the proposed available revenue from sources other than local taxes represents a significant decrease," he told the committee.

"It remains the task of the budget committee to determine how much of this difference is to be passed on to the district's taxpayers and how much is to be reduced by reducing the budget requests," he added.

The budget committee took no action on the budget Monday night, but members did elect Judy Currin of Butter Creek as budget chairman.

The next meeting of the committee will be next Monday, Jan. 12, at Riverside High in Boardman. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.



School budget committee begins deliberations

Heppner City management changes hands as Green succeeds Sweeney



Cliff Green (left) presents plaque to ex-mayor Jerry Sweeney

The reins of leadership in Heppner City government changed hands Monday night when Heppner's mayor for the

past seven years, Jerry Sweeney, swore in Cliff Green, a native of Heppner, has served on the city council

for the past four-and-one-half years. He was elected to the mayor's spot unopposed in the November elections.

Sweeney, who served on the council from 1967-73 before being elected mayor, announced last summer he would not seek re-election.

"I enjoyed it and there was a great deal of satisfaction in it," said Sweeney of his tenure.

"We haven't always agreed on how, but we always agreed on why," Green said when presenting Sweeney with a plaque of appreciation Monday for his service to the city.

Sweeney said one of the major accomplishments he feels the city achieved during his term was the city's taking over the county water system. This allowed quite a bit of development in Heppner, he says.

He also cites two new bridges and three new subdivisions in Heppner over the past seven years.

Green, 38, has lived in Heppner all his life and is owner-operator of the Heppner Garbage Disposal Service.

The Heppner City Council Monday received a proposed floodplain ordinance that may someday govern construction in parts of Heppner and insure the continuance of low-cost national flood insurance.

In order for Heppner residents to continue having national flood insurance, it will be necessary for the city to enact a floodplain ordinance, attorney Bill Kuhn told the council.

The ordinance would set down guidelines for the construction of houses and buildings in those areas of Heppner in the flood plain.

The city has been operating under a resolution governing construction, Kuhn said, but an ordinance is now needed.

Without the ordinance there would be no flood insurance available, and consequently no lending institutions, the Veteran's Administration or the FHA would loan money for home mortgages, Kuhn added.

"Anything we can do for the people of Heppner to make it easier for them to build, we want to do," said newly elected Mayor Clifford Green.

He said it would be almost impossible to replace an old, burned or decrepit house if no flood ordinance is adopted.

The council did not take action, but decided to study the proposed ordinance and present it to the planning commission for review.

In other business, Green made the following committee appointments on the city council:

Joyce Winter - General Government Revenue Sharing and Budget;
Joe Miller - Streets;
Jim Ackley - Police and Fire;

Robert Laughlin - Water and Sewer; and

Ron Forrar - Parks and Pool.

In other business, the council voted Warren Plocharsky as council chairman; an

announcement was made that work on the Willow Creek Dam road would begin Jan. 12; and discussion on painting the Heppner pool was held.

It was estimated that it would cost \$700 to paint the pool, and city officials said no money was included in this year's budget for the job.

Ione Mayor LaRue, council members sworn in Monday

Ione's mayor and city councilmembers received their oaths of office in a ceremony Monday night.

Linda LaRue was given the mayor's oath of office, and Laurel Cannon, Cleo Childers and Dorothy Stefani were sworn in as councilmembers.

After receiving her oath, the

mayor appointed committees for the coming year 1981:

Water-Garbage - Laurel Cannon, Cleo Childers and Elbe Akers;

Street-City - Elmer Holtz, Dorothy Stefani and Bill Rietmann;

Health-Police - Laurel Cannon, Cleo Childers and Linda

LaRue;

Budget Preparation - Bill Rietmann, Linda LaRue and Laurel Cannon; and
Civil Defense - Elbe Akers, Bill Rietmann, Elmer Holtz and Eldon Tucker.

The council also discussed the city's audit, which, after some changes, will be sent on to the state.

tee, or Betty Carlson, who is in charge of the money tree.

Farewell, roast and toast to honor Kerrs

Friends of Morrow County Extension Agent Harold Kerr and his wife, Carol, are invited to a farewell party and "roast and toast" ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Morrow County Fair pavilion in Heppner.

A social hour will be held from 6 to 7 p.m., and a family potluck dessert will be from 7 to 9 p.m. The roast and toast ceremony will highlight some of the lighter moments of the Kerr's 12 years in Morrow County. A money tree will be

presented to the Kerrs after the dessert.

Harold and Carol are moving to The Dalles so that he may assume a new position as head Extension agent for Wasco County in early February.

Prior to Harold's 12 years as Morrow County Extension agent, he was a 4-H Extension agent in Crook County.

For more information concerning the event, contact Bob Jepsen, chairman of the Extension Advisory Commit-

1st Baby no show

The first baby of the year had not yet made his or her appearance at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner as of the Gazette-Times presstime.

Look (hopefully) in next week's issue for the first baby of 1981.

Livestock Growers elect '81 officers

The Morrow County Livestock Growers have announced officers for 1981.

Elected 1981 president was Wayne Evans, Jim Ward was elected vice-president, John Nordheim, secretary, and Tom Currin, treasurer.

Other directors for 1981 are: Ned Clark, Don Bennett, Ray French, Dwight Bailey, Mark Rietmann, Bob VanSchoiack, Merlin Hughes, and Eddie Brosnan.

Six area men register for selective service

Heppner Postmaster Ken Nairn said Tuesday that six area young men registered for the Selective Service Monday. Teenagers born in 1962 are to register through this Satur-

day for a possible future military draft.

After this week, males are required to register within 30 days of their 18th birthdays.



Among the ruins—

Morrow County Treasurer Margo Sherer stands amid rubble of the future home of the treasurer's and tax collector's office.

A wall is in the process of being torn down so that the two offices may be housed together. Once the remodeling is complete, the county planner's office (now located on the other side of the wall) will be moved across the hall, where the treasurer and tax collector are now located.