

County to mail information on levy

Morrow County will send a circular in the mail this week explaining the Morrow County budget and tax levy.

According to the circular, residential taxes account for only 11 percent of county taxes, with commercial and industry paying 14 percent, farm and forest paying 16 percent and utilities paying 59 percent. "We're getting a tremendous amount of services for peanuts," said Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson.

The circular says that only \$4,540,435 or 25 percent of the total county budget of \$18,235,732 would be funded by local property taxes.

Since Morrow County is only one of 23 taxing districts, it will receive only a portion of the property taxes collected, although it is the tax collecting agency for all of the districts. The tax monies collected by the county are distributed to the various districts such as cemetery districts, fire protection districts and the library district.

The circular further states that 44 percent of the county's departments have either had no increases or have decreased their staff in the last 10 years. Nineteen percent have had partial position increases and 38 percent have had an increase of at least one position. Emergency Management increased five positions, but all were completely federally funded. The Sheriff's Department increased three positions with two of those positions funded by 911 revenue. Mental health has increased one and a half positions, all funded through state grants. Andrea Denton, executive secretary to the county court, said that county departments have state-mandated staffing requirements and if the departments have to cut staff because of a levy defeat, they may lose even more funding in state grants.

While county officials fear defeat of the levy because of the uncertain situation at Kinzua, they stress that a levy downfall would only compound the situation. "County government has to maintain itself," said Carlson. "Otherwise you have anarchy. A community that can't maintain its services will die. As people fall to these kinds of hardships, they will look more to government to give them assistance." "It (levy defeat) could contribute to a downward spiral for the community," added Denton. Services provided by the county listed in the circular include services to delinquent, neglected and abused children, alcohol and drug treatment, marital counseling, group and individual therapy, passports, marriage licenses, document recording, elections, criminal prosecution, crime victims' advocacy, child support enforcement, immunizations, family planning, high risk infant care, small claims and eviction services and access to a local judge, emergency procedures for catas-

trophic events such as chemical release, floods and fires, preservation and display of Morrow County's historical objects, assessment and tax collection, planning services, maintenance of 1300 miles of county roads, law enforcement protection, administrative services and access to local public officials, veterans services, community activities through fair and rodeo and medical and dental services.

Services and programs subsidized by the county include Extension, weed control, predatory animal control, Soil and Water Conservation, watermaster, Irrigation-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center, Heppner Neighborhood Center and GEODC.

If the county levy fails, all county services would operate until the next election on the current tax base of \$831,986, which was established in 1911. Carlson says that if the levy fails, the tax base "wouldn't even fund county operations for a week." The county plans to put a new tax base before the voters in May.

Bank of EO to award scholarship

The Bank of Eastern Oregon has announced an agriculture business scholarship for students attending Lone and Heppner High Schools.

One \$500 scholarship will be awarded to each high school to a graduating senior.

The student must plan to enroll

in college in agriculture or business. Judging will be done on scholarship, leadership and citizenship. The bank reserves the right to select any deserving candidate.

Applications may be picked up from a high school counselor. The application deadline is April 15.

Solar interference to interrupt TV

Heppner TV Inc. subscribers are being informed solar interference will be interrupting programming again this time of the year. The occurrence will be until March 6 between 1:15 and 1:25 p.m. in the afternoon.

Solar interference is an inherent part of satellite operations and occurs in the spring and fall. This

place when the orbital positions of the satellite and the sun are in one line. The earth station then receives signals from both, but the more powerful sun subdues the desired signal, causing a loss of service for a short period of 8 to 10 minutes. Not all stations are affected.

St. Pat's Bed race participants needed

Anyone interested in running a five member team in the St. Patrick's bed race Saturday, March 19 should call Theo Greenup, 676-9795 or Kay Proctor 676-9827. The bed race will be held on Main Street and will begin at 1 p.m. There will also be a calcutta. The \$10 entry fee will be divided up for prizes.

4-H clothing project training offered

4-H clothing project training for Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam leaders and junior leaders will be held March 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Isobel Edwards Hall in Fossil.

The training will provide resources, activities, club enrichment, consumerism, textile science and more, going beyond sewing by Carol Michael-Bennett, Morrow County Extension agent, and Cindy Osterlund, Gilliam County Extension agent.

Assembling a resource book of fabric samples and construction

Ione community band provides inspiration



Ione Community Band in action during the Heppner games at District Tournament

By Anne Morter

Members of the Ione Community Band are this week entrenched in Baker City, providing musical motivation for the Ione basketball teams at the State 1A Tournament.

The band, composed of local people and a couple of high school students, generally concentrate on entertaining the crowd at home games, but post-season action has put them on the road. Two weekends ago, the largely brass band delighted the crowds at the Big Sky District Tournament in Hermiston, where they "undoubtedly" had something to do with the thrilling wins by both the girls' and the boys' teams. Last weekend, they shared their rousing music with Heppner, playing at Friday's session of

Cutsforths award scholarship

Kraig and Kris Cutsforth have donated a one-year, full-tuition scholarship for Blue Mountain Community College to the Heppner Elks scholarship program, Dean Robinson, Elks scholarship chairman has announced.

This is the third year that a full-tuition scholarship has been awarded by the Cutsforths.

The Cutsforths donated the scholarship in memory of departed Elks brothers.

their District Tournament. But now, it's onward to the pinnacle of the Cardinals' season, the State Tournament.

A good many of the band members are alums of Ione High School. Some, like Jim Swanson and Richard Ladd, furthered their musical careers at Oregon State University, where they participated in numerous band programs. The remaining musicians are transplants to the area, but as they found out, anyone willing to dust off their instrument was more than welcome to join.

Judy Rea has been with the band for four years, playing the alto saxophone. She hadn't played since her school days in Ione a few years back. Since that time, the horn she sold 4-H calves to buy, has passed through the generations, being played by a son, niece, nephew and grandson. Despite putting the sax away for many years, she said it all came back to her fairly quickly. "The first year was a little rough," she laughed.

The rest of the band includes Joel Peterson, Tom Bedortha, Swanson, Rodney Ehrmantraut and Dennis Stefani on trumpet; Gregg Rietmann and Bob Baker play trombone and Frank Halvorsen and Virgil Morgan handle the baritones. Ladd plays the tuba, Richard Harper the drums, Marvin Padberg the keyboard and Dustin Padberg plays the bass guitar. During the year, Luke Swanson has done drum duty and Kristine Bedortha has played a number of instruments.

The group selects music by committee. According to Swanson, one of the group's spokespersons, "A bunch of us get together and kick around some music." Their most popular selections are just "good old, hard-driving pep band music," says Swanson. The group tries to

practice about once a week, and with a jam-session atmosphere, even the practices are fun.

With the absence of cheerleaders, the band has been instrumental in keeping the crowd noisily involved in the games. But as both Ione coaches will agree, the players get the biggest benefit. "The girls like it. They say it helps a lot," says head coach for the girls Dana Heideman. "The band adds a lot to the pre-game anticipation," he adds. Head boys coach Del LaRue, says his team's reaction has also been favorable. "The kids really enjoy it; it's easier for them to get loose before the game with the music," he says. "One of the things the kids asked me the night before district was if the band was going. It really makes a difference as far as we're concerned," states LaRue. "They do such a good job getting the crowd going during the game, they get everyone involved," says Heideman. "We can't leave home without them," he quips.

Playing for Heppner at district was a new experience, but according to many band members, it was a rewarding one. The Heppner fans and players were very appreciative. "The boys' team came over and thanked us personally," said Judy Rea.

No doubt about it, playing in the community band takes a hefty time commitment. "It takes an awful lot of time but we have a lot of fun with it," says Jim Swanson. "It's good for the school and the kids," he adds. And when members see big groups of kids congregating around the band at games, they have to think that their example and obvious enjoyment might entice more young people to follow in their musical footsteps. In the short run though, they just keep on making music and hopefully the Cards will keep on winning.

Spring OIL SALE

	(2 1/2 gal)	55
Cenex 518-15/40	11.95	210.95
Cenex 518-30 wgt	11.45	199.95
Cenex Universal Fluid	11.95	210.95

Sale Ends
March 12, 1994

\$200⁰⁰ refundable
drum deposit

WIN

A TRIP TO THE HOTTEST COUNTRY ON EARTH.

4 Days / 3 Nights for Two, To Branson, Missouri

Get The Low-Down at the Counter on Grand Prize Vacation and Additional In-Store Prizes!

1994

COUNTRY SPIRIT SWEESTAKES

Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc.

Phone 989-8221 1-800-452-7396 P.O. Box 367
Wasco 442-5781 LEXINGTON, OREGON 97839
1-800-824-7185

OSU president to visit Heppner

Oregon State University President John V. Byrne will visit Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler County Extension offices on Wednesday, March 4. Byrne will share his vision of the new administrative structure for Oregon State at the completion of the current reorganization process.

"In addition, the president would like to meet with and thank petition circulators involved with the Morrow County 4-H and Extension Service District formation," adds Carol Michael-Bennett, Morrow County staff chair. Byrne will meet with Morrow County Extension staff from

8:15 a.m.-9 a.m. and will meet with volunteers from 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the conference room of the Pettyjohn office building.

"Visits from university presidents to the outreach centers east of the Cascade range are rare," says Michael-Bennett. "I realize the time of day may be difficult for some, but hope as many volunteers will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to give President Byrne an Eastern Oregon welcome."

Byrne's itinerary for the day also includes visiting volunteers at the Condon and Fossil extension offices.

Afghan raffle to benefit pool

An afghan and matching rug crocheted and donated to People for the Pool, by Nella Britt of Heppner is displayed at Heppner TV where chances may be pur-

chased for \$1 each or \$6 for \$5.

Proceeds from the raffle will go towards a swimming pool in Heppner with around \$11,625 raised to date.

AQUAMARINE

For
March

If you were born in March and wanted to go prospecting for your birthstone, where should you go? Here in the United States, you might find a few aquamarines in San Diego County or in Riverside County in California; also in Maine, Connecticut, and North Carolina. However, your best bet would be the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil. Aquamarines from there tend toward the lighter colors. Another important producer of aquamarine has been Sverdlovsk on the east side of the Ural Mountains in Russia. Production there was sufficient to make Sverdlovsk a major cutting center. The gem rich island of Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa, produces some of the finest aquamarine in the world. The color of some of the best material is so deep that it could be mistaken for blue sapphire. In fact, some gem dealers call all deep blue aqua stones "Madagascar Aquamarines" as opposed to lighter blue stones called "Brazilian Aquamarines".

Member Jewellers of America, Inc.

Peterson's Jewellers

Heppner 676-9200