

## Wins state Elks scholarship



Chris McLaughlin

Chris McLaughlin, Heppner High School, has now won first place in the Oregon State Elks Scholarship competition. He has already won a \$700 award in local competition and a \$500 award for competition at the district level. At the state level, Jim Swanson, local scholarship chairperson for the Elks, says that he has won close to \$3,000. The amount, he explains is derived from interest in the scholarship account, so the exact amount varies.

The application which McLaughlin prepared for local competition followed him through district and state interviews and com-

petition. It will be forwarded for national competition where he will be eligible to win additional scholarship money depending on how his brochure is rated, Swanson continued. National awards are presented to first, second, and third place candidates as well as additional categories.

McLaughlin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob McLaughlin of Heppner. He is the third of five children. A senior at Heppner High School, he has already been accepted for entrance at Oregon State University next fall where he plans to major in engineering.

## CBEC to replace power line

The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board of Directors, at a February 18, meeting, approved the replacement of the 69,000 volt power line from the Bonneville Power Administration source to the lone, Lexington, Ruggs, Kinzua and Heppner substation areas, reports co-op Manager Fred Toombs.

"We have known for some time that the line was deteriorating because of its age. Plans had been made earlier to replace the line in the late 1980s or early 1990s. This last severe weather last winter with its extended power outages have shown us that we cannot wait for the plan to be executed because the line has deteriorated far beyond our expectations, he continued.

Arrangements have been made for the necessary financing to accommodate replacement in 1987. Bids will be awarded in the late fall of 1986 and construction is expected to begin in the early spring of 1987.

## Many attend meeting to learn about new farm programs

About 160 farmers, both from irrigated and dryland farms, some from Gilliam and Umatilla as well as Morrow County, were at St. Patrick's Parish Hall last Friday to hear about the new farm program. "This year's program looks good," said Fred Lundin, agent with the Morrow County Extension Service, "but each case is different and must be evaluated. A computer program is available at the extension office which helps farmers decide if they want to participate in the program, he says. The program allows farmers to compare participation in the conservation reserve or acreage

production programs for a given amount of acreage and crop to help them decide if they want to participate in one program, both, or neither. Those who bring a blank computer disk to the extension office are welcome to copy the program, he says.

Many farmers had questions about crop compliance and he said that as of then it was still a part of the program. Crop history establishes barley base and wheat base for each grower and he may not plant more than that base. If he decides to participate in the reserve program, a farmer may not plant that wheat-producing area in barley.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently announced major provisions of the 1986 farm programs in Washington, D.C.

Acreage reduction programs will be in effect for wheat, corn, oats, barley, grain sorghum, upland cot-

ton and rice, according to Judy Buschke, County Executive Director of the Morrow County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. "The programs are designed to curtail the burdensome supplies of the commodities," Buschke said.

Program requirements call for a 25 percent reduction of wheat and upland cotton acres; 20 percent for feed grains; and a 35 percent reduction in rice acres. Included in the announced wheat and feed grain acreage reduction programs is a 2.5 percent paid-in-kind land diversion provision, according to Buschke.

"To be eligible for loans and target price protection, farmers must sign up and comply with program requirements." She said program sign up will be March 3 through April 11.

The target price for 1986 wheat will be \$4.38 per bushel, the same as last year. Feed grain program participants will be eligible for target prices of \$3.03 per bushel for corn, \$2.88 for sorghum, \$2.60 for barley and \$1.60 per bushel for oats. Loan rates per bushel are: wheat, \$2.40; corn, \$1.92; sorghum, \$1.82; barley, \$1.56; rye, \$1.63; and oats, \$9.99. Rice and upland cotton loan rates will be announced later, Buschke said.

Under the 1986 programs, participating producers who plant at least 50 percent of their permitted acreage to a program crop and plant the remaining permitted acreage to a non-program crop, other than soybeans or extra long staple cotton, or devotes such area to conservation uses, will be eligible to receive deficiency payments of 92 percent of the permitted acreage. "Winter wheat producers whose harvested acres do not exceed 65 percent of their farm's wheat base may be eligible for diversion payments on an acreage equal to an additional 10 percent of their wheat base," the ASCS official said.

As with previous acreage reduction programs, for 1986 haying and grazing on acreage conservation reserve land will be permitted at the request of individual State ASC committees. However, haying and grazing are prohibited during the five principal growing months.

To conserve eroding cropland and help adjust the production of surplus agricultural commodities, the Secretary of Agriculture has announced a new Conservation Reserve Program. The program is designed to convert highly erodible cropland to permanent vegetative cover for 10 years, according to Judy Buschke, County Executive Director, of the

Morrow County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Cropland classified as highly erodible is defined as land in capability Classes II-V eroding at higher than triple the soil loss tolerance, or land in capability classes VI-VIII. For retiring such land from crop production, Buschke said farmers will receive annual rental payments, based on a bid, of up to \$50,000 per year in cash or commodities; and one-half the expenses of establishing the permanent vegetative cover on the land.

"Rental payments will be made annually as soon as possible after October 1 of each calendar year," said Buschke. "Cost-sharing payments will be made as soon as possible after individual participants report the approved conservation treatment is completed."

She said farmers who decide to return land to production during the 10-year contract period must repay the government, with interest, all of its costs for annual rental and for establishing cover. In the event of national need, however, the Secretary of Agriculture may declare that any farmer who wants to return the land to production may do so without penalty.

"USDA will retire only the most highly erodible land under the Conservation Reserve Program," Buschke said. Approximately 1,009,800 acres of Oregon cropland are eligible for the program.

Farmers who are interested in the program should contact the Morrow County ASCS Office.

Sign up for the program is March 3-14.

## Receive state farmer degrees

Alex Lindsay and Noella Rill of the Heppner FFA Chapter will receive their state farmer degrees at the state FFA Convention in Corvallis. They will be among 120 of the top FFA members in the state to receive this award.

In order to earn this degree the candidates must complete an exam and application and they are interviewed twice. Only the top three percent of the state membership may be awarded the state farmer degree in any year.

Candidates are judged in the areas of agricultural knowledge, work experience in agriculture, and leadership.

Other items discussed by the board were the pending lawsuits from WPPSS and future power requirements.

## Chamber compiles new county brochures

By Justine Weatherford  
This year is expected to be an extra big year for tourism in Oregon as many travel through the state on the way to EXPO '86 in Vancouver, B.C. The Oregon Travel Director, Ed Remington, is urging all area of the state to have plenty of up-to-date brochures ready for distribution.

Remington's office has supplied Chambers of Commerce and Convention Bureaus with "Brochure Guidelines" and with the request that a minimum of 100 be sent to Oregon Tourism Division's state office plus 1,400 which that office will distribute to state welcome centers.

The Tourism Division states that Oregon's theme is now "Oregon You're More Than Welcome", and asks that this logo be included on all new brochures. Their mailing even includes a sheet of various sizes and arrangements of this logo to be cut out for use on publications.

The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce has a committee working diligently to have new county brochures printed during March. These will conform in size and style to the state guidelines, and will be much like the six-fold brochures which were printed in 1981 and are now hard to find.

It is planned to have 15,000 printed at the cost of \$3,736 (about 25 cents each). The 1981 printing of 12,000 cost \$4,000 (just under 35 cents each). This year's new edition will cost less because most of the thirteen full-color pictures will not be changed and because the high quality paper and printing format will be so like the earlier edition.

Before 1981 the county government had various brochures published; the last of those was produced in 1976 while Paul Jones was county judge. Since then the Heppner Chamber of Commerce has taken over this task and is much in need of financial help with this important project. Most county

cities and some organizations and industries are kindly contributing funds. It is hoped that the county will provide at least one-third of the cost, as these brochures are labeled "Morrow County" and the address given on them is "Morrow County and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce".

During the last few years many letters have come addressed to the Chamber of Commerce requesting information about this county. The cities, the county offices and now the North Morrow Chamber of Commerce also receive requests for information, and they will find supplies of the new brochures very convenient to mail.

Contributions to help with the expense of producing the 1986 brochures may be mailed to Box 788, Heppner, OR, 97836.

## Fire causes minor damage

An early Monday morning fire left mainly smoke damage at Les Schwab Tire Service in Heppner. An apparent malfunction of the oil furnace caused the building to fill with smoke causing only minor damage, said Assistant Fire Chief Rusty Estes.

Twenty firemen and three trucks responded to the 5 a.m. alarm.

## County budget From page 1

### Miscellaneous funds

Other taxing funds in the county budget include the County School Fund, the Other Road Districts Fund, the North Morrow Medical Clinic Fund, and the North Morrow Ambulance Fund.

The county school fund is mandated by Oregon state law. Each county has to turn over a certain percentage of property taxes it levies to the county school district.

Other Road Districts Fund is the mandated portion of the tax levy which is turned over to city road districts.

The North Morrow Medical Clinic Fund is almost \$25,000 higher than last year. The increase is chiefly due to the increased operating time of the clinic, and the requested tax monies remain the same while the projected income has almost doubled, said Don Eppenbach, chairman of the medical clinic board of directors. The clinic has seen a couple of slow months, but the patient load has never been less than 13 patients per day. What we are seeing is a delay in payment. We have almost \$26,000 in outstanding billings to Welfare and Worker's Compensation. The total billing so

far this year is almost \$65,000; the funds will be collected, he concluded, but a portion will fall into the next fiscal year.

The North Morrow Ambulance Fund has budgeted a capital outlay for four pagers at a cost of \$400 apiece; there is a current shortage of pagers. Five lightweight jackets and dual chains are included in the request for capital expenditures as well as a \$300 telephone answering machine which the ambulance board hopes will improve public relations and collections. The ambulance fund also had budgeted \$5,000 (double last year's amount) to be transferred to the Ambulance Reserve Fund which is a holding fund for money to purchase a new ambulance sometime in the future.

### Non-taxing airport fund

The non-taxing airport fund has a revenue of \$16,400 transferred in from the general fund which is the county's matching amount for a \$164,000 federal grant which is paying for the airport renovation project. The beginning fund balance and the income from airport and hangar rents balance the budget with a \$6,000 allowance for hangar

### Fair & Rodeo fund

The Fair and Rodeo Fund is divided into five sections. Revenues included in the administrative section are expected to be up 3.27 percent from this year. Racing commission funds remained the same, but the money received from the county fair commission rating was up from \$13,000 to \$14,000.

Personal services show the removal of a caretaker's salary from the budget, but it listed as 'other services' which is transferred to the general fund. Part of caretaker Ed Struthers salary is also transferred from the motor pool fund into the general fund. A part-time secretary is also removed from the budget, and the secretary is increased to include both parttime positions.

Capital outlay for buildings and structures is listed at \$3,000, and for bridge repair, \$6,000 is transferred to the road fund (\$30,000 of county matching funds are also budgeted for repair of the motor pool bridge.) Sewer renovation is near completion, but still included in the budget at \$3,500.

The second section, the fair, shows revenues the same as last year from gate receipts with the addition of horse show and some miscellaneous revenues, for an increase of 45 percent. Expenses are basically the same as last year with a decrease in the cost of ribbons and buttons from \$1,500 to \$1,000. Premium books will be printed differently this year with the fair committee expected to sell advertising to pay printing costs; the item is listed as a \$10,000 expense.

Section three, the rodeo, lists revenues from gate receipts, concessions, jackpot fees, dances, and donations. Rodeo revenues are expected to be down 47 percent from 23,400 last year to an expected 12,200. Rodeo expenses are also down. Last year \$400 was budgeted for programs, no money is budgeted this year. Dance expenses were budgeted at \$3,000 last year, but this year are expected to be only \$1,600.

The total budget for the queen and court is \$2,000, \$1,500 for uniforms and tierra, \$200 for the queen's luncheon, and \$200 for chaperone.

Section five gives the horse show a separate budget detail with revenues from open class entry fees and general donations. Trophies and awards are the main expenses.



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