

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL 104 NO 17

Heppner, Oregon 25 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1986, Heppner, Oregon



Weather

by the City of Heppner

April 22 - 28

	High	Low	Precip
Tuesday	50	20	
Wednesday	52	27	
Thursday	60	33	.08
Friday	53	20	.07
Saturday	58	45	.013
Sunday	57	33	.07
Monday	55	31	

## Columbia Basin board approves construction of transmission line

The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op board of directors approved a long range plan for the reconstruction of the transmission line from Bonneville Power Administration point of delivery into Heppner at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million at an April 24 board meeting.

At the present time, said co-op manager Fred Toombs, with work loads permitting, the construction contract is expected to be let for bids in October with work to begin in late March, 1987 and to be completed by November 1, 1987. REA loan funds will be used to pay for a portion of the work with the balance of the money coming from co-op operating revenues. "The reason for the tremendous expenditure on the transmission facility is because the system has deteriorated to a point where service is no longer reliable to a majority of customers in this area," he said. "It will take the cooperation of every customer to get through this massive project with its series of outages."

Columbia Basin is continuing the process of inserting poles at mid-span in the ice areas to help prevent breaks during the next cold spell.

## Win mom a diamond

Area businesses are celebrating Mother's Day this year with a free drawing for a 1/4 carat diamond.

Anyone eighteen years or older may enter to win at participating businesses. No purchase is necessary.

Retail value of the diamond is \$299.95, and is on display in window of Peterson's Jewelers.

Enter between now and Saturday, May 10. The drawing will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Enter at any of the following businesses: Sears, Country Rose, M & R Floor Covering, McDonalds Chevrolet, Shoe Box, Central Market, Petersons, Court Street Market, Dr. Rolen, Les Schwab, Bud's Pub, Case Furniture, R & W Drive In, Murrays Drug, Gardner Mens Wear, Coast to Coast, Heppner Elks, Morrow County Grain Growers, Pettyjohns Farm & Builders Supply.

## Export wheat-quality studied

A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study concludes that U.S. 1985 wheat exports met or exceeded the importer's grade requirement. The study, conducted by USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, analyzed 1985 official records from more than 878 bushels of inspected wheat exports. By class, the sample was broken down by 397 million bushels of Hard Red Winter, 154 million bushels of Hard Red Spring, 131 million bushels of Soft

the board also discussed:

-current insurance problems and approved a property damage and public liability insurance package as submitted by the staff. Toombs noted that huge increases in cost for this type coverage had occurred in recent years, particularly notable in 1986.

## Ione school sewer system to be completed

The Morrow County School Board decided to complete the Ione sewer system at their Monday, April 21 meeting.

Since arbitration over the system has been completed, said Superintendent Doyle McCaslin, the board approved completing the system as originally planned. Since the arbitrator ruled that the district did not have to pay for work improperly done or not done at all, the board is in the process of developing contracts and bid specifications. At the May 19 meeting, they expect to open bids from contractors and be ready to approve a contract for completion of the work at the Ione school. The area in front of the school currently has an "under construction" look, said the superintendent, and septic tanks are still uncovered with barricades in place to protect their tons. The Board anticipates it will cost \$8,000 to complete the D.E.Q. requirements.

## Finds balloon

A card from a balloon released by a Troutdale elementary student was found in a field where Dean Hunt was seeding a week ago Monday. The balloon was not with the bright yellow card when Hunt found it, but was released by fourth grader Jodi Fairbanks as part of a Weekly Reader Writing Pals contest. The message on the card said that she promised to write back if the finder of her balloon would return the card with a letter to her school.

Lois (Mrs. Dean) Hunt said that she had written a letter to the student. This is the second balloon message her husband had found while working in the field. About a year ago, he found a balloon released at Madras.

Red Winter, 150 million bushels of White Wheat, and 46 million bushels of Durum. Nearly 94 percent of the exports was certified U.S. No. 2 and six percent certificated either U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 3. To determine quality, the study analyzed test weight, heat-damaged kernels, foreign material, shrunken and broken kernels, contrasting class, wheat of other classes, dockage, and moisture.

## Preschool screening clinic set

A free preschool screening clinic will be offered Thursday, May 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School for children from Heppner, Lexington and Ione who plan to attend kindergarten next fall. Parents of next year's kindergartners need to call the elementary school, 676-9128, to make an appointment for their child. Although the screening process has been streamlined and a shorter time is needed, appointments are

necessary. Parents need to bring their child's birth certificate and immunization records.

To begin kindergarten next fall, children must be age five before September 1, 1986. Younger children will be tested in specific areas upon request.

Readiness testing will be provided in the areas of vision, speech and language development, hearing, motor skills, and general maturation and development.

## School finance meeting re-set

The town hall meeting on school finance scheduled for April 24 at Riverside High School in Boardman was postponed at the last minute and rescheduled for May 1, 7 p.m. at the Riverside High School auditorium in Boardman. Lack of attendance due to numerous conflicts was cited as the reason for the postponement.

Art Kegler, Boardman/North Morrow County Chamber of Commerce president and meeting moderator said, "we picked a date

that turned out to have many conflicts, but the issue of school finance and property taxes is too important to just forget it. We need to give the people another opportunity to speak out."

Flyers announcing the rescheduled meeting will be sent home with Morrow County school children early in the week to remind parents to attend.

For more information call Pat McClintock, 481-3014.

## City's personnel policy updated

By Avon Melby

Personnel policy for the City of Heppner was worked out at a four-hour special session of the council last week. "There has been a 50-year accumulation of personnel policies which have never been compiled into one document," said William Kuhn, city attorney. "Several years ago when the city

created the post of city administrator, the policies should have been compiled," Kuhn said. But this was never done.

The new policy sets up a clear chain of command. The mayor and council will direct the city administrator on matters of personnel policy. City Administrator Marshall Lovgren will implement them. He

will work with department heads, who will give instruction to other city employees.

"Lovgren will be at the end of the line as far as responsibility goes," Kuhn said. He will be in charge of both the city crew and police departments.

His decisions may be appealed to the mayor or council.

How police will be reimbursed for overtime was a matter of some discussion at the last regular council meeting. In the special session it was written into the new policy that police will receive compensatory time off, the same as other city employees. The city has not had overtime pay covered in the budget for at least two years," said Kuhn.

Need for the personnel policy update has existed for years according to Kuhn. Policies in effect in other towns were studied by council members, in arriving at what would work best for Heppner. The new document will be discussed, and a vote is expected, at the regular meeting of the council Monday at 8 p.m. at city hall. Also at that meeting an updated policy on peddlers and door to door salesmen will be adopted by the council.

## Accepted a bid for \$639 for an advertised bus; rejected the bid on the Pontiac sedan.

-took no action concerning out-of-state transportation.

-heard that the highway engineer out of Pendleton has projected a cost of \$19,578 to replace the retaining wall and sidewalk at Heppner Elementary. Temporary and alternative solutions for this problem were discussed, but no action was taken.

-heard that moving the tax base election to November consumes one of the two elections allowed above the tax rate limitation. This means that there is need for a strong effort to pass the tax base election.

-approved hiring Dan Marshall as head custodian-maintenance person at the district office.

-approved extra duty contracts for Brent Eggers, Heppner High School assistant track coach, and John Edmundson, Heppner High Assistant golf coach.

-accepted resignations from the following certificated employees effective at the end of the school year: Kipp Norris, Ione Junior High; Vanessa Thompson, Riverside High; Barbara Stefani, Heppner High; Brent Eggers, Heppner High; Kathryn Dean, retiring from Riverside High, and from Thad Killingbeck as head baseball coach at Columbia Junior High.

The board also approved the order for installing controls on the Riverside High School boiler after hearing the superintendent's report that the boiler needed a control system to increase efficiency. The cost is expected to be \$9,382.

In other business, the board: -took no action on a complaint by Russell Oil of Boardman that Devin Oil is overcharging the district for gasoline and diesel.

-adopted the school calendar for next year with school beginning September 2, 1986 and ending June 5, 1987.

-approved new policies on communicable diseases and drugs and alcohol for the district.

## State to do county building inspections

The Morrow County Court turned the Building Inspection services over to the State Department of Commerce at the Wednesday, April 23 session of County Court. This was done after weeks of serious deliberations and not until all major projects that were nearing completion has been finalized by a contract inspector, said Judge Don McElligott. The major consideration to return the function to the state was based on the fact that salaries for fully certified inspectors necessary to maintain the service fall within a salary range of \$24,000 to \$30,000 a year. Morrow County's salary ranges for department heads and division level employees does not reach that amount McElligott continued. Budget levels resulting from

severe cutbacks and low anticipated revenues from inspection fees made it impossible to retain this service.

In further action, the Court requested the Planning Director reorganize his department and continue operation of permit centers in Lexington and Irrigon, and develop with the Oregon State Department of Commerce a regional coordination program. Planning Director Deane Seeger will meet with state officials later in the month to negotiate a greater share of permit fees for the county so that costs and overhead involved in maintaining permit centers may be recaptured. One stop permit locations would remove the burden of citizens having to drive to, or call, the Department of Commerce field office in Pendleton.

Currently, the planning department under the direction of the assistant planner, Lori Bergstrom, issues state plumbing and electrical permits. The county retains 10 percent of these fees.

State laws require obtaining not only building permits, but zoning and DEQ permits as well. These regulatory functions are both frustrating and time consuming, both to the general public and to enforcement agencies at all levels says the

judge. It is the sincere hope of the County Court and the Planning Department, whose function it is to administer these laws, that permit centers will ease the burden as much as possible. Through mutual cooperation, understanding and patience by all of us, we hope to provide a service and to keep a sufficient percentage of fees at the county level to cover all costs so we are not required to spend property taxes to find the service, he concluded.

## Potato stocks 25% more than last year

Stocks of field run potatoes held in Oregon on April 1, totaled 8.0 million hundredweight, (400,000 tons), according to the Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This estimate is 25% higher than last

year. April 1 stocks are 30% of the State's 1985 potato production compared with 27% of production last year. Cullage and dumping of potatoes continues to be above average because of frost problems



## Tuesday morning fire destroys structure

The cause of a structure fire on Baltimore St. in Heppner Tuesday morning is still under investigation said a spokesperson for the Heppner

Fire Dept. A small outbuilding used as a bedroom was completely destroyed following the blaze. Twelve firemen with three trucks

spent two hours at the site controlling and mopping up the fire.

Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine was treated at Pioneer Memorial Hospital

and released after an aerosol can of insect repellent exploded in his face. No other injuries were reported.