

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Weather

by Don Gilliam

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., Feb. 10	28	5	
Wed., Feb. 11	33	15	.04 .5" snow
Thurs., Feb. 12	55	27	
Fri., Feb. 13	53	32	.13
Sat., Feb. 14	58	41	.05
Sun., Feb. 15	52	43	.06
Mon., Feb. 16	59	47	.22

\$16 million tax levy to upgrade roads proposed

Although no date has yet been set for an election, Morrow County farmers say they are planning to put before the voters a \$16 million tax levy that would be used to upgrade roads in the county over the next four years.

One of the major movers behind the levy, lone farmer Eric Anderson, says Morrow County roads are in bad shape, that their disrepair hurts not only farmers, but everyone, and something needs to be done about it.

Anderson, along with county road director Don Briggs, has been traveling throughout the county speaking to various groups the past three months in an effort to raise support for the proposed tax levy and road work.

"Let's face it, the county's roads are in pretty sad shape," Anderson says. "They have been deteriorating badly over the past three winters to the point now where they need to be fixed."

Although the plan to fix the roads originated with local farmers, and more specifically, the Wheat League, Anderson says everyone in the county would benefit.

"The potholes and deteriorated roads are costing everyone money when they have to pay for repairs on their vehicles after driving on them," he points out.

Under the proposed plan, voters would be asked to approve a four-year levy of \$4 million per year to purchase needed equipment, resal 120-150 miles of road, repair county bridges, pave 50 miles of road, and resurface 120 miles of road.

Of the cost for the ambitious project, Anderson asks rhetorically "Does the individual citizen want the roads in this county fixed? And if he does, is he willing to pay for this? There is no sugar daddy in this deal. If we want it done we are going to have to pay for it ourselves," he says.

According to figures supplied by Anderson, voters will be asked to approve a levy of about 4.25 mills to finance the road work.

"The majority of property owners within the incorporated towns will get their money's worth," he comments. The increased millage will cost the owner of a \$40,000 house about \$170.00 per year for four years. Compare this to the owner of a \$500,000 farm, who will pay about \$2,200."

A present five-year levy under which the county road department is now operating runs out this year (\$1.43 budgeted in 1980-81). And next year the only money the department is assured of is from forest rentals, gas tax refunds and motor vehicle apportionments which totaled about \$350,000 in 1980-81.

Although road director Don Briggs agrees that county roads are in bad shape and need fixing, he differs with Anderson and other farmers on how the work should be done.

Anderson proposes that the county contract out most of the new construction and resurfacing.

He says county crews have little expertise and equipment for construction or resurfacing

ing paved roads, and that with contractors doing the work "large projects and dramatic results can be achieved in a short amount of time." In addition, if the work is contracted, the county will not have to invest in expensive paving equipment. He says county crews are of sufficient size and background to adequately maintain the road system once it is put back in shape.

Briggs feels the county should not contract out the road repair and resurfacing, and should buy equipment which, he says, will be used in the years ahead. He proposes the county purchase about \$1,044,000 worth of equipment to get the job done.

"Based on the road committee's recommendation the following roads will be evaluated and repaired first: McNab Road, Lone - Gooseberry, Rietmann Grade, Rhea Creek, Baseline, Blackhorse, Clarks Canyon, Willow Creek, Sand Hollow, Wilson Road, Kunze Road, Bombing Range, Patterson Ferry, Frontage, Pole Line and Washington Ave.," says Briggs.

"The most important step in upgrading our paved roads is the preparation work prior to resealing and then a regular scheduled resealing program. Chuckholes should be primed, patched and then tamped or rolled for a permanent, smooth repair. Corrugated areas should be ripped up, rebased, rolled and then

Elks Annual Saturday

The Heppner Elks No. 358 84th Annual Celebration is set to go this Saturday, Feb. 21, and it should be a good time for everyone, says lodge manager Rick Smith.

The day will start off with registration at 10 a.m., followed by a ladies' tea at 1:30, lodge meeting at 2 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and entertainment starting at 9 p.m. and lasting until 2 a.m.

This year's entertainment will feature two bands. Up

repaved, since this is generally due to base failure. The same applies to areas that have severe alligator cracking in the oiled surface. Narrow sections of oiled roads should be widened and brought up to standard prior to repaving or resealing. Also included in our oil maintenance should be a continual roving patch crew consisting of one or two men. With this, I feel, we could hopefully get to the point of having potholes a 'rare occurrence' in Morrow County rather than a "way of life."

"The planning for upgrading our unpaved roads is basically the same. They also suffer due to the lack of funds for proper maintenance in the past. The main objective on these roads would be to add base in some areas and add gravel in most areas. Also some of these roads should be widened in the future. We should establish a general road blading plan and attempt to follow it. Proper shaping of the road and ditching would be a very important part of this program."

"The bridges in Morrow County have also been sadly neglected for many years with 90 percent of them being in poor condition and at least five classed as critical. Over the next couple of years 10 county bridge structures should be replaced. We should consider hiring a full time maintenance worker who could build and repair bridges, signs and also

stairs you can relax to the music of Bill Nicols and downstairs you can listen to a four piece group named Sailor.

And if you feel luck, you can enter the drawing for a free trip for two to Reno, which will include three days and two nights with air fare and motel accommodations paid.

"It will be one big party," says Smith of the annual. "Fun and games for all."

Crowd flocks to Lex MCGG Customer Appreciation Day



The Morrow County Grain Growers at Lexington drew around 550 people to its Customer Appreciation Day Saturday.

A ham, egg and pancake breakfast was served to a long line of guests, and door prizes were given away.

Door prizes and winners are: IH pressure washer-Bill Smith; Farberware convection oven-Loren Heideman; 14-piece end wrench

set-Corine Miles; Osterizer 10-speed blender-Dexter Miles; 10-amp battery charger-Floyd Borman; IH tool box-Fern Evans; pots and pans set-Bob Steagall; Corning Ware set-Fritz Cutsforth.

The day also included displays of farming equipment and supplies and a chance to talk with several farm supply representatives.



Eric Anderson

Deadline Tues. to file for advisory, school board

If you plan on running for either the Morrow County School board or county advisory committees, the deadline for filing is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Morrow County Clerk's office.

Three school board positions, one in Irrigon, one in Lone, and one at-large position are up for election on March 31.

The Irrigon position is a three-year term and is now held by Bob Byrd. The Lone position, a two-year term, is now held by Jerry McElligott. The at-large position (persons living anywhere in the county may file) is a four-year term

State agency gives PMH go-ahead for proposed physical therapy plan

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner has been given the go-ahead by the State Health Planning and Development Agency to proceed on arrangements for proposed physical therapy services to be provided

care to the needed road stripping. Any future bridges should be constructed of steel and - or concrete for long life and low maintenance," he adds.

It is not yet clear, however, when voters may expect to see the proposed road levy on the ballot.

According to Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth a measure must be filed with her office 35 days prior to an election to be included on the ballot.

A county-wide election is scheduled March 31, however, no measure has yet been filed.

Other election dates are May 19, June 30 and Sept. 15.

Anderson said he is not sure when the measure would go to voters for approval.

now held by Paul Sumner.

On the advisory committees, six positions are up for election March 31. On the Heppner-Lexington committee, positions now held by George Koffler and Steve Peck are up for election; those are three-year terms.

On the Lone committee a three-year spot now held by Mary Martin is up for election.

And on the Boardman-Irrigon advisory committee, positions now held by M.J. Strege, Lovella Conboy and Marilyn Putman are up for election. Strege and Conboy's positions are three-year spots, and Putman's is a two-year

ed through the hospital, says PMH Administrator A.K. "Lucky" Felt.

Estimated cost for providing the services would be \$11,000 to \$20,000 annually. Felt says that the proposed services are excluded from a health planning certificate-of-need requirement as long as capital expenditures are less than \$150,000 and operating costs are less than \$75,000 per year.

Felt says the physical therapist would probably operate on a fee-for-services basis out of the hospital facilities. He added that the proposed services would most likely be available to Tri-County Home Health Agency clients and Kinzua Corp. employees as well as private individuals.

Felt said that the hospital is now in the process of recruiting a therapist.

ECOAC to meet

A meeting of the East Central Oregon Association of Counties has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Columbia Basin Co-op Conference Room in Heppner.

Grange initiation

Willows Grange initiation will be this Sunday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. at the grange.

A potluck supper will be served.

Any granges wanting to bring candidates for initiation are welcome.

Grade standards substantially higher

School eligibility policy reviewed, not adopted

A new district-wide eligibility policy with substantially higher requirements for students participating in sports and other "outside" activities was reviewed but not adopted by the Morrow County School board Monday night.

The policy covers students who participate in extra-curricular activities, and lays down both grade-point and social levels students must maintain.

The board did not adopt the policy, but took it under consideration for adoption at its next meeting in March.

The policy states that all students attending school in Morrow County must "maintain at least a 2.0 grade average. Students whose work falls below this level at the mid-term grade check or at the end of any nine-week grading period will be placed on a probationary status. Failure to show improvement within two weeks after being placed on probation will result in the student being declared

ineligible. The period of ineligibility shall not be less than one week and shall last as long as the student's GPA is below 2.0"

The policy differs from the present one now in use in the school district. At present Heppner and Lone students must maintain a passing (1.0) grade in at least five subjects to be eligible for sports and extra activities.

At Riverside in Boardman a student must maintain a passing grade in four classes.

The policy is not binding, however, and, as John Edmunson of the district offices points out, the policy states that: "the school principal is authorized to set this policy aside in order to give special consideration to those students who because of mental, emotional or physical handicaps cannot fulfill the requirements of the policy."

The administration will have some discretion on who is eligible and who is not, says Edmunson.

However, he did say that the academic levels spelled out in the policy are "substantially higher than those in effect now."

In addition to the academic requirements in the policy, standards of behavior (no alcohol, drugs, etc.), attendance and other matters are also specified in the policy.

In other business at the meeting, the board:

authorized the superintendent to call for bids for placement of acoustical tile at Sam Boardman and Columbia schools.

approved a proposed field trip by the Riverside High School swing choir to Newport in the spring for a choir festival.

learned that an arbitrator, Bill Lang, has been assigned to the impasse between the board and the district classified employees (cooks, maintenance personnel, etc.) and that arbitration proceedings will begin this Friday at district offices.

Lone girl to serve as Oregon House, Senate page during vacation

Lisa Meyers, Lone, will be experiencing an exciting and different kind of spring vacation this year.

Lisa will become an honorary page for the Oregon House of Representatives and Senate.

On March 23 she will become a page for Rep.

Phone books to arrive soon

The new Heppner, Lone and Lexington telephone directory should arrive soon, according to Pacific Northwest Bell Manager Linda Buckner, delivery began yesterday (Feb. 18) and will be completed by March 2.

This year, an Oregon Cascades snow scene graces the cover of the 480-page directory, replacing last year's coastal lighthouse picture. The snow scene, taken by Bruce Johnson of Redmond, is of South Sister and Broken Top peaks. It won last year's directory cover photo contest for Oregon.

The emergency call page inside the front cover has undergone a minor facelift, Buckner says, to help customers distinguish "emergency" from "other business" numbers for fire, police and ambulance service.

There are only two number changes there, she says. The "other business" number for the lone fire department is now 422-7522, and the business number for the police department there is 676-9910.

Pacific Northwest Bell has also improved its "call guide" page for calls about residential and business telephone service. "We've expanded the list of service numbers for our business customers so they can call directly to a service representative specially trained to handle the customer's

Markham and on March 24 she will be Senator Groener's page.

This won't be Lisa's first experience in government, however. Last year she was a representative to Girls State.

Lisa, 17, is the daughter of Gordon and Darlene Meyers, Lone, and is a senior at Lone High School.



Lisa Myers

Camp Fire candy sale to begin

It's "there goes the diet" time again.

Local Camp Fire Girls and Boys will begin their annual door-to-door candy campaign this week.

For \$2 a box, those unable to resist the goodies or the young salesperson can choose from boxes of candies or chocolate mint patties.

The sale is scheduled to begin Feb. 20 and last until March 11.

Break-in reported

Several items were stolen and a teachers file rifled during an early morning break-in at Heppner High School Sunday.

Thieves broke through two doors, an outer door and a classroom door, to gain entry to Steve Brownfield's classroom.

Taken were binoculars, calculators, a civil defense kit and flammable chemicals. Brownfield reported his files had been gone through also.

The break-in was estimated to have occurred sometime between 1:30 and 9 a.m. Sunday morning.