

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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8 PAGES

Heppner, Oregon

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Weather

by the City of Heppner

		High	Low	Precip	Snow
Tues.	Feb. 19	47	30	.15 rain	
Wed.	Feb. 20	46	30	.01 rain	
Thurs.	Feb. 21	49	36	.02 rain	
Fri.	Feb. 22	53	36		
Sat.	Feb. 23	57	41		
Sun.	Feb. 24	54	28		
Mon.	Feb. 25	49	28		

## \$2,980,470 tax levy needed to balance budget

The Morrow County Budget Committee met February 8, 9, and 12 and approved an \$8,284,279 budget, which reflects a six percent increase over last year's total adopted budget. The county's total income other than property taxes is \$5,007,937 so the county must levy \$3,472,923 in local taxes to balance the budget. The county's tax base is \$492,453, so voters will be asked to approve a one-year special levy of \$2,980,470 in the March 26 election.

The levy is \$598,081 more than last year, a 20 percent increase. This means an increase in the tax rate from \$3.55 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$4.19 per \$1,000. Last year, voters approved a budget requiring a \$3.90 per \$1,000 rate, but the County Court later reduced the budget decreasing the rate to \$3.55.

The tax rate will increase for two reasons, explains Budget Officer LoRayne Bowman, 1) the expected cash carryover from last year's budget is \$383,900 less than at the beginning of 1984, and 2) the amount of money which the county normally receives from federal revenue sharing funds became uncertain when President Reagan made significant cuts in revenue sharing amounts. Consequently, money lost from Revenue Sharing will have to be made up from local taxpayers.

The carryover in the Revenue Sharing fund is \$279,742. This is adequate to fund the services normally paid for from this source. Amounts budgeted include: Senior Services-\$8,328, the Neighborhood Center-\$10,000, and the Boardman DayCare Center-Latch Key Program-\$40,000, and a repair for the Courthouse roof. Other necessary repairs to the Courthouse windows and electrical system will not be completed at this time unless a revenue sharing money is paid to the county which will cover the cost.

**No salary increase for elected officials**

The budget includes several interesting items, perhaps most important to note is that no salary increases are budgeted for elected officials; dollar amounts are the same as last year. Other salary increases for classified employees are based on union contract negotiations. Road Department employees are scheduled to receive a four percent increase and the Sheriff's Department and other classified employees, a three percent increase.

**Lifeguard Serial Levy**  
Submitted for consideration by the budget committee was a special tax levy for LifeGuard helicopter which has been entirely supported by a Umatilla County serial tax levy. Since the service is used by other counties, they were asked to consider sharing the cost. The Budget Committee decided not to include the amount in the county budget but to submit it to voters as a separate serial levy in May.

**Turner Sanitary Landfill**  
Because the County's lease at the Turner Sanitary Landfill expires in six months, and the property owners have expressed a desire not to renew the lease, amounts budgeted for its operation are about 20 percent of last year's budget. Also, no funds are presently included in

the budget proposal for operating a landfill at a new site.

This, however, does not mean that there will be no county-operated landfill explains Commissioner Peck. The Solid Waste Committee will have some decisions to make at a 7:30 p.m. February 28 meeting at the Public Works Building in Lexington. The committee consists of Mayors Cara Costa-Heppner, John Ripple-Lexington, Wayne Hams-Ione, Don Eppenbach-Irrigon, and Gale Grill-Boardman; and Morrow Co. Extension Agent Steve Campbell. Budget Committee Representative Terry Thompson, Planning Commission Chairman Gene Trumbull, Planning Director Deane Seeger and a representative from the Port of Morrow.

"Right now everything is a big 'maybe' and it's difficult to budget an amount when dealing with changes to be made during the next budget year," said Peck.

**Hospital**  
The total hospital budget is \$1,791,071, which minus resources leaves a balance of \$439,357 to be funded by taxes. Because hospital revenues depend on the number of people who use the hospital, income fluctuates with use, which is down from past years. The major expenditures for the hospital are moderately increased over last year with the exception of the capital replacement fund which is 200 percent greater because the building needs a new roof, and some equipment needs to be updated.

On his last day as hospital administrator, John Ochsner explained that the hospital "is at a crossroads. We either put money back in and replace equipment or let it slide and continue to deteriorate." Because occupancy is down, revenue is down, but expenses have been cut as much as possible to still maintain minimum requirements for both the hospital and nursing home.

The budget committee questioned the Hospital Board's request for

Physician Recruitment funds, but the board defended the amount as necessary should the Doctor Placement Firm find a doctor for the area during the next year.

**Road Department**  
The total Road Department Budget is \$2,606,430 which, minus resources, means that \$1,269,290 tax dollars are necessary to balance the budget.

The number of employees is to remain the same with negotiated salary increases included in the budget.

Major projects included in the budget are restoration of three county bridges for which the county will receive matching funds, preliminary survey and engineering for the proposed Lone Boardman road, maintenance of existing county roads, and capital outlays for of \$60,000 for a semi-tractor to use fifth wheel with equipment which the department has, \$26,000 for two

pup-trailers to transfer rock more efficiently to job sites, \$10,000 for a dump box to be used on the new semi-tractor, \$16,000 for two new pickups to rotate with older existing pickups, \$15,000 for a portable traffic strip, and \$5,500 for snow plows.

The main problem for the county road department during the last budget year has been maintaining production at the rock crusher. The Budget committee was very specific in its recommendation to the Road Department that since the crusher is now in working order, it should produce a "reasonable" amount of crushed rock, 50,000 yards, during the next budget period or next year's budget would probably include a recommendation to sell the crusher and acquire rock by other means. Last year's budget included \$40,000 to buy rock. The amount is decreased to \$25,000 for buying rock next year.

## Kahl to lead H.E.D.C.

Bob Kahl was recently elected the 1985 president of the Heppner Economic Development Corporation. He and his wife, Marianne, have three children: Abby, 3, Megan, 13, and Peter, 18.

Kahl works at Turner, Van Marter and Bryant Insurance Agency in Heppner. He lived in the Canby, Oregon City area prior to moving to Heppner 1 1/2 years ago which has both advantages and disadvantages, he explains. "Having lived in other communities, I can see how things worked there, but Heppner has a unique set of problems and assets, so no one can really come in with a preconceived notion of how things will work because people have unique talents," what people want to have happen here is what is good for us, not for everybody else. Times and things change. Heppner is nice as it is, but we can't stop change. If we say we're not going to do anything to change things, that is a decision and things will change accordingly, so we have to be careful to make the decisions that are conducive to the lifestyle and way we want things to happen here.

He sees the HEDC as a non-controversial agency trying to work with people and existing agencies to get to where we want to be realizing that we can't please everyone but hopefully can create an environment that most people will be comfortable in.

Kahl replaces outgoing president Jim Hayes who remains on the committee for the Willow Creek Dam Project. Other officers elected by the H.E.D.C. Board of Directors include vice president Cliff Green, Treasurer Kent Goodyear and Secretary Ann Spicer.



Bob Kahl

## Apply for absentee ballots

The Morrow County Clerk's office is accepting applications for absentee ballots for the March 26 election. Because the election will be during the spring vacation, for the schools, many people may be away from the county.

If you plan to be gone, it is important to remember to stop at the Clerk's office and fill out an application or mail a letter saying that you will be absent during the election and need an absentee ballot. One letter may be sent for a husband and wife who both plan to be gone, but both must sign the letter emphasizing Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth.

## By Morrow County Court

### Fillies Day proclaimed

WHEREAS, Morrow County has always held its young people in the highest esteem; and

WHEREAS, Morrow County is extremely proud of the Heppner High School girls basketball team; and

WHEREAS, THE Fillies had a fantastic 14-3 season; and

WHEREAS, the Fillies continued their success at the District Tournament with a first-ever Columbia Basin Conference Championship and a berth in the Regional tournament; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous support provided by the cheerleaders and pep band have brought everyone a sense of community pride;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that by the proclamation of the Morrow County Court, Friday, March 1, 1985 is hereby proclaimed "FILLIES DAY."

Dated: February 27, 1985



(s) Judge Donald McElligott  
(s) Irvin Rauch  
(s) G. W. (Jerry) Peck  
Morrow Co. Court

## HHS girl chosen Ore. 4-H representative



Paula Plocharsky

By STEPHEN J. CAMPBELL,  
OSU Extension Agent

Paula Plocharsky was selected as Oregon's 4-H representative to the Western Regional Leadership Conference for Teens Regional Planning Committee. As the representative from Oregon, Paula traveled to Reno, Nevada and spent one day at

the University of Nevada planning the June, 1985 conference.

Paula was selected from among last year's delegates from Oregon. In addition to planning this year's program, she will be a staff member at the conference.

The purpose of the conference is to provide leadership and program training for 4-H'ers from nine western states. It will be held June 23 - 28 at Lake Tahoe in Nevada. Each state can send a limited number of delegates. Selection criteria limits delegates to senior (10th through 12th grade) 4-H'ers who are fulfilling leadership roles in their clubs and communities.

In addition to the workshops that the teens attend, there are recreational and social events planned. The opportunity to meet outstanding teens from all across the West makes this more than just a learning event. By comparing different philosophies concerning the role of teens in the 4-H program, everyone gains from just being there.

Paula's input and her responsibilities at the program will provide her with unique opportunities for personal and professional growth and development. She will coordinate the activities of the Oregon

delegation relative to the rest of the program. In addition, she will assist in the development and presentation of one leadership workshop at the conference.

## Time again to get ready for Rolling Hills Walk-Run

The fourth annual Rolling Hills Walk Run has been slated for Sunday, April 14, beginning at 1 p.m. The slightly downhill course, which is the same as the past three years, will start again at Heppner Elementary School and loop up and back along the Heppner Pilot Rock Highway finishing at the Heppner City Park on Main Street. Participants can choose from either a 5K (3.1 mile) or 10K (6.2 mile) distance.

Ribbons will be awarded to the first three finishers in all age groups for both distances. Additionally, carved-wooden plaques will be awarded to the fastest male and female in the 10K run and to the oldest male and female participants. The age divisions include the following for both distances: 0-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and over 50. An awards assembly will be held in the multi-purpose room at Heppner Elementary School following the run.

The pre-registration (\$6) deadline

## Heading to Regionals? Get there early

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is March 22nd, but participants may register (\$7) the day of the run. T-shirts, which feature the distinctive Rolling Hills Run logo, are included in the regular registration fee. Additional information concerning fees can be obtained from the registration forms. Registration forms will be available at the Shoe Box, Murray's, and Heppner Elementary School.

The Rolling Hills Walk Run is being sponsored by the Morrow County Education Association. Chairman for this year's run is Dave Gunderson, fifth grade teacher at Heppner Elementary School. Proceeds for the run will be used toward the final stages of construction of Willow Creek Little League's new baseball field, immediately downstream from Willow Creek Dam.

For further information or registration contact Liz Curtis by calling 676-9454 or writing Liz Curtis in C-O Rolling Hills Run Project, P.O. Box 652, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

At press time, it doesn't appear that there will be an advance sale of tickets. The doors open at 6 p.m. for the evening session. It is advisable to get there somewhat early as the second game of the session involved Enterprise's boys team, which always has a large following. Imbler is only a few miles from LaGrande so it is also reasonable to expect them to bring a large crowd.

Tickets prices are: \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for students.

At presstime, there is no organized mass transportation effort planned for the trip to LaGrande. To get to the game site, drivers should take the first LaGrande exit off I-84, and follow the signs to Eastern Oregon State College.

Should Heppner win Friday night, they would not play Saturday. If they lose Friday, they play Saturday, also at 7 p.m. If they win Friday, they will play in the State Tournament at the Armory in Pendleton on Thursday, at 1:30 p.m. If they lose Friday and win Saturday, they play in Pendleton on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Drivers should be advised that parking at the EOSC gym is on-street; there is no central parking lot.

## On to Regionals!!!

Heppner's girls basketball team captured the school's first-ever District championship Friday night with a 40-36 win over Sherman County, and in the process earned a spot in this weekend's regional tournament in LaGrande. The Fillies will play Imbler High School Friday night at Eastern Oregon State College, for the right to advance to the State Tournament.

Friday's win, 40-36 over previously top-ranked Sherman County, earned the Fillies the 7-A title. Despite what Fillies coach Mike Royer called "our worst shooting night of the season," Heppner stayed close to Sherman for 3 1/2 quarters, then took the lead for good in the last four minutes. Balanced scoring and a key defensive job on Sherman's Patty Sharp keyed the Heppner attack. Heppner survived 15 for 66 shooting in averaging an earlier 47-41 loss to the Huskies.

Sherman County also then lost Saturday night to Umatilla and the defending State runners-up are now out of the tournament.

As District champions, Heppner and Imbler will play for an automatic spot in the State tourney, to be held March 6-9 at Pendleton's Armory. The loser of Friday's game will

play the winner of the game between the District runners-up - Pine Eagle and Umatilla. Both Friday and Saturday (if necessary) games will be played at 7 p.m. at the E.O.S.C. gym.

In trying to best Imbler, Heppner will be trying for a clean sweep in "second chance" games this season. The Fillies, 15-3 for the season, have already avenged earlier losses to Umatilla and Sherman County, and will be trying to even the score for a season-opening loss to the Imbler Panthers. The Fillies' loss to Imbler came in the first game of the Morrow County Tournament, at Riverside, in December.

Imbler, 2-3, finally broke through this year as Champions of the tough Wapiti Conference. The Panthers have finished second each of the past four years, each time to the eventual state champions (Joseph three times, Pine Eagle last year). The Panthers have been to the District Tournament in every one of coach Mary Cant's eight seasons, this is their second trip to the Regionals.

Imbler beat Enterprise and Pine Eagle to earn the top spot in the District. Coach Royer remembers the earlier game with Imbler, and

expects a tough contest. "They're a big team - like Umatilla," said Royer. "They run and press - they're very quick." Royer stated that the Imbler press bothered Heppner considerably the first time, but hopes that his Fillies will have better success negotiating it this time around. Heppner's second-year coach is guardedly optimistic about his team's chances. "We've been playing good defense - it won the game for us against Sherman County. I'd almost guarantee that we'll shoot better than we did last week, so if we can keep playing well defensively, we should have a good chance." The team appears to be at full strength, having overcome some recent injury problems.

A Heppner win on Friday night would put them in the State Tournament, with the first game to be played Thursday afternoon at 1:30, probably against Neah-Kah-Nie. A Heppner loss on Friday would mean they would need to play Saturday. A win on Saturday would mean a 1:30 game on Wednesday, also at the Armory.

A capacity crowd is expected for this weekend's regional, and fans are urged to arrive early (see related story).

## St. Pat's parade entries invited

St. Patrick's Day is rapidly approaching and the St. Patrick's Day Committee says they are looking forward to another weekend of fun at one of the state's largest celebrations right here in Heppner. As last year, we're looking forward to having another fine parade in addition to the other exciting events taking place.

A number of entries from all around the northeastern Oregon area, including a number of bands, have said they plan to attend.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee is pleased and proud to announce that the Hon. John F. Kilkenny is the Parade Marshal and Cecelia Buckman is the Queen of the Parade for the 1985 Heppner St. Patrick's Day Parade. Both of these folks are longtime residents of the Heppner area who have made tremendous contributions to the community over the years.

Those who would like to participate in the parade, are invited to do so. There will be a number of prizes for entries such as Irish Family Groups, floats and antique autos to

name just a few. For more information and/or get official entry in the parade, contact either Bob Kahl at

676-9113 or Jim Farley at 676-9116. The parade is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16, 1985.



Don Dority Used Cars' pack mules will be among the entries in the Heppner St. Patrick's Day parade.