

State Ag director addresses wheat growers

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Director Bob Buchanan told county wheat growers Friday night that much is going on in Salem which concerns agriculture.

It may not seem like much to us, but gaining approval for the Japanese Ag Standards mark on some American products which certify they meet exact quality control guidelines is a big step as far as the Japanese are concerned, he said, in improving trade relations with Japan. We need to realize that the Japanese may not need to trade with us as badly as we think they do.

If we can gain the right leverage with the Pacific Rim countries, we may be able to get French fries into Korea before the 1988 Olympics there, he said.

As an industry, agriculture is generally not organized and specific enough to get the things we need through the legislature.

We need to get into the system and work with it, he emphasized, while guarding against looking too far down the road. There's no way we could have guessed what the Conservation Reserve Program would do three years ago, he said. Several years into the CRP, when government begins estimating the impact it has had on how we build roads, educate kids, etc., changes may occur again, he said.

"I feel comfortable with agriculture's relationship to Governor Goldschmidt," he continued, "and with the governor's awareness of agriculture. Businesses throughout the state have made it clear to him that if Oregon is to have an economic comeback, agriculture and natural resources will need to lead the parade."

We can also look toward cleaning up our act, he said. Dinoseb is an expensive chemical which does a



Bob Buchanan (left) receives bouquet of Morrow County Wheat from county wheat growers president Clint Carlson.

good job. With more attention to upgrading private chemical applicator licenses and care for proper destruction of chemical containers the EPA may not have been com-

ed to take it off the market, but they can't afford to be wrong in their responsibility for safeguarding health and welfare, he said.

Three Heppner athletes chosen for China trip

By Ashley Conklin

Three Heppner High School track athletes have been selected to tour China this summer with the Amateur Sports Development Class "A" track team.

Senior Jason Palmer and juniors Jason Dougherty and Kim Sager, along with head track coach Dale Conklin depart from Portland on June 21 for a 10-day trip to the Far East.

While on the trip a contingent of 30 athletes and two coaches will compete in an all-day track meet take in the cities of Hong Kong and Macao, and see the rural life of Canton.

Other HHS track stars, Stephanie Payne, now a sophomore at Willamette University, and Wayne Wilgers, currently a senior at HHS, have been part of the cultural exchange in previous years.

Each athlete must pay his own expenses.

"Several fund-raising activities are planned to help the Heppner athletes meet the cost of the trip," Conklin said.

Norm Dyer of West Linn will coach the team along with Conklin.

Other area athletes going on the trip include: John Galvin and Shelly Webb of Arlington, Lisa Berry of Echo, Judy Coen of Riverside, and

Supt. says safety net won't help Morrow County

A "Safety Net" measure placed on the May 19 ballot by the state legislature may benefit schools in other areas of the state, but would not be good for Morrow County, School Supt. Doyle McCaslin said last week.

The measure unanimously endorsed by the state board of education is designed to prevent school closures which have given Oregon a bad name. The measure will allow school districts to fall back on their previous year's levy if voters do not approve a levy amount by the end of September.

The measure will be on the May 19 ballot and, if approved, will take effect in June. This means that if the district fails to pass an operating levy by September of this year, we will fall into the safety net, McCaslin said. The safety net then gives the district authority to levy taxes equal to this year's operating levy. Should Morrow County have to levy the

safety net next year, it would require cutting our budget even more severely than we would have had to if the serial levy had not passed this year, he said.

"We hear the argument that the safety net will provide lead time for school finance reform," the superintendent continued. It will achieve its goal of keeping schools open without increasing taxes. The problem is that inequities are bound to occur and get worse each year. A district that falls into the safety net this first year could conceivably stay there for several years with the 1986-87 levy amount, he said.

The safety net does not allow an automatic annual increase nor does it allow additional funds for enrollment increases or a way to compensate for lost revenues such as federal forest fees.

The safety net would require a district to operate a standard program for a full year with the levy amount previously approved by voters. A district could not ask for a special (supplemental) levy. Sixty percent of the state's school districts have realistic tax bases, he said, but the other 40% do not and would need to reduce programs in order to operate, if they should fall into the safety net.

Districts would be permitted to seek new tax bases once each year.

Daylight Time begins April 5

Daylight Saving Time begins three weeks early this year according to Oregon Senator Bob Packwood. April 5 is the day to remember this year to set clocks ahead one hour.

"The DST legislation approved by Congress last year, which will go into effect this year, took into consideration the interests and concerns of people with an expressed interest in this issue," the senator said. Prior to this legislation, daylight saving time did not begin until the last Sunday in April.

This year, remember April 5 is the date—Spring forward, fall back.

Scholarships offered

Graduating seniors in Morrow and Umatilla counties interested in pursuing a career in business, accounting, or insurance, may be eligible for a \$500 scholarship offered by Blue Mt. Life Underwriters insurance company.

Applications are available at Wheatland Insurance centers and should be returned to Ken Bjorklund, P.O. Box 329, Athena, OR 97813 before May 1.

Board members answer school budget questions

Editor's note: School board members will answer questions in the newspaper between now and the May school levy election. Questions they address will be those which they repeatedly are asked by voters.



Mary Lou Carlson

"Why do we have to vote every year on the school budget?" "Have you spent all the money we just voted in the January election already?"

The budgeting process for education is very complex and is especially confusing if you are not involved in that process and only see parts of it.

The budget covers anticipated expenditures for one fiscal year July 1 to July 1. The last elections covered fiscal year July 1, 1986 to July 1, 1987. The budget you will vote on May 19 covers fiscal year July 1, 1987 to July 1, 1988.

The primary foundation of the budget is the "Tax Base" which is the amount of money approved by the voters that we can automatically increase by 6% annually to meet the financial needs of the District.

Morrow County's Tax Base was established in 1916 and is presently \$834,809 (1986-87). With the annual increase of 6%, the Tax Base for 1987-88 only grows to \$884,898.

The estimated cost of operating all Schools in Morrow County School District for one month is \$625,000. So you can readily see our Tax Base is very inadequate as you would expect with over 60 years of growth in the district.

Even with additional fund resources such as State Basic School Support, Common School Fund and Hot Lunch Match, we still are left with only \$2,869,010 in funds to use in education. Still not enough to support the educational and extra-curricular programs at the level the voters have supported.

Then we must go to the voters for the balance of funds needed to maintain the program levels. This year's budget review process resulted in:

1. Reduction of requests for staffing -- including new and temporary staff, especially extra summer help.
2. Reallocation of staff time -- transfers from locations of less to locations of greater need.
3. Deletion of most items which have:
 - A. Cosmetic purpose, e.g. lowering ceilings, remodeling;
 - B. Energy Saving purpose, e.g. replacing incandescent lights with fluorescent;
 - C. Improvement purpose, e.g. gym floors, irrigation projects;
 - D. Replacement purpose, e.g. repair those items for one more year - buses, heat pumps;
 - E. New Equipment purpose, anything new, including typewriters, instructional equipment, grounds equipment;
 - F. Major Repair purpose, including roofs, patch and make do is the order of the day.

We retained those expenditures required by minimum standards (State Law) and mandated by negotiation.

The end result of this examination of the budget resulted in a Special Levy amount of \$5,986,058 outside the Tax Base of \$884,898. An amount each member of the board and Budget Committee can wholeheartedly support for the sake of a stable School District and the educational welfare of our children.

We sincerely hope you too will wholeheartedly support the Special Levy when you go to the polls on May 19.

(s) Mary Lou Carlson
Position VII, at large

SPRING

SPECIALS

Prices Good Thru 4-10-87

CENEX WEED AND FEED

KILL troublesome lawn weeds while you feed your grass. 16-3-5 Fertilizer will weed and feed 5,000 sq. ft.

\$4.99

20 Pound Bag

KNOCK OUT
Weed & Grass Killer
One Quart **\$10.98**

WEED KILLER
One Quart **\$6.98**

ALL GARDEN SEED
20% OFF

RED DRAGON

WEED BURNER
Torch Kit
\$39.95
VT3

TRUE TEMPER

SHOVEL SLR
HOE BG14
RAKE PG14
YOUR CHOICE
\$4.88

CENEX 4LG Herbicide
595 QUART

A 2,4-D Amine formulation to control dandelions, thistle and other broadleaf weeds invading your lawn. New unbreakable plastic container with a self-contained measuring device. (956563)

Landstrom's ORIGINAL BLACK HILLS GOLD CREATIONS

#1 Producer of Tricolor Gold Jewelry and so close to you.

Peterson's Jewelers 474-9700

Morrow County Grain Growers INC.

Phone 967-6221 1-800-452-7396 P.O. Box 367 Lexington, Oregon 97839

Landstrom's ORIGINAL BLACK HILLS GOLD CREATIONS

#1 Producer of Tricolor Gold Jewelry and so close to you.

Peterson's Jewelers 474-9700