

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 100, NO. 12

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1982

10 PAGES

25 CENTS

HEPPNER, OREGON

## Weather

by The City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., March 16	48	28	
Wed., March 17	47	27	
Thurs., March 18	39	33	.07
Fri., March 19	47	33	Trace
Sat., March 20	46	27	
Sun., March 21	54	31	
Mon., March 22	57	35	

## KUMA comes to Heppner



Eb Hughes, Heppner and sister Anita of Milton-Freewater go on the air with KUMA. More St. Patrick's Day features on p. 6

## Voters to decide fate of 1982-83 school budget Tues.

Next Tuesday county voters will be asked to approve a 1982-83 school budget which is up 11 percent over the current year.

Although the proposed budget does not include any new programs or personnel, there is an increase because of higher costs for employee benefits and general inflation, says Superintendent Matt Doherty.

"We have an excellent health plan for our employees," Doherty told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week in explaining the budget. He said last year saw a 31 percent increase in the cost of the plan, and next year will see an additional 30 percent.

He also pointed out that with general inflation, and especially electricity, it will cost more to operate the schools.

Doherty did have good news on the shape of the district's

finances, saying that the district had a good year for its invested money (earning more in interest than last year), and that tax collections were up. He said the district collected \$500,000 of the \$800,000 it was owed in back taxes.

Also Doherty said the district lost less money (\$44,000) in basic school support from the state than was anticipated, and less than many other school districts in the state.

The total proposed budget for next year is \$6,735,691. This is an increase of \$671,956 over this year's budget.

Of the total proposed budget, \$5,440,110 will need to come from local taxes. This is an increase of \$80,473 over this year.

Taxpayers will find, however, that their tax rates will be much lower next year.

A dispute with Portland

General Electric over the value of its coal fired plant at Boardman has been settled, and PGE will be required to pay \$2.3 million in back property taxes.

The money will be used to offset taxes throughout the county, and the school's portion of the money is \$1.4 million.

So instead of paying what was an estimated rate for next year of \$8.07 per thousand dollars of assessed value for schools, county tax payers will be assessed only about \$5.96 per thousand, said Doherty.

He said this means tax payers who own a \$60,000 home will pay about \$119 less for schools next year than they

did in 1981-82.

On the overall budget Doherty said "we've got a real good budget. An increase of only 11 percent is good, and the budget committee trimmed that from 13.5 percent."

Poles for voting on the budget will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday, March 30.

## Tues., March 30 is election day

Morrow County voters will decide the fate of three proposed budgets, elect a new county school board member, elect eight county residents to school board advisory positions and choose three directors to Blue Mountain Community College's Board in an election next Tuesday, March

Morrow County School District's proposed 1982-83 operating budget, Morrow County's proposed budget and Blue Mountain Community College's proposed 1982-83 budget will all be decided at the hand of the voters. (See related stories.)

Polls will be open from 8

a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations: Boardman combined precinct - Greenfield Grange, lone precinct - Ione City Hall, Irrigon combined precinct - North Morrow Annex, Lexington - Lexington School building, and Hardman-Heppner combined precinct - old city library building.

## Commissioner Krebs says co. budget 'a very good budget..'

The \$6.6 million county budget voters will decide on next Tuesday is "a very good budget, which gives us the things we need," says Morrow County Commissioner Dorothy Krebs.

Up 3.6 percent over last year, the budget includes increased salary costs, money for some new personnel, new equipment for the road department, and new equipment for the hospital and the North Morrow Medical Clinic at Boardman.

Unlike prior years, the county budget and the hospital will be combined in next Tuesday's election.

At the courthouse the county has budgeted funds for another sheriff's deputy, and for another person in the assessor's and treasurer's office.

The deputy will be used as a transportation officer to bring prisoners from jails outside the area into Heppner for trials.

A transport officer was in the budget last year, but was cut after the budget was defeated at the polls.

"Now we have to have that person," said Krebs. The county has been notified it will have to move its prisoners out of Umatilla Co. Jail because Umatilla Co. was taken to court by some of the prisoners for sub-standard jail conditions. That action has not yet been resolved, say county officials. She said to find space to house its prisoners the county may have to begin traveling long distances with prisoners.

The county does not have enough deputies to give adequate patrol and also transport prisoners, says Krebs.

A car for use in prisoner transportation is included in

the budget. It would also be used by the Juvenile Services Commission.

Also in the proposed 1982-83 budget are funds to hire back the chief appraiser, Pat Campbell, who left the county for one year.

In the road department, the county has budgeted \$317,000 for capital purchases, including a larger more efficient loader, a new service truck with crane, a new pickup truck and a new 130G grader. The new grader would increase the county's total to five, and allow one to be permanently in the Boardman-Irrigon area.

The proposed hospital budget, which is combined with the county for this election is up \$137,963 over 1981-82.

Personal services (including payroll costs) are expected to be up \$192,395 for next year, and the hospital plans to buy some new equipment for both Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner and the North Morrow Medical Clinic.

At the hospital, a new call system, tables, a whirlpool and other equipment are budgeted at a cost of \$6,120.

At the medical clinic in Boardman, a new monitor, suction machine and microscope are budgeted at \$9,012. The hospital is expected to receive less outside revenue in 1982-83, so \$330,794 in property taxes will be needed to balance the budget. \$108,565 in property tax was needed last year.

Outside revenues are also down at the county offices, says Krebs.

Grants from LCDC state matching funds for the deputy district attorney, forest fees, veteran's matching funds,

justice court fees, state liquor tax revenues and planning office receipts are all expected to be down next year, she pointed out.

Krebs had praise for the road department, which she says has become more efficient to operate in the last year.

"Part of the savings in the road crew is we now have a pug mill and paving machine which is saving money in the road budget."

She said with the new belly dump trucks, the county has cut hauling costs from 16 cents per mile for every yard of material, to just 6 cents.

A new cost accounting systems is also working well. "We know exactly what it's costing us for a job, which gives us some real figures to work intelligently from, and helps us save money."

Out of the total county budget of \$5,640,463 requested for next year, \$3,238,773 will come from local property tax.

Out of the property tax the state will partially fund \$2,583,056, and local land owners will totally fund \$644,717.

However, because of a recent settlement with Portland General Electric on the value of its coal fired plant at Boardman, the county will receive a lump sum of \$570,000 in taxes.

The money will be used to offset taxes, which will drive estimated tax rates down 17 cents lower than this year, to \$4.22 per thousand dollars of valuation. This year's rate was \$4.39.

Polls for voting on the county budget will be open all day next Tuesday, March 30 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Will offset next year's taxes

## PGE to pay \$2.3 million in back taxes

By MARY ANN CERULLO

Approximately \$2,300,000 in back taxes is to be returned to the county in time to offset the tax levy for 1982-83, announced Greg Sweek, county tax assessor, to Morrow County Court Wednesday, March 17.

The "PGE Appeal" is the result of taxes owed from PGE on the Coal Fire Plant in Boardman for the tax years of 1978 through 1980. The money owed to the county will be divided primarily between the Morrow County School District, Port of Morrow, Blue Mountain Community College, and the county voting district, explained Sweek.

This will reduce next year's

## 12 seek 8 positions on co. school district advisory committees

Twelve county residents are seeking eight open positions on Morrow County School District Advisory Committees.

Seeking election to position number one on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee, a two year term, are incumbent Karen Stack and Helen Riehl.

Stack, 39 of Heppner is a medical technician and a piano teacher. She and her husband Francis have four children, ages 16, 14, 13, and seven. Stack was appointed to the position six months ago.

Helen Riehl, 38 and her husband Tom are owners of the R & W Drive-In in Heppner. They have three children, ages 14, 13, and seven. Riehl reports she was an active elected member on the St. Ignatius School, Portland, for one and one-half years, was chairman of a fund raising committee at St. Ignatius for three years, worked with the principal of St. Ignatius to outline a strict student disciplinary program, was an active room mother for two years, was a confraternity of Christian doctrine teacher (elementary level) for two years and introduced a student's weekly progress report at Heppner High School.

Julie Ashbeck is seeking election Position No. six on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee. The two year position is currently held by Brok Tucker. Ashbeck is running unopposed. Ashbeck of Pine City, is a 29 year-old housewife. She and her husband Alvin have three children, ages six, seven and nine. Barbara Hayes is running for Position No. four on the

Heppner-Lexington Advisory Comm. a three year term currently held by Judy Wright. Hayes is also running unopposed. Hayes, 43 of Heppner is a secretary. She and her husband have two children ages 13 and 17.

Seeking election to Position No. seven on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee, a two year term, are Ed Struthers and Nella Britt. The position was previously held by Steve Peck.

Britt, 37 of Lexington is a bookkeeper. She and her husband, John have a five year-old child. She reports she has been a volunteer at the Heppner Grade School for two years.

Position No. three of the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee, a three year term is being sought by incumbent Carol Titus. John Jensen and Marshall Richmond.

Titus, 43 of Boardman is a branch officer, operations at a Boardman bank. She and her husband Norman have two children, ages 15 and 20. Titus has been a member of the advisory committee for nine months. "I have enjoyed working with the advisory committee and feel I have a better understanding of our school board and administrators duties and problems now than I did when I first went on. I hope I will get to continue being a member of this group and will give them my support. A good number of people have worked hard on the school budget and I hope that enough voters will get out and support it so that it will pass the first time around," stated Titus.

Position No. two, also a three year term is being sought by incumbent Marvin Padberg. He also runs unopposed. Padberg, 37 is a rancher in the lone area. He and his wife Tanna have three children, ages 16, 11 and nine. He has served on the advisory committee for three years.

Jensen, 34 of Boardman is a shift supervisor. He and his wife Jeanette have two children ages nine and 10.

Richmond, 41 of Boardman is a survey party chief. He and his wife Joyce have two children ages 10 and 14. He stated he attended Portland State University for three years and studied land surveying law, urban planning law, urban planning and land surveying. He said he has been active in the Boardman Little League for three years and served on the Boardman planning advisory group in 1979.

Incumbent Burrel Cooley is seeking re-election to Position No. four on the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Comm., a three year term. Cooley, 39 of Irrigon is a power plant mechanic. He and his wife, Karen have two children ages 20 and 19. He stated he has served on the Irrigon Park board for 12 years, served 14 years on the Irrigon Fire Dept. and 11 years on the advisory committee.

Perry Morter is seeking election to Position No. three on the lone Advisory Committee, a three year term presently held by Harold Holtz. Morter, 47 of lone is a farmer. Morter is running unopposed. He and his wife Kathy have six children ages eight, 10, 12, 16, 17 and 19.

Position No. two, also a three year term is being sought by incumbent Marvin Padberg. He also runs unopposed. Padberg, 37 is a rancher in the lone area. He and his wife Tanna have three children, ages 16, 11 and nine. He has served on the advisory committee for three years.

## Heppner man finds old Indian bones near diversion channel at dam site

George Stillman of Heppner made an interesting discovery Thursday, March 11 while hooking up a temporary water line for Eucon Corp. at the Willow Creek Dam site. According to Beryl Stillman, his father found part of a human skull lying in some soil that had been removed while making a temporary water diversion channel.

Beryl Stillman said the skull

was that of an Indian, probably a woman. He reported that the skull contained "sand ground teeth" (teeth that have been ground away by eating food containing sand and rock fragments). Stillman said the "sand ground teeth" are very common in skulls found in the Columbia River Basin area, and based his theory of the sex determination on the skulls small size and lack of a prominent ridge

above the eye socket.

Stillman guessed the skull to be that of a Umatilla or Cayuse Indian. He said he was told by a representative from the Umatilla Indian Reservation Confederated Tribes that this area was a major migration route of the Umatilla and Cayuse nations. He estimated the skull to be "in excess of 200 years" old.

Stillman said many other bones, believed to be animal

bones, along with fragments of burned bones, one human phalange (finger bone) and a grinding pestle were found in the same area. He said that during the late 1960's he found bone chips, fragments, projectile points and grinding rocks near where the Corps rock crusher is now. He believes the area was a camp site and or burial area. Stillman said

the finding area has been flagged off and that an archaeologist would be present during any further excavation in the area.

Two archaeologists from Idaho and the Corps District archaeologist LeRoy Allen were also at the site and viewed the findings.

Allen agreed that the skull was that of an Indian and was

probably a woman because of the sand ground teeth. He said burned butcher bones were also found near the skull and it appeared that garbage had at one time been dumped in the area. Allen would not guess as to if the area was a burial site. He said the skull could have been found elsewhere and later deposited at the finding site. Allen estimated that the skull was between 150 and 200

years old. He also said that two test pits had been conducted before any work in the area began and nothing was found. Allen said the bones were sent to the University of Idaho at Moscow so the tests could be run to determine the sex and estimated age of the bones. After testing, he said, the bones would be given to the Umatilla Indian Association for burial.