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Weather

by the City of Heppner

	January 14-20			Snow
	High	Low	Rain	
Tues.	36	31	.00	Trace
Wed.	51	35	.02	Trace
Thurs.	52	35	.08	Trace
Fri.	58	37	.01	Windy
Sat.	63	41	.03	
Sun.	44	35	.11	
Mon.	44	27	.00	

Daly: 'There's a pretty mad Fair Board'

Story causes tensions in Fair Board-School District negotiations

Tensions between the Morrow County Fair Board and the county school district were high Monday night, over discussions on a new lease agreement for use of the high school football field in Heppner.

Fair Board Chairman Charlie Daly was at the school board meeting to discuss the lease agreement with the district, and expressed his anger with superintendent Doyle McCaslin over a news story about the lease appearing in the "East Oregonian" newspaper Monday afternoon.

The fair board leases the county rodeo arena to the school district for use as a football and baseball field, and grade school PE classes.

Under a proposed new one year continuing lease, the district would pay \$4,000 per year for use of the facilities. This amount is up \$2,000 over last year; however, the district will no longer be responsible for maintenance, electricity or other duties, and is getting a good deal, Daly told the board.

Monday's "East Oregonian"

story did not explain that the district would be relieved of these duties, Daly angrily told the school board. "There's a pretty mad Fair Board about the news release from Doyle McCaslin," he said.

Daly said McCaslin failed to explain that the district will pay \$2,000 more, but that the Fair Board is taking over maintenance duties likely to cost the board \$3,000. "If (the story) makes it sound like we're ripping off the district," and we're not said Daly.

Fair Board member Merlyn Robinson, who was not at the meeting, said Tuesday that the lease agreement will work out well for the district. "All they will be responsible for now is setting up for the games," she said. She pointed out that when the district had been taking care of maintenance and clean-up, lots of time the job wasn't getting done. "There would be paper blowing all over town the morning after a (football) game, and a lot of times the lawn wasn't being watered and was turning brown."

"We have Ed (Struthers, the fairgrounds maintenance man) working there. He cares about the way things look, and likes to have things taken care of, so it's just going to work out better for everybody," she said.

The Fair Board is also unhappy with the delay in getting the lease signed with the School District, and Monday night Daly wondered why the lease had been at the district's attorney's office two weeks prior to the meeting, and the board received no work that there was a problem.

The School Board said it would look over the lease, probably make a few changes, and contact the Fair Board later.

In other action, the board:

learned that County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth plans to hold one or more election by mail in the county this year. Superintendent Doyle McCaslin expressed displeasure with the vote by mail, saying that on school budget elections there are more "no" votes, and that there is a tendency for voter fraud in mail elections. "It's easier to falsify, by getting names off of tombstones and other types of fraud," he told the board. The cost for mail voting is less, McCaslin said, with regular balloting costing \$1.65 per ballot, as opposed to 95 cents by mail voting.

learned that the county health nurse will be moving out of the Lexington district offices and into the new Pettyjohn office building in Heppner.

heard from the district classified employees (cooks, janitors, etc.) that they hope to ratify the new contract with the district soon. The union discussed the contract earlier, but the leadership decided not to ask for a vote, fearing it would be voted down, forcing a return to the bargaining table.

voted to appoint Heppner banker Gerald Pierson to the district's risk management committee.

voted to give Superintendent McCaslin a new two year contract with a \$2,000 per year raise. McCaslin's salary will go from \$46,010 per year to \$48,000.

voted to take approximately \$26,000 out of contingency funds to pay for an unexpected insurance premium increase.

approved an unpaid leave for Karen Clough, Heppner Elementary first grade teacher for maternally, and Mark Jones an lone elementary sixth grade teacher until the end of the school year for national guard training.

approved a field trip for the high school choir for a skiing trip to Spout Springs. There will be no cost to the district for the trip.

Lexington man named outstanding logger



Left to right- Al Newman forest practices forester, John Britt operator of the year, and Ed Tarnasky from Kinzua.

John Britt Logging Company of Lexington has been presented an award for his outstanding logging. The Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year was given to Britt for his logging site near Winlock in Wheeler County. Forestry officials chose this operation from among the 1,100 permits on private land in Eastern Oregon.

Britt logged 1.8 million board feet on 680 acres in a sensitive area. The unit had two steelhead spawning streams and several creeks that affect the quality of these spawning

waters. "John used only two crossings when five had been approved," said Al Newman, State Forest Practices Forester. "This cost him more money due to longer skidding distances."

Careful logging around trees left to grow was another area State officials offered praise for Britt. "Very few of the residual trees were scarred or damaged by the logging," noted Newman.

The Britt Logging Company is a family effort. Britt's two sons, Rick and Rusty, run the operating sides.

His wife Nella is the company's bookkeeper, managing the finances on their home computer.

The Britt Logging Company has 19 people on the payroll and provides employment for an additional 12 contractors. As owner of the company, John works hard at having a minimum number of shutdowns in order to keep all of his employees and contractors working year-round.

John logged an estimated 21 million board feet in 1985 on two USFS sales, and four operations that were

conducted on Kinzua Corporation lands.

The logging company has also been awarded the Oregon Environmental Logger of the Year. The annual award is given by Oregon Forest Industries Council.

The Board of Forestry annually presents up to four Operator of the Year awards to individual operators and companies that consistently exceed the minimum requirements of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. The award is based on the degree of difficulty of the forest operation, innovation and extra effort expended operation results, and the amount of financial risk assumed by an operator in applying the extra effort.

Receiving the awards in addition to Britt were A.C. Brown and Son Logging of Toledo, and L & L Skyline of Gold Beach.

A.C. Brown and Son Logging harvested 40 acres owned by Georgia Pacific Corporation south of Toledo in Lincoln County. Protection of a major stream and conducting harvesting operations in a high-risk area for debris avalanches, without damage, were recognized by the award.

L & L Skyline conducted a harvesting operation on Champion International land near the North Umpqua River in Douglas County. The operation had to allow for an adequate buffer to provide shading for water temperature of a creek, make careful stream crossings at appropriate times of the year, and conduct careful harvesting practices to preserve the character of the old-growth buffer strip. Shirley Laird of L & L Skyline was the 1983 Operator of the Year and was the 1983 Environmental Logger of the Year as recognized by the Oregon Forest Industries Council and Associated Oregon Loggers.

The award consists of a wooden plaque recognizing the outstanding efforts of the forest operators.

In addition to the Operator of the Year Awards, eight merit awards and 12 letters of commendation were presented locally to forest operators.

The Board of Forestry has conducted the awards program since 1981. It uses subcommittees of its three regional forest practice committees to review nominations made by the Department of Forestry's forest practices foresters. The forest operations are inspected by a judging team and award winners recommended to the Board of Forestry.

Co-op Board approves budget

Manager Fred Toombs reported to the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board at a January 16 meeting that "if plans go as scheduled at present, by the fall of this year, the co-op may open bids for reconstruction of a transmission line into the Bonneville Power Administration system."

The main transmission line, he says, has been responsible for many problems during the past year. Co-op Board approved a 1986 operating budget based on an estimated \$4.3 million in revenues. Toombs reports that there is much concern among the Board members that many irrigation pumps have been disconnected because they have become so costly to operate. This, he says, will have a dramatic effect on the co-op's revenues. Budgeted items include: \$211,000 for capital expenditures, \$675,000 for planned additions and replacement of lines and equipment, and a \$2.1 million bill from Bonneville Power Administration.

The board also heard that 1985 was a bad year for ice storms. The entire system, north to south and east to

west was effected by them, said Toombs. Problems with ice were not isolated in any one area; most, if not all, co-op customers suffered power outages at some time during the year because of the ice. Labor, materials, equipment, replacement of lines contributed to the total repair cost of \$400,000 for four weeks of ice during January, and two weeks during December of 1985.

Concerning legal matters, the Board heard that a number of Bankruptcies are taking place in relation to the Washington Public Power supply System and that many hours of work are still ahead before matters are resolved.

'Doc' plans a vacation



E.K. Schaffitz

E.K. Schaffitz, local optometrist and wit, who has occupied the same office in the Heppner Hotel building on Main Street for 32 years, announced Tuesday that he will be taking a vacation beginning February 15. "Doc" vehemently denied allegation that he was retiring and declined any description of the planned vacation other than to say that it would be "permanent."

With current local efforts by the city of Heppner to purchase the hotel building and remodel it as a retirement center, he says "Now is a good time to 'get out,' so that those efforts are encouraged."

Factfinding report issued

Jack Liles, representative for the Morrow County School Board, and Bill Jacobson, Oregon Education Association representative for Morrow County teachers, report that they have received copies of factfinder Gary Axon's report concerning disputed contract issues between county teachers and the school board. Each side has five working days to consider Axon's report and notify the Employment Relations Board. Jacobson will meet with teachers Thursday, Jan. 23 and Liles will meet with the board Monday, Jan. 27.

Should both sides accept the factfinder's report, they will have reached agreement on the issues and a contract will result.

If either side rejects the report; however, the Employment Relations Board will publish the entire report within five days. At that point, a 30-day "Cooling Off" period begins during which a mediator generally tries to bring both sides back to the bargaining table. If an agreement is not reached, teachers must give 10 days notice of their intent to strike. The last 10 days of the cooling off period may be used as that time of notice.

Issues which Axon was asked to resolve included salaries, retirement, fair share, vacancies and transfer, and "just cause" for retirement.

Water supply forecast below average

Spring and summer water supplies are forecast to be slightly below average. Precipitation was below normal in December.

Precipitation for December was: Ukiah 1.20, 56 percent of avg. Heppner 1.20, 73 percent of avg. The snowpack at Arbuckle Mountain was 21" snow depth and 5.6"

water content. This is 193 percent of average. The Madison Butte SNO-TEL reported 4.6" of water in the snowpack.

Forecasts of streamflow, assuming normal weather conditions for the rest of the season are as follows: -Butler Creek near Pine City-10.7 1000 acre feet, 92 percent of average, March-July 11.6 1000's average per acre feet.

Rhea Creek near Heppner 7.9 1000 acre feet, 84 percent of average, February-July 9.3 1000's average per acre feet.

Willow Creek at Heppner 9.3 1000 acre feet, 98 percent of average, February-July 9.4 1000's average per acre feet.

Rock Creek above Cayuse Canyon near Condon 20.3 1000 acre feet, 102 percent of average, February-July 19.8 1000's average per acre feet.

Prizes offered for winning fair theme

Anyone may enter an idea for a theme for this year's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo says Fair committee member Ellen Kennedy. Theme entries should be mailed to the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, P.O. Box 464, Heppner, or taken to

the fair office by February 14. The person who submits the theme chosen by the fair committee will receive a free pass to this year's fair and rodeo and a medium pizza and pitcher of Pepsi from Kate's Pizza and Pastry in Heppner.

County Health Dept. now in Heppner

The Morrow County Health Department has moved to a new office at 430 Heppner-Lexington Hwy. New mailing address is: Morrow County Health Department, P.O. Box 799, Heppner, OR 97836. Telephone number is 676-5421.

The Health Dept. will hold regular clinics every Friday at the new Heppner office from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (closed at noon).

A complete listing of our clinics follows:

Blood Pressure and Immunizations

Boardman City Hall, first and third Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Irrigon County Offices, second and fourth Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Blood Pressures Only

Lexington School Admin. Bldg., first Wednesdays, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.; lone Bank of Eastern Oregon Kitchen, third Wednesday, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.



Beware of "rotten" ice

Glen Ward of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife warns that people should no longer try to walk on the icy surface of Willow Creek Lake. Since temperatures have risen to above freezing, warm air above and warm water flowing into the lake below the ice are melting it from both sides, or causing it to slush up and "rot." Although ice may still be six to eight inches thick in places, it is no longer strong enough to be considered safe.