

Town — Country Day

The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

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Board will axe \$366,736 from school budget if January initiative fails

Programs totaling \$366,736 will be dropped from the school budget in January if a thrice-defeated serial levy is not approved by a special election before the semester break, the Morrow County School Board said Monday night.

The following programs not required by state law will get the axe: Supplies and books will be cut \$51,079, leaving a balance of \$10,689 in this year's budget for buying library and text books. Language arts textbooks which the district planned to buy at the end of this school year will not be purchased until next fall and will have to be paid for out of next year's budget Assistant Superintendent Chuck Starr explained.

Co-curricular activities will be cut \$100,908, the full amount expected to be left for that item at the semester break. The cuts of co-curricular activities include:

\$51,948 from athletics including coaches' salaries for the last one-third of basketball season (\$11,540), the last half of wrestling season (\$947), all of baseball (\$6,550), all of track (\$14,738), all of golf (\$3,581), and all of tennis (\$2,762). Supplies and officials and transportation will be cut by \$6,830 and \$5,000 respectively.

\$7,500 for field trips. No money will be left in the budget to pay for gasoline, bus drivers, or chaperones.

\$19,089 for teacher work days required beyond the normal 190 contract days for teachers of agriculture, alternative school, art, home economics, music, shop, and for librarians and counselors.

\$22,371 for extra duty contracts. Thirty-four contracts will be cut in half. The amount also includes \$5,282 for supplies used for talented and gifted programs.

Aides will be laid off at the semester break saving the district \$48,222. Those to go will be one fulltime, one halftime, and one two-hour per day office aides (\$7,562); two half-time media aides (\$4,280), and eight fulltime and one halftime instructional aides (\$36,380).

Elementary art will be cut \$11,247. One fulltime employee will be dropped from the payroll.

Elementary music will be cut \$46,199, representing the loss of 3 4/7 fulltime employees.

Certificated media specialists will be dropped saving the district \$65,449. The district now has the equivalent of six fulltime certificated media specialists. "If the certificated personnel are eliminated, the district will need to staff libraries somehow," Starr said. "Perhaps with a non-certificated aide supervised by the principal."

Counselors will be eliminated for the second semester, for a cost saving of \$43,632. The district now has four fulltime counselors, one at the elementary level, one for junior high students, and two for high school.

"We are not on this board to close schools," the board's newest elected member Mary Lou Carlson, Boardman, explained to an audience of nearly 40 people. "But, it has come to a point where we would rather cut the budget in order to stay open than to close down. It's not that we're vacillating or threatening the voters," she said. "We've been trying desperately to find options and have reached a place where we must take some action. We feel there is no other option now than to put the levy up, say what will be cut if it fails and then, if the levy is not approved, do precisely what we said we would do."

State election law prevents the board's putting the serial levy up for election before the next regular elec-

tion date in March. To get an election in January voters must present a petition with 304 signatures to the County Clerk who verifies them as registered voters. With that petition in hand, the board can notify the Clerk and schedule an election. "We don't have a choice," Board Vice-Chairman Jerry McElligott said. "An election request must come from the electorate. Until a petition requesting another vote on the serial levy comes to us, we can't say 'put it on the ballot,'" he said.

District Superintendent Doyle McCaslin cautioned the board against waiting until March to get a decision on the serial levy because "we are getting closer and closer to the wall," he said. "Other districts in the state have been in this position and we can't keep backing off. We can't just keep putting the levy up and letting it be defeated," he said.

A spectator advised the board that cutting the budget now would be letting down voters who have supported the schools so far.

Riverside High School (Boardman) Principal Dan Daltoso reminded the board, "If we eliminate counselors in the secondary schools, we run the risk of not being accredited. Maybe accreditation's not that important, but it is in educational circles. Speaking for the North end schools, we do value our counselors because they are the ones who are able to turn some students around and keep them in school. I would not like working in a school without a counselor."

Jim Bier, principal of Heppner High School, pointed out that media specialists are required for accreditation in some schools, at least part-time in a school the size of Heppner High School, and fulltime in larger schools.

Come home for Christmas

Come Home for Christmas is the theme of this year's Christmas opening in Heppner, starting Friday, Nov. 28.

Santa and his helper will be on hand Saturday, 1 p.m., at Les Schwab Tire Center to take requests from the children, and TJ's Camera will be there to take photographs.

Real money coupons will be given out by local businesses again this year, so shoppers can save on their Christmas shopping.

For each five dollars of purchase, shoppers will receive a 50 cent real money coupon good at any participating business except where the coupon was received. Pick up your real money coupons at the following businesses: Bucknum's Tavern, Case Furniture, Charlie's Pizza & Video World, Coast to Coast, Country Rose, Heppner Bowl, Morrow County Grain Growers, Murray's Drug Pettyjohn's Builder's Supply, Peterson's Jewelers, Shoe Box, R & W Drive-In, and Wagon Wheel Restaurant.

G-T office will be closed Friday

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28 for Thanksgiving.

Deadlines for next week's newspaper will be the same as usual: 5 p.m. Monday for news items, noon Tuesday for classified ads, and 5 p.m. Tuesday for display advertising. The newspaper will be mailed Wednesday as usual.

McCaslin also pointed out that many scholarships the district's seniors receive are "not accidental, but are received because counselors are working hard" at finding and recommending that students apply for them.

John Hughes, language arts teacher at Riverside High School, cautioned the board also that cutting programs such as art and music in the middle of the year may create a difficult educational situation. Kids who have been in these programs may become frustrated and cause behavior problems, he said. Teachers also are leary of considering working in a district which has laid off teachers the year before. "I would hate to see us come to that point in Morrow County," he said.

"I agree with everybody," Board Member Bob Mahoney said, "but the board must take a stand."



Marcelle Straatman, OSU Human Development Specialist places "stress dot" on wrist of a seminar participant Friday.

Rural families communicating

Farming has always been one of the most stressful occupations, Marcelle Straatman, OSU Development Specialist, said at a seminar last Friday.

Farm wives, in spite of the modern washing machine, are doing more work on the farm than they have ever done before, she said. We must run our lives by how we feel, and if we can identify something which causes us to feel stress, then we can either fix it or forget it.

"Stress makes some people tick and other people sick," she said. People generally fall into two categories, Racehorse People who like stress and create it for themselves; and Turtle People who like routines and become highly stressed in a racehorse situation. It's a matter of temperament, not ability, she emphasized. Both kinds of people are important.

Stress is not something new, she continued. "It was very stressful coming across the prairie in a covered wagon. If you got sick, you died, and cooking was no picnic without a microwave." The current epidemic presents different stressors, she proposed: change, impermanence, disruption, newness and obsolescence, a sense of "hurry up," and a change from active to sedentary occupations.

Motto selected

"Heppner - Oregon's gateway to the Blue Mts." was the winning motto announced Friday night at the Town-Country banquet in Heppner. Local organizations organized the contest in October and offered a \$50 gift certificate for the person who submitted the winning motto.

The motto, submitted by Maurigrace Healey who works for the Forest Service's Heppner district, is similar to others that were submitted, Ag Agent and Tourism Committee Chairman Fred Lundin said, except that it places Heppner in Oregon so people can find it on the map and it identifies the mountains. It was a difficult decision, he said; the tourism committee selected the 10 best entries and an intercity group chose the winner. Many other suggestions will also be helpful promoting the town, he said.

Healey was not available for a photo, and has not yet been notified of her entry's selection as the winner, Lundin said, because she is enroute to her home in Massachusetts. She will return to Heppner in the spring, he said.



New Tax Laws

CPA Hank Dennis explains the effects of the new tax bill. "Many deductions have been removed, but the standard exemption and personal exemptions have been increased, so for most wage earners, taxes will decrease slightly," he said.



Don Bennett (left), Judy Buschke, Vice President of Oregon Wheat Growers Ken Hart of Moro, Larry Mills, and Cliff Green make up panel talking about farm programs at Friday's Town-Country luncheon at the Heppner Elks Club.

Whys of Farm Programs

Larry Mills, manager of Morrow County Grain Growers chaired a panel of speakers who answered questions about farm programs for people who do not have or work on farms at Friday's Town and Country Day luncheon.

Judy Buschke, ASCS field auditor, explained how farm programs are administered.

Ken Hart said that most farmers choose to participate in farm programs to survive and to regain a fair market share.

Don Bennett, said he chose to seed a portion of his farmland to grass and enter the Conservation Reserve Program because his machinery was wearing out and because he was approaching retirement age and didn't really want to be out plowing in 10 years.

Cliff Green explained that Main Street merchants appreciate the necessity of the Conservation Reserve Program for some farmers' survival. It is also necessary for all farm and town people to work together to "find different ways to increase the area's economy. We all need to help; shop at home, please. We mostly need support to improve and support the economy: vote for budgets which lead to a quality of life we are accustomed to and which attracts and keeps people here," he said.

Larry Mills said that the Grain Growers, the area's largest supplier of farm chemicals and machinery, has had to layoff some people, cut margins, and has experienced a decrease in sales. Farm equipment sales were \$4 million four years ago and only \$1.2 million last year, but that is not only due to the CRP. The farm economy is generally depressed, he said, but diversification and community unity will benefit the entire area.



Bill Broderick, (left) Morrow County Livestock Agent and Bill Zollinger, Livestock Management

To earn a profit is to handle your resources well, Bill Zollinger, OSU Extension Livestock Expert, told cattlemen during a seminar at Friday's Town-Country Day.

"I'm not saying you need to increase production, but that you need to productively produce from the resources you have," he said. For example, a protein supplement is unnecessary for cattle grazing in alfalfa. That's money wasted.

He advised cattlemen to monitor carefully such things as growth rate, calving cycle, feeding the right amount to maintain a cow's fertility, length of the calving season, and fertility checks not only on young bulls just purchased, but also periodic checks on older animals. By paying attention to these things, you may increase productivity by as much as 10%, he said.

Zollinger said that he looked for a very steady beef market over the next five years and that cattlemen as a group of businessmen could impact the industry although an individual producer probably could not effect marketing and consumer attitudes.

Re-Training

Sue Brewer, Job Training and Partnership Act representative, told farmers and townspeople that there is a possibility displaced farmers will qualify for the program's dislocated worker program. The problem, she said, was how to document the applicant's eligibility for the retraining program.



Woodlands Management

Lee Palmer, lone, (left) and Maurice Mitchell, Oregon State University Forestry Extension Agent answer questions about wood stoves and forest management at the Private Woodlands Assoc. table during Town-Country Day.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

| November 18-24 | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|--------|
| | High | Low | Precip |
| Tues. | 61 | 42 | .11 |
| Wed. | 61 | 42 | 0 |
| Thurs. | 63 | 36 | .15 |
| Fri. | 52 | 40 | .02 |
| Sat. | 52 | 39 | .10 |
| Sun. | 59 | 47 | 0 |
| Mon. | 54 | 28 | .36 |

Market Report

Companions of the Morrow County Grain Growers

| Tuesday, Nov. 25 | | |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|
| Soft White | | |
| Nov. | | \$2.89 |
| Dec. | \$2.91 | \$2.93 |
| Jan. | \$2.95 | \$2.97 |
| Feb. | \$2.99 | \$3.01 |
| Hard Red Winter | | |
| Nov. | | \$2.89 |
| Barley | | |
| Nov. | | \$81 |
| Dec. | | \$82 |
| Jan. | | \$82 |
| PIK | | |
| Generic certificates | | 113% cash |