

THE GAZETTE-TIMES



Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, August 8, 1963

10 Cents

Property Tax Ratio Change To Affect Urban Values

Substitution by the State Tax Commission of the property tax assessment ratio of 19 per cent of true cash value instead of the assessor's posted ratio of 25 per cent of true cash value in Morrow county will have the effect of increasing the true cash value figures of many properties in urban areas of the county.

Such property owners will pay taxes on the higher figures unless, by appeal, they succeed in getting relief from a hearings officer who will be sent to Heppner to hear their cases.

These facts became apparent after a recent hearing with the commission in Salem when five counties of the state were held to be delinquent in completing their farm reappraisal programs.

Subsequently, the State Tax Commission published a notice in the Gazette-Times that a sales-ratio study had determined that the average ratio of assessment in Morrow County was 19 per cent on the 1963-64 roll.

District Attorney Herman Winter asked for clarification of the action and received a letter from C. H. Mack, chairman of the State Tax Commission, explaining the matter. Assessor Rod Thomson later received a letter from Harry J. Loggan, director of the valuation division of the commission, adding further details.

While utilities' assessments will be reduced to 19 per cent of true cash value at the state level, bringing the total utilities' valuation down some \$600,000 in Morrow county for the 1963-64 fiscal year, urban property—both residential and commercial—will remain on the records at 25 per cent of true cash value since it is too late in the year for the assessor to change these records. Urban property is assessed at the 25% figure because reappraisal of the city properties was just completed through the assessor's office. The legislature two years ago established all counties' ratios, except Multnomah at 25%. However, the commission is required to substitute its own ratio findings if the ratio posted by the assessor is 10 per cent more or less than the commission's findings.

Farm properties in Morrow county are figured by the tax commission to be actually on the rolls at 17 or 18 per cent of true cash value. Just now starting is a farm reappraisal program designed to establish new true cash values on farms after which the ratio of 25 per cent required by state law, will be applied. However, it is expected that this will require two years for completion.

Meanwhile, with the assessment at 19 per cent for utilities, about 18 per cent for rural properties, and the urban property remaining at the actual 25 per cent on the assessor's records, some urban property owners will feel the blow when tax statements are delivered in the fall.

Mack explained it this way: "The most apparent immediate effect of the ratio substitution

was the reduction of assessed valuations of utility and public service companies which, by law, must be assessed by the Commission instead of the county assessor. Instead of using a multiplier of 25 per cent against the true cash value of each company, a 19 per cent multiplier had to be used by the Commission.

"Locally, the effect of the ratio reduction is less noticeable, but just as important. No change was made in the assessed values determined by the assessor and entered on the 1963 assessment roll. However, property owners must now divide the assessed value of their property by 19 per cent rather than 25 per cent to determine the true cash value.

This has the effect of increasing the true cash value of many properties, and, if the true cash value so determined is greater than the actual true cash value of the property, the owner has the right to appeal to the Tax Commission for relief.

"For example, a property with an assessed value of \$1,900 would now have a true cash value of \$10,000. (\$1,900 divided by 19% equals \$10,000).

"With the ratio of 25 per cent previously in effect, the alleged true cash value would have been \$7,600 (\$1,900 divided by 25% equals \$7,600)."

If true cash value of a person's property were \$7,600 as

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Group to Start Campaign To Restore Agent's Budget

A group of county residents will organize Sunday evening to conduct a volunteer campaign for funds to guarantee full restoration of the county extension service budget.

They will meet at the fair annex at 7 p.m. Sunday to complete plans and get the drive underway. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend the meeting. Goal of the drive will be \$3,400, the amount that was cut from the budget at the county budget hearing on June 28.

This campaign plan was formed after nine residents met with the county court Wednesday morning. They received assurance from the court that it would be willing to take \$3,400 from the county's emergency fund when the \$8250 allowed in the county's portion of the extension service budget is exhausted, if such action is legal and if the funds have not been depleted in the emergency fund by some other pressing need.

District Attorney Herman Winter has stated the opinion that to take the \$3,400 from the emergency fund now after the budget would not be legal. However, he believes that it may be construed as an emergency when the \$8250 is gone because it would then mean that there would be no funds at all for the extension service and the total program would have to be dropped unless relief were forthcoming.

Although the court passed a motion to the effect that it would restore the funds—if legal and if the money is available—when the extension budget is exhausted, it was decided to proceed with the program to raise the voluntary fund to assure the state extension service that the money is in hand for the full budget and thus make it possible to retain all three agents.

This will also make it possible for the county court to certify to the state extension service

that the annual budget is restored to \$11,650.

According to the plan devised by the committee who attended Wednesday's court session, the \$3,400, when collected, will be placed in a bank in escrow with a careful record of the donors. With the court's assurance that it will restore the budget later in the year from emergency funds, it is likely that the amounts contributed will be refunded in full to the donors. However, if for some reason the county cannot pay all or any part of the \$3,400, it would be necessary to use some or all of the contributed money.

W. G. (Jerry) Nibler, state extension agent, recently advised the county that it had until September 1 to give assurance of the funds, or one of the three agents would be taken from the county. County Agent Nels Anderson said Wednesday that he had received official word, too, that the staff would be reduced by one agent.

It is the intention of the committee, however, to have the money collected before September 1, assuring retention of the full staff.

Spokesman for the committee Wednesday was Kenneth Smouse of Ione. Others in the group were Mrs. E. M. Baker and Bob Jepsen, Ione; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Skiles, Irrigon; Mike Whitesmith, representing the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Doug Drake, Dick Wilkinson and Wes Sherman, all of Heppner.

Both Commissioners Gene Ferguson and Milton Biegel indicated that they had no objection to restoring the budget from the emergency fund within their legal limits. Beigel made the motion that put the court on record as favoring the action when the allowed budget of \$8250 is depleted, and each member of the court agreed to the action.

Full Schedule Planned for Fair

First Drowning Victim Claimed At Bull Prairie

A 17-year-old Hood River youth Friday became the first fatality to be recorded at Bull Prairie reservoir since the recreational site was opened last year.

Glen Douglas Beith drowned in some 15 to 20 feet of water near the spillway of the reservoir about 5:30 p.m. on that day as he was attempting to swim out to a boat that had drifted from shore.

State Policeman Jim Gordon said the body was brought up from the bottom 12 minutes later by Jon Carothers, U. S. Forest Service employe. Bob Cantonwine, in charge of the Bull Prairie Guard station, and Carothers administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for two hours, but the young man failed to respond.

Beith was on an overnight camping trip with his father, W. K. Beith of Rt. 3, Box 605, Hood River. Their pickup truck was parked on the north shore of the lake near the dam.

When Glen noticed the boat drifting from shore, he swam towards it, but about 20 feet from shore he started back, apparently in trouble, the state policeman reported. The foresters, near the guard station on the west side of the lake, noticed the young man thrashing in the water and rushed to his aid, although they were considerable distance away. Apparently the father was not in the immediate area at the time.

Both Carothers and Cantonwine are trained in first aid and immediately after recovering the body started on their efforts to revive him, but without success.

State Officer Gordon was in the area when he received a call from Arlington headquarters and went to the scene to assist. Later Creswick Mortuary was called and Oliver Creswick brought the body to Heppner after the medical examiner of Grant county, in which Bull Prairie is located, was summoned by phone and gave permission to take the body here on condition that Dr. Wallace Wolff, acting medical examiner for Morrow county, arrange for an autopsy if necessary.

No autopsy was conducted. The body was taken to Anderson Funeral Home in Hood River Saturday afternoon for final services.

There was no indication of the reason for the accident except that it might have been caused by a cramp, panic or some physical ailment. However, Beith was an athletic-type youth and appeared physically strong.

Carothers and Cantonwine were credited with doing an excellent job in their efforts to revive the youth and for their speed in recovering the body.



PRINCESS LOUISE POINTER

Princess Louise Due for Honors

Fourth in the series of rodeo dances will honor pretty Princess Louise Pointer of Lexington at the fair pavilion Saturday evening, August 10, starting at 10:00 p.m. She is sponsored by the Lexington Grange.

A slender 5-6 1/2 brownette, Princess Louise was a popular graduate of the Ione High school last year, where she was valedictorian of her class. She has lived her entire life on the ranch home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Pointer, near Lexington and attended grade school there. Her first three years of high school were at St. Joseph Academy in Pendleton, transferring to Ione for her senior year.

Princess Louise has been a riding enthusiast since she was very young and loves to ride purely for her own pleasure. Besides riding as a hobby, she enjoys working in leather crafts, helps in cooking for their family of eight and enjoys athletics and sports.

In fair and rodeo appearances, Louise will be mounted on her own quarterhorse, "Copper." The horse is used to royalty as she has been ridden by princesses in two other courts.

As an honor student, the attractive princess has experienced a busy four years of high school activities. In Ione she held the office of senior class secretary-treasurer, as well as student council representative of the

Girls' League. At St. Joseph she was chosen for membership in National Honor Society in her sophomore year and was a member her junior year; served as student body treasurer in her junior year; was a member of girls' chorus for three years, and held offices of secretary-treasurer of the Pep club her sophomore year and of vice president her junior year. When a sophomore, she was a princess in the homecoming court and in the winter ball court.

Princess Louise has two older brothers, Hank, 22, and Tom, 19. Others in the family are Donna, 12; Mark, 11, and Charlie, 9. All children are at home and help on the family farm. The family are members of St. Patrick's Catholic church in Heppner.

During grade school years she was a member of a 4-H Livestock club.

Continuing her education, the honored princess expects to enroll at the University of Portland this fall, where she plans to major in elementary education. She will be assisted by scholarship aid from the Lexington PTA. Her interest in teaching has developed through helping in church summer school work the past two years.

Attendance at the summer dances has been very good, with lively music furnished by Leonard's orchestra. Next week's dance will honor the queen of the court, Queen Sandra Eubanks of Ione, with her public coronation planned for downtown Heppner preceding the dance.

5-Day Run Set to Start August 19

Machinery has been set in motion preparing for the 1963 Morrow County Fair which opens on Monday, August 19, according to Joe Hay and Esther Kirmis, Morrow county agents. Many outstanding events have been scheduled for this year's fair including an outdoor style revue, 4-H pig scramble, livestock auction sale, 4-H FFA, and open class livestock shows, 4-H livestock showmanship and demonstration contests, and a 4-H saddle horse show.

"We expect this to be one of the best fairs ever, if people continue to bring in their exhibits as they have in the past," Hay said. "Large numbers of exhibits make for a more colorful and interesting fair," he added.

Many improvements have been added to the fair grounds this year. It will be hard for fairgoers to realize that this is the same fair grounds. Some of the improvements which have been made include a new floor and new lighting in the main fair pavilion, oiling of the parking areas to keep down dust, a new livestock barn, additional wash rack space for livestock, and many others.

Several changes have been made in this year's fair schedule to eliminate conflicting events and make the fair more enjoyable for everyone. The 4-H saddle horse show has been moved to Monday, starting at 9:00 a.m. Livestock will be received at the fair grounds all day Monday. School exhibits must be in place by 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, when judging begins. Four-H and FFA livestock will be accepted until 11:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. Open class entries will be open throughout the day.

Four-H and FFA members will test their livestock judging ability in the 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon. This is a much looked forward to event for 4-H members with livestock projects as the top judges in both the junior and senior division are awarded plaques for their judging abilities. Scores from the contest also help determine which club members will represent Morrow county in the 4-H livestock judging contest at the State Fair in Salem.

Four-H Home Economics contests in the junior and senior division are also scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

Starting Wednesday morning at 8:30, FFA livestock will be judged. Four-H livestock judging will follow at 9:30 a.m. with swine first, then beef, dairy, and sheep in that order. The 4-H livestock showmanship contest will start later in the day. All open class entries must be in place with the exception of livestock and flowers by 9:00 a.m. Livestock and flower entries are open until 10:00 a.m. Starting at 9:00 Wednesday morning will be 4-H Home Economics judging for style revue. This year's revue has been moved up to Wednesday evening again, there will be no conflicts with the judging of open class livestock this year as they are scheduled to be judged on Friday morning starting at 10:30.

Thursday, August 22, will be a busy day at the fair starting at 9:00 a.m. with 4-H Home Economics demonstrations and continuing the 4-H livestock showmanship contests. At 1:00 p.m., the all-around champion

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THIS BRUSH crew of the Heppner forestry district performs an important job of clearing and piling slash and brush to be burned in the fall. Men also are trained fire fighters and are ready for fires at an instant's notice. From left are Don Kenison, Pendleton; Ralph Piper, Ione; Ron Creswick, Heppner; Vic Kucera, Portland; Dave Fitzwater, squad leader, Astoria; Gary Garetson, squad leader, Pendleton; Fritz Morehouse, Pendleton; Bernie Livingston, Michigan; and Foreman Ray Smith, Heppner.

District Foresters Keep Close Contact

(This is the second in a series of articles on the Heppner Ranger district, U. S. National Forest.)

By WES SHERMAN

When a person travels roads of the Heppner Ranger district by Jeep or pickup, he may never see a soul for hours. But rest assured the forestry boys are on the job throughout the district.

They keep in constant surveillance of all parts of the big "timber ranch" and they are in close touch with each other so that they know pretty well what is going on in all parts of the district at all times.

A timber management crew may be working on an upcoming forest sale in the Mallory creek area; the suppression crew may be working around Madison Butte; the brush crew may be busy over along the Happy Jack road; the lookouts are on duty on Tamarack, Wheeler Point and

Madison Butte; extra protection men will be on the job in various areas; and firemen will be on duty at Bull Prairie, Tupper Guard Station and Ditch Creek guard station.

Traveling the roads may be C. R. (Chuck) McLean, fire control assistant; Ray Williamson, resource assistant; Dave Hadcock, engineering assistant; or the district ranger himself, Warren S. (Sam) Miller.

Radio links them all together. Through a powerful relay station near Tupper Guard station that is channeled through a microwave station to Heppner and relayed to the headquarters in the Gilliam and Bisbee building by telephone line, all stations and mobil units can talk with headquarters.

In turn, the homes of McLean and Miller in Heppner are equipped to receive and transmit messages, so they are in contact

through the nights and during holidays with men and units in the field. Lookouts and crews in the field report hourly. This network thereby keeps all in a close link, so that, in case of fire, instant action would result.

Communication and organization are two key words on the district.

Once a fire alarm is sounded, the men are organized to move. Their "crummies," rigs for hauling men and equipment, are always ready to go, tools sharp and packs stowed and ready to hit a fire trail. They figure that at any time of day or night a crew will be en route to a fire within four minutes after an alarm is sounded. Those on the suppression crew sleep with their fire fighting gear ready to hop into.

Lookouts—Kirby Schwinck on

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WEATHER

By LEONARD GILLIAM

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	79	47	—
Friday	87	52	—
Saturday	90	53	—
Sunday	91	55	—
Monday	90	55	—
Tuesday	91	54	—
Wednesday	91	53	—

Here Are The Vote Standings In The Gazette-Times Campaign

Listed below, in alphabetical order by districts are the boys and girls who are working in the Gazette-Times subscription campaign, together with vote standings up to press time. NOTE:—These standings are comparative, and while they do show the place each worker is in, do not reveal the exact vote count. This is in fairness to the workers.

District One (Heppner, City)		
Gimbel, Ricky	676-9247	52,000
Green, Kelly	676-9435	58,000
Healy, Jerry	676-9929	59,000
McLeod, Bill	676-5573	57,000
O'Brien, Sherri Lynn	676-9602	48,000
Pratt, Kevan	676-9909	56,000
Smith, Amanda	676-9725	50,000
Stillman, Randy	676-5844	54,000
Stockard, Billy	676-9684	51,000
Struckmeier, Earl	676-5515	48,000
Van Schoiack, Jimmy	676-9167	55,000
District Two (Outside Heppner)		
Asher, Valerie	Spray-637-2554	19,000
Bowman, Vic	Kinzua-768-2478	46,000
Boyer, Jimmy	Monument-WE4-2295	49,000
Buchanan, Bobby	Irrigon-922-3681	47,000
Halvorsen, Frank	Ione-422-7107	61,000
Higel, Gary	Boardman-481-2510	19,000
Lane, Steve	Lexington-989-8109	53,000
Townsend, Sue	Ione-422-7215	60,000
Vinson, Alvin	Lexington-989-8492	55,000

"Your subscription—new or renewal—can mean 1st prize for your favorite worker."

CAMPAIGN ENDS SAT., AUGUST 17 AT 6 P. M.

Second Cash Bonus Offer Announced in Contest

(Pictures on Page 6)

Workers in the Heppner Gazette-Times subscription campaign have shown such interest in the extra cash prize offered that a second cash award is announced by the campaign manager.

This new \$10 cash prize will go to the worker in either district who secures the most points on subscription sales—either new or renewal—from now until the campaign closes at 6 p.m. Saturday, August 17.

Subscriptions turned in this Saturday will count 7 points for each year, those reported next Wednesday will count 6 points for each year, and those handed in the final day will count only 5 points for each year. This new prize is in addition to the first cash prize and the original

cash and bicycle awards announced at the start of the campaign.

Subscribers are reminded the subscription price in the trade area will increase to \$4.50 per year on September 1. Campaign workers are anxious to collect as many orders as possible at the \$4.00 per year, \$7.50 for 2 years and \$11.00 for 3 years before the end of the campaign.

Interest in the campaign has increased rapidly this week as parents and friends from the various neighborhoods and communities got behind their favorites to help them win the best prizes and highest honors.

First vote standings of the workers, and pictures of each in this issue of the Gazette-Times will spark the final week of enthusiasm among the boys and girls who are working in the campaign.