

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., March 13	51	40	.26
Wed., March 14	58	42	.27
Thurs., March 15	53	39	.06
Fri., March 16	57	33	.01
Sat., March 17	53	36	
Sun., March 18	51	44	.01
Mon., March 19	61	44	.02

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10 PAGES

25¢

Heppner, Oregon

Jim Swanson named Morrow County Conservation Man of the Year



Jim Swanson with his daughter Adrienne, wife Monica, son Luke and mother Irene.

Jim Swanson, lone, has been named 1984 Conservation Man of the Year for Morrow County.

Jim and his wife, Monica, farm three fields in the lone area, and were chosen for the award because of farming practices with terraces, waterways, reservoirs and chemicals.

Jim's late father, Garland Swanson, won the award in 1963, for his work in dams and strip farming.

Jim says he started on his current erosion control project around 1975 when, because of heavy rainfall, he began having problems with soil erosion.

He called in Bob Adelman from the A.S.C.S. office, and together they put in a six-year plan that has proved successful to the Swansons.

"First we took out the strips, and most of the dams," says Jim in explaining the conservation plan that was laid out. "Then we started putting in terraces."

When the terrace project is completed this year, the Swansons will have installed over 84,000 feet of level terraces to control water erosion on the hillside.

Jim will also have put in 17,160 feet of grassed waterways and installed six reservoirs strategically placed on canyons running through his fields, all in the past six years.

"One amazing thing is we laid out a six-year plan and stuck with it," says Swanson. "You can always find fault after several years but we haven't. We stuck with the plan."

The terracing is partially funded on a yearly basis by the federal government, which has placed terrace work in Morrow County on a high priority.

Jim says he gets a certain amount of money each year to do the work, but he has opted to go ahead and finish the terraces ahead of schedule to save money.

"Rather than leave a terrace half finished one year, we went ahead and finished it

Co. voters to elect school board directors, advisory comm. members

Next Tuesday, Mar. 27, Morrow Co. voters will go to the polls and elect three Morrow County School Board directors and several advisory committee members.

Seeking election for director from Zone II are Bryan Timms of Irrigon and Dwayne Carroll of Hermiston (Morrow Co. resident). The four-year term is presently held by Bob Byrd of Irrigon, who is not seeking re-election.

Running from Zone V are Frank Pearson and Robert "Bob" Mahoney, both of Heppner. The position is also a four-year term and is currently held by Jean Bennett.

Three people are vying for the Zone VI at large position: incumbent Pauline Winter of Heppner, William James Doherty of Lexington and Melvin J. "Jack" Strege of Boardman.

Vying for Position No. one on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee, a three-year term, are incumbent Dean Robinson and Helen Riehl, both of Heppner.

George Hoffer of Heppner is running for Position no. two on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee, a three-year term. Koffler, who presently holds the position, is running unopposed.

Also running unopposed for the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee is Jean Brazell of Lexington. Brazell is seeking election to Position No. seven, a three-year term. The position is now held by Ed Struthers of Lexington.

Position no. four on the lone-Lexington Advisory Committee is being sought by Julie Nelson of Lexington. She runs unopposed for the three-year term, which is presently held by Joan Doherty of Lexington.

(Editor's note: more information about local candidates is featured in a Candidates' Forum, inside.)

School district asks approval of \$4,796,414 tax levy

Morrow County voters will be asked to approve a tax levy next Tuesday of \$4,796,414 for the year 1984-85.

The amount represents taxes outside the tax base needed to operate the school system.

The school's total budget expenditure for next year is \$7,697,678, which is up five percent over the present year.

Including the district's tax base of \$742,978 (the amount that can be levied without voter approval) local property taxes make up \$5,539,392 of the proposed budget.

This represents an increase in the tax rate by 44 cents over the present year or from \$7.17 to \$7.61 per \$1,000 of valuation.

The largest increases in the budget are due to salary increments, increases in the cost of health insurance, costs of supplies, major repairs and school bus replacement.

The amount of the budget which is partially funded by the state is \$4,553,702, and the amount totally funded by tax payers is \$985,690.

There will be only one ballot; however, and voters will not see an "A" and "B" ballot as in years past.

County polling places announced

The following polling places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday, Mar. 27, for a county-wide election:

The Heppner Neighborhood Center, for all Heppner and Hardman residents;
The Morrow County School

District office, for all Lexington voters;

The North Morrow annex, for all Irrigon voters;
lone City Hall, for all registered lone voters; and
Greenfield Grange, for all Boardman voters.

Voters to consider BMCC budget, directors Tues.

Morrow County voters will be voting on Blue Mt. Community College's proposed tax levy and district directors as well as several other matters in next Tuesday's election.

The college is requesting a levy of \$3,190,237 for operation in the 1984-85 year. Since the college has no tax base, the total levy is in excess of that authorized by the Oregon Constitution and must be approved by the voters each year. The entire amount of the levy request is eligible for state property tax relief. The estimated tax rate is \$1.44 per \$1,000 of true cash value, an increase of three cents per \$1,000 of true cash value over the current year's levy.

Oths wins G-T contest

Mike Oths of Heppner was the first person to identify all photos of Jim Farley in last week's Gazette-Times and phone the G-T office. The special St. Patrick's Day contest was sponsored by the Gazette-Times.

For his efforts, Oths received two tickets to a ham dinner at St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall Saturday evening.

County budget up 27%; voters to decide its fate Tuesday

Morrow County voters will be asked to approve a \$7,707,598 budget for 1984-85 in the election next Tuesday.

Last year's budget was \$6,068,802, which represents an increase of \$1,638,606 or 27 percent.

The amount of property taxes needed to balance the budget is \$3,120,440 which is up \$377,962 from last year's tax of \$2,742,478.

The general fund increased \$277,484, with increases in the contingency funds, a slight increase in materials and services, \$23,000 for a weed control district, \$125,999 to develop a park at Willow Creek Dam, and a 10.8 percent increase in salaries for all elected officials.

Revenues other than taxes are expected to increase by \$316,303.

Pioneer Memorial Hospi-

tal's budget is included in the total county budget voters will see Tuesday; however, the hospital's budget will be \$38,258 up from \$133,867 last year.

The hospital increases will be used for an anticipated three percent cost of living increase for salaries and wages, plus step increases, physician recruitment and assistance, increases in free assistance required on the Hill Burton act for indigents, capital expenditures for new equipment, and anticipated uncollectable debts.

In the area of doctor assistance and recruitment, the hospital has budgeted \$83,000; partly to pay expenses in locating the doctor already in the community, and seeking out another physician to move to the area.

"This is an important part

of our hospital," says board member Ron McDonald. "We are competing with other areas for physicians." He points out that more physicians in the area would increase use of the hospital and thus increase the revenues of the hospital. "We would like to see more OBs (delivery of babies) at the hospital," he says.

Funds for equipment replacement at the hospital have been increased over last year, partly because of a change in purchasing methods, and partly because of a need to keep equipment in good shape and up-to-date.

Included in equipment purchases are 15 separate items ranging from a new tub in the nursing home, to six new electric beds, to a new cautery for surgery.

"We need to keep our equipment up to give good care."

says McDonald. He also points out that the total purchase price must be reflected in the budget the year the item is bought, instead of spread out over several years as has been done in the past.

In the county road fund, expenditures increased by \$10,248, and revenues there are expected to be down \$156,259.

Also included in the budget is \$11,445 to partially offset the cost of connecting the fairgrounds to the City of Heppner's sewer system. The fair had trouble with a plugged up system last year.

The tax levy for the proposed budget would be \$3.90 per \$1,000 valuation as compared to an actual rate of \$3.53 last year. The rate is based on a county valuation of \$800,000,000.

Coronation dinner scheduled Mar. 24

Morrow Co. royalty, live music and good food will highlight the 1984 Coronation dinner for the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, Saturday, March 24.

The potluck event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner.

This is the second annual dinner which is open to the community. Members of the fair and rodeo board and committees along with individuals and sponsors who support and contribute to the annual summer event are invited to attend, announced a spokesperson for the event.

The program will include the introduction of the court, Queen Sylvia Ladd and princesses Shelley Stroeber and Bridgett Greenup. Entertainment will be by the Rev. Cathy Barker of the United Church of Christ, lone, and memories will be shared by Shorty Peck, Merlyn Robinson and Raymond French of past fairs and rodeos.

Master of ceremonies, Rodeo Chairman Don Stroeber and Fair Board Chairman Charley Daley will speak on the 1984 shows.

Also honored with the court will be the five pennant bearers Dyann Brosnan, Bobette Angell, Stacey Kennedy, Christy Stroeber and Lori Cecil.

Many community sponsors will also be recognized.

Queen Sylvia Ladd, 18, of lone, is the daughter of Elmer and Lorraine Ladd. She is a sophomore at Blue Mountain Community College and has an older brother, Richard.

Princess Bridgett Greenup, 16, is a junior at Heppner High School. The princess is the

daughter of Don and Colleen Greenup and has three sisters, Tag Ashbeck, Mary Ann Davis and Sue Walton, and two brothers Bill and Greg.

Princess Shelley Stroeber, 16, is the daughter of Don and Jan Stroeber of Heppner. The junior at Heppner High School has two sisters Cindy and Christy.

The evening will conclude with a dance to the music of Firelight, a country rock band that will perform from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the fair pavilion in Heppner. Admission will be \$3 per person.

New owners take over Heppner Chevron station



Howard and Donna Buchanan are the new owners of the Chevron station in Heppner. The Buchanans, who came to Heppner from Hood River, purchased the station from Tom Troxell of Heppner. They took over the business March 10.

Since 1959, the couple had lived in Hood River, where they had an auto repair shop.

The Buchanans have a married daughter, Angella, 19, who lives in Hood River, and a 16-year-old son, Keith, who is a sophomore at Heppner High School.

The station's new name is Howard's Chevron; the phone number, unchanged, is 676-5556.

Four, a four-year term, are Dr. Mike Elsberry of Milton-Freewater, Phillip Houk of Pendleton and incumbent Ken Dauble of Weston.

Houl submitted the following statement:

"I have great respect for the present board, but feel that I can enhance the character of the board along with contributing my knowledge and experience. I am currently employed as director of the Fitness Academy at St. Anthony Hospital and serve on the Blue Mountain Community College Long Range Planning Committee, as well as serving a four-year term on the Umatilla County Juvenile Services Commission."

Voters will also elect three BMCC district directors in the March 27 election.

Vying for Position No. three, a four-year term, are Franklin Hubbard of Hermiston and incumbent Joe Green of Pendleton.

Running for Position No.

lone business people to meet, form group

lone business and agri-business people will be meeting on Wednesday, Mar. 28, 12 noon, at Beecher's Cafe in lone, announced Jim Swanson and Chuck Starr. The purpose of the meeting, they explained, is to form an organization to work on issues affecting the area.

"Anyone interesting in seeing lone and south Morrow

County continue to prosper should attend this meeting," Swanson and Starr said.

Budget committee to meet

The City of Heppner Budget Committee will hold its first meeting next Monday, Mar. 26. The group will meet at Heppner City Hall at 7:30 p.m.