BESSIE WETZELL
U OF ORE
NEWSPAPER LIB
EUGENE OR 97403

The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

G-T azette imes

VOL 104 NO. 47 Wednesday, November 19, 1986 Heppner, Oregon 25¢ 10 Pages

$20,000 donation assures renovation of Heppner Hotel

By Avon Melby

Renovation of Heppner Hotel into a retirement home for Senior Citizens was assured last week by a donation from a local lodge.

Willows Lodge No. 66, I.O.O.F. gave slightly more than $20,000 to bring the amount donated high enough to enable the city to borrow $390,000 to complete the project, City Attorney Bill Kuhn said Monday.

The city received a grant of $500,000 from the state for the project. The city was to borrow matching funds, but decided it could not go that deeply in debt. For a while it appeared the project might have to be dropped. New review of costs, an additional $10,000 donation from local Senior Citizens, and lowering the asking price by owners Rita and Arnie Hedman, left close to $20,000 more needed to bring the total low enough for a $390,000 loan to finish the financing. The lodge donation met that.

Local banks will bid on the proposed loan to the city. The city expects to be able to pay it off within 15 years.

The state wants assurance that interest there is high enough in living in the rejuvenated historic hotel on Main street that it will be filled with paying renters. Kuhn said this was probably due to the fact that similar projects in the Willamette Valley are not all filled and some are going broke.

When the possibility of making 19 units to rent was first announced last summer 100 people signed up for the units. To prove to the state that it will be a going concern and that the need is here, the city is asking those interested to make a $100 deposit now. These will be taken in order, at city hall. The money will be placed in a separate account to credit against future rent. When 19 future tenants have made the deposit, bids will be called for the project. If anyone making the deposit does not want to move in at the time the units are ready, they may receive a refund, or be placed on a waiting list for a unit later if they prefer.

Subsidized housing financial support is available on the units for those Seniors who qualify. Rentals will be adjusted to income of tenants.

North wants more health care dollars

Inequitable distribution of tax dollars has left inadequate health care for north Morrow County health-care people said at a meeting hosted by the North Morrow Medical Clinic Board in Lexington last Thursday night. Mayors of the county's five cities and representatives from Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Tri-County Home Health Agency, North Morrow Ambulance/Emergency Medical Technicians, and Irrigon Public Safety district were invited to attend.

Those speaking at the meeting echoed the theme that North end medical care has suffered inequities of tax dollars and does not provide adequate services there. Representatives suggested ways to remove the county's medical care budget from the general county budget. The health care agencies, however, disagreed about how that should be accomplished.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator John Hemple suggested a Morrow County Health Systems Agency receiving funding from a county-wide tax. A system manager should be hired, he said and a board comprised of an odd number of members appointed from areas involved. "Agencies must cooperate to cease overlapping of work," he emphasized. Additional tax money could be levied modeled on a district concept.

Hemple listed five benefits which would accrue from this system: 1) no area will suffer the fear of losing an important structure in their health care system, 2) politics should not play an important role, 3) a combined approach would make use of existing resources a reality, 4) a system of this size could provide services which are not only dreams, and 5) a systsem could use its people to the fullest extent and share services to offer more services while utilizing money more intelligently.

Steve Rowe, representing the North Morrow Medical Clinic Board, emphasized that the north county has a low level of confidence a solution could be found to meet its needs under the present system. We lack equipment, especially trauma equipment, have only one medical office and one physician. With a freeway, a river, and a park, the ambulance needs up-to-date equipment. With one district headed by the County Court, the trend has been a continual call to reduce funding. "Our concern is that without local control over funding that disparity will continue," he said.

"Every time we request equipment, the county turns us down," Dean Mason, representative of the Boardman Ambulance and EMTs said. EMTs are beginning to get sued for malpractice, he said, we need some type of insurance especially if we are sued for lack of equipment. A separate medical district would be responsive to our needs for specialized equipment to handle the possible accidental spill of hazardous wastes that are regularly transported alon I-84, the need for water rescue gear and training, funding of a training budget for EMT entry and advanced level volunteers, replacement of a nine-year-old ambulance, and a building to house the ambulance.

Hempel said he thought some were incorrectly informed. The south county ambulance is largely supported by donations from the hospital staff, the community, fund drives by the EMTs, and pool tournaments, he said.

Boardman Mayor Gale Grill expressed the city council's support for forming two districts. "Boardman feels a need for something different," he said. "One district is not viewed favorably by the city."

It may be premature to have an ambulance in Irrigon, Public Safety Director Mike Cahill said. Irrigon is geographically tied to Umatilla County and is happy with the ambulance service it provides. There may come a time, though, he said, when Umatilla county decides it can no longer serve the Irrigon area. The Irrigon population has been paying taxes into the county coffers and not gaining any benefits from the hospital or ambulance, he pointed out.

Irrigon city manager Don Eppenbach said that the city council favors a north end medical district. "One district county-wide would not work," he said.

Boardman EMT Cheryl Ammons emphasized the distances which ambulances must go sometimes to reach patients. "If there were a facility in Boardman for trauma, we would have a chance. We want to be responsible for our own health care. We don't want to depend on the Heppner vote. We cannot meet our needs with the present system. We don't want to pay for your (Heppner's) health care when ours wants."

"Our organization encourages all of you to cooperate and promote a coordination of programs," Sandra Rill of the Tri-County Home Health Agency said. "Medical providers from outside our county will be happy to provide care. ...Is that what we want?" A central district would decrease administrative costs, she said, and those are the ones which are hard to justify when submitting a budget. Overlaps and duplications could be eliminated. We need a united front, not a division," she said. "We discourage threatening any providers existence and threatening...appropriate medical care."

One district with taxes levied by zone and elected representatives will prevent people saying they supported forming two districts, "but didn't know it might close the hospital, or that they needed equipment too," Hempel pointed out.

"If Hermiston is not adequate for north-county needs, "our distances are larger," Marcia Anderson, president of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board said. "We don't deny that the north end is receiving inadequate funds for care. We do not feel that a split of the county will help. If we come together with one board and try to provide fair care, it can work. I disagree that we already have one district headed by the County Court. We have different entities, and separate boards all trying to provide health care, she said.

Larry Mills of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation agreed that it is "obvious health care needs to be handled differently than it is now. If we get it out from the road fund, and the county budget, I think it would be a more workable situation. It's obvious we need to do something."

Grill said that before he became mayor of Boardman he served on the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board. "It was always a struggle to put together the hospital needs, he said. "I don't know how any more funds could be drawn from that budget and sent north. Although the hospital is managed better now, the struggle is still there."

We can't ask our end to pay more money without showing they are getting something for it, Dr. Steve Zielinski of the North Morrow Medical Clinic said. Both north-county and south-county residents recognize they will be paying more money for additional care. "We want to be responsible for our own future. It's time to put it on the ballot and let the voters decide," he said.

Continued Page 2

Christmas opening planned

The Heppner merchants club held its monthly meeting Friday, Nov. 14 and discussed the up-coming Christmas opening promotion.

Plans are being made to put up a Christmas tree downtown, and to have a Santa Claus in Heppner Saturday, Nov. 29 and Saturday, Dec. 13.

Santa will be at the Les Schwab Tire Center to take Christmas requests from youngsters, and TJ's Camera will be on hand to take photographs.

As usual Santa will arrive by fire truck, and will give out candy canes to the kids.

Chief Doug Rathbun (left), Sheriff Roy Drago, Mayor Cara Costa, Judge Don McElligott, Ass't Chief Merle Cowett, and Sheriff's Deputy Steve Conover.

Shooting range dedicated

Local law enforcement officers now have a shooting range where they may practice and meet certification requirements with handguns.

At a dedication ceremony last Friday Sheriff's Deputy Steve Conover and Assistant Chief Merle Cowett of the Heppner Police Dept. received comendations for their work at the range. Both departments will use the range. Officers from Condon and Wheeler and Gilliam Counties also are expected to use the range. Law enforcement officers must be handgun qualified three times each year.

Heppner Mayor Cara Costa and Morrow County Judge Don McElligott emphasized the co-operation of the two agencies in the project. The range is located on land owned by the city. The county donated gravel, use of a spader, and some labor. The city also donated some labor for preparing the range and a storage shed. The Sheriff's office donated a gate (which is kept locked and posted with no trespassing signs), and Columbia Basin Electric Co-op donated posts.

The range will not be open to the public.

Come one, come all to Friday's Town - Country get-together

Designed to promote good relations between all town and country people, the highlight event will be a Town and Country Banquet at the Elk's Club in Heppner, 6:30 p.m. Friday, November 21, with guest speaker Lee Pitts, Editor/Owner of Livestock Market Digest. The banquet will be preceded by a social hour, courtesy of Farm Credit Services, and followed by dancing, courtesy of the Elk's Club. Tickets are available now for the banquet. The cost is $10 and they can be purchased in Heppner at the Extension Office, Boyce Insurance, Kahl-Van Marter Insurance, and Peterson's Jewelers. They are also available at Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington and Swanson Insurance in Ione.

This special event has been in the planning stages for several months, with a steering committee made up of representatives from agri-businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Wheat Growers Assoc., Livestock Growers Assoc., merchants, Extension Staff, and nearby towns.

All day Friday, meetings of various commodity groups will be going on. Everyone is welcome to attend. A variety of educational booths and programs that will be on site for exploring between meetings and programs.

A noon luncheon will feature a panel discussion "Farm Programs for Town Folks." This is an attempt to help those outside of farming understand the farmer's participation in the Crop Reduction Program and other ag programs. Small town businessmen as well as farmers and agriculture agency people will present opinions and information.

The something special for the "9 to 5" crowd who may not be off work to attend day sessions will be offered Thursday evening, November 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Elk's Club. Everyone is welcome to come in and enjoy a free wine tasting event, courtesy of Oregon Wine Growers and an education and introduction to Morrow County's involvement in vineyards and wines. Bob Mueller from Boardman Farms and Ed Glenn's Boardman Winery, Casa De Vin, will be on hand to pour the wine.

Immediately following, Marcelle Straatman, OSU Extension Human Development Specialist will present the topic "Rural Women, Partners in Progress." Dawn Hawkins, Staff Chairman of Umatilla County Extension will be on hand to present "The Balancing Act" (how to manage working outside the home, a home life, and community involvement). Each of the two sessions which start at 6:30 will last approximately one hour. Both women and men are invited to the November 20 evening events.

The Town and Country idea has attracted a wide interest. Mayor Cara Costa of Heppner will declare the week "Town and Country Week."

Everyone's joining in, and a big time is anticipated in Heppner. You don't need a special invitation to participate. Just come on in, and join the Town and Country party.

Town & Country Day
Agenda

8:00 - Coffee and Donuts

8:30 - Morrow Co. Wheat Growers League Annual Meeting Steve Rhea, President, (8:30 - 11:00)

9:00 - "Rural Families-Communicating" by Marcelle Straatman, Human Development Specialist at OSU, (9:00 - 10:30)

10:30 - "Livestock Management," by William Zollinger Extension Beef Specialist, (10:30 - 12:00).

11:00 - Small Woodlands Assoc. Annual Meeting, Lee Palmer, President, (11:00 - 12:00).

12:00 - Lunch and Panel Discussion - "Farm Programs-Their Wh[illegible]d Wherefores," (12:00 - 1:30). Town folks who don't understand what a farm program is are especially encouraged to attend. Larry Mills will chair the panel discussion.

1:30 - Morrow Co. Livestock Growers Annual Meeting Dwight Bailey, President, (1:30 - 3:30).

2:00 - "Savory Grazing" by Doc and Connie Hatfield, High Desert Ranch, Brothers, OR.

1:30 - Morrow Co. CowBelles Annual Meeting Claudia Hughes, President, (1:30 - 3:30).

3:30 - "Rural Families-Communicating" by Marcelle Straatman Human Development Specialist at OSU, (3:30 - 5:00 repeat of morning session).

4:00 - Morrow Co. Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting, Brock Linnell, Chairman, (4:00 - 5:00).

5:00 - Cocktails and Fellowship (5:00 - 6:00).

6:30 - Prime Rib Dinner ($10) Larry Mills, Master of Ceremonies, Lee Pitts, Guest Speaker.

8:00 - Dancing.

Booths

Booths will be open all day downstairs. Booth themes include:

-Farm financial management (Extension and Blue Mt. Community College)

-small woodlands management (Private Woodlands Assoc.)

-retraining opportunities (East Central Oregon Assoc. of Counties).

-soil and water conservation (SWCD)

-Small business development (BMCC, Tom Hampson)

-farm programs (ASCS)

-a nurse from Tri-County Health will take blood pressures and answer questions about stress.

-a video on the new tax bill will be available for viewing. CPA Hank Dennis will answer questions concerning farmers and the tax bill during the afternoon.

Woodlands Assoc. to meet Friday

The Morrow County Private Woodlands Association will hold a monthly meeting on Friday, November 21, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Elks Lodge in Heppner.

As part of the Town-Country Day business meeting, Phil Kuhl, President of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, will report on a recent trip to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend a National Tree Farm committee meeting. Included in the meeting will be the nominations for and the election of two members to the Board of Directors.

For the Town-Country Day, the Morrow County Private Woodlands Association will have a booth emphasizing the role fo the private woodland owner in the local economy. Included will be the selection and use of wood for home heating, industrial machinery used for wood harvesting, and hopefully a representative from a chain saw company will be available to provide instruction on the safety and operation of chain saws. Management information and cost sharing opportunities for certain forest management practices will also be available.

Membership in the MCPWA is open to those owning land in adjacent counties who may want to explore this organization as an opportunity to improve management skills and provide input in to policy making process.

Looking for a new oil company

Pettyjohn Oil Co. of Ione is looking for another oil company following Mobil Corporation's recent announcement that it will no longer supply gasoline to Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington.

Wayne Hams of Pettyjohn Oil a major petroleum distributor in the area says Mobil has announced plans to no longer supply gasoline after May of 1987. "Our customers have nothing to worry about," said Hams., because we will still be supplying them." He said Pettyjohn's is presently talking to other major companies about supplying gasoline. Pettyjohn supplies a total of 12 stations in the area with Mobil gasoline.

Hams said Mobil is only pulling out its light oils (gasoline) and that heavy oils and grease will still be available.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

November 11-17

	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	55	31	.0
Wed.	38	30	.0
Thurs.	42	31	.30
Fri.	38	29	.02
Sat.	49	35	.11
Sun.	47	37	.31
Mon.	55	33	.0

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Nov. 18

Soft White	
Nov	$2.83
Dec.	$2.85/$2.87
Jan	$2.89/$2.91
Feb	$2.93
Hard Red Winter	
Nov.	$2.96
Barley	
Nov.	$83.50
PIK	
Generic certificates	111% cash