

Property Taxes to Hold Near Last Year's Level

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Only 2 Areas Top 60 Mills For 1966-67

With the aid of some 5.3 mills in state relief, property taxes in Morrow county for 1966-67 will stay at about the same level as those for 1965-66, Rod Thomson, assessor, said after completing compilation of the assessment roll this week.

The greatest increase in any code area is 2.9 mills in area 10-2, near Irrigon, where taxes will be 40.6 mills for the coming year as compared with 37.7 for 1965-66.

However, 17 of the county's 20 code areas show increases of from one-tenth mill to the 2.9 mills. Three code areas show decreases. One rural section near Irrigon (10-1) will be down 2.7 mills, to 43.5 for the coming year. The code area in the City of Irrigon (10-3) will go down 3.1 mills to 51.7, and in the City of Boardman (Code area 25-1), the decrease will be 8.7 mills, bringing it down to 48.0 from the 56.7 of last year.

A factor in the decrease in Boardman is the increased valuation there. Assessment roll shows valuation this year to be \$263,909 with the new town developing, as compared with only \$113,336 last year before the development was well underway.

Only Two Areas Top 60 Mills

Interesting enough, only two code areas in the county exceed the 60 mills that is considered to be the dividing line where the proposed 1 1/2% property tax limitation would take effect had it been approved for the November general election ballot and then passed by the voters.

Only Heppner and Ione exceed 60 mills in taxes. Heppner's millage for all taxing bodies levying to property owners within the city limits totals 66.4. This is an increase of only 3 mill over 1965-66, and theoretically would have put the total taxes within the city 6.4 mills over the 1 1/2% limit.

In Ione, the millage for the coming year is 72.9 or 12.9 over the theoretical limit. Taxes there will be up 5 of a mill over the 72.4 of last year.

"Our tax picture is actually one of the best in the state," Thomson said after compiling the roll. He pointed out that Wheeler and Gilliam counties have somewhat lower levies but added that the counties do not offer as many services as Morrow does.

State Tax Relief Up

Property tax relief from the state coming to Morrow county for 1966-67 will be \$126,845, up from \$96,875 last year, the assessor pointed out. This is the county taxpayers' share of the total of \$18,285,083 surplus fund earmarked for such relief around the state. It benefits all taxpayers in the county by 5.3 mills, just one mill more than the 4.3 mills of relief last year.

In addition, personal property taxpayers will receive benefit from the state to the tune of 8% to apply against inventory taxes. Another state benefit comes in the form of senior citizens' relief, which will be \$2,754.72 for 1966-67. This is practically the same as last year, Thomson said.

Personal Property Climbs

Personal property (before exemptions) shows an increase to \$3,297,150 from \$2,871,840 for 1965-66. Real property (before exemptions) shows an increase of \$393,460, going to \$1,808,260 from \$1,414,800.

Accounting for much of the \$425,310 increase in personal property valuation are increased farm machinery and equipment, going to \$1,213,510 from \$1,087,840, increases in livestock, particularly cattle, going to \$814,090 from \$677,995, and in other machinery and equipment, reaching \$326,100 as compared with \$675,390 for 1965-66.

Agencies 'Hold Line'

The fact that taxes will remain at near the same level as last year indicates that taxing bodies adhered pretty much to their policies of "holding the line", imposing no great demands for increases.

Taxes imposed by cities for city purposes are an example. In Boardman, taxes for city purposes dropped to 8.5 mills as compared with 16.1 levied there last year, but again, the increase in valuation is a factor. In Heppner, the tax for city purposes will be down 1 mill, decreasing to 15.4 from 15.5, Ione

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MICROWAVE RECEIVERS, just installed in the Heppner TV receiving station on the hill west of town, represent a considerable investment by Oregon Telecommunications, Inc., which will bring microwave TV here under contract, says Carl Spaulding, Heppner TV manager, shown examining the equipment. Barring unforeseen difficulties, microwave television may be in operation here in about two weeks. (G-T Photo by Spike Pardee)

Microwave TV Nearing For Heppner Viewers

With good luck, microwave television to Heppner homes through the cable system of Heppner TV may be a reality within two weeks, Carl Spaulding, manager of the cable system, said Monday.

Equipment was being installed this week, including a big reception "dish," receivers and remodulators in the new receiving station on top of the hill west of the city.

By Tuesday, this end of the system was pretty well prepared for a trial run, but work was yet to be done at Goodnoe Hill, near Arlington, which will relay signals from Portland to Heppner.

The microwave system comes through Oregon Telecommunications, Inc., and Spaulding said that the Heppner installation represents about an \$80,000 investment for the firm, which also supplies microwave television to a number of other cities in Eastern Oregon, including La Grande and Baker. Heppner TV will have an investment of about \$6,500, including cost of the small concrete building.

"The cable system manager cautioned that the microwave equipment is delicate and "temperamental" and that it could take some time to get it in proper adjustment before feeding it through the cable system. If some equipment should malfunction, it may be necessary to call in an expert from another part of the country to get it in proper operation, he said.

Therefore, the public should not be disappointed if microwave is not forthcoming as soon as is hoped. The cable system here contracts with Oregon Telecommunications for the service on a monthly fee basis.

Portland Channels Coming

The new system promises to furnish class A pictures from Portland over four channels. Under the new system, channel 2 (KATU) will be viewed over channel 2 here; channel 6 (KGIN) will come over channel 6; channel 8 (KGW) will come over channel 4; and channel 10, the educational channel, and channel 12 (KPTV) will share channel 5 on local sets. KPTV will be carried only late at night and on week-ends when the educational channel is off the air.

The class A picture means that reception should be at least as good as that normally received from channel 19 (KEPR), Pasco, on channel 4 here. Under the new plan, KEPR will not be received locally, since the networks will all be covered by the Portland stations.

Wasco Translators Down

Recent loss of pictures from KGW-TV, KOIN-TV, and KATU-TV, Portland, was due to the fact that the Wasco translator was shut down, Spaulding said. Service was discontinued there at least temporarily when local people in that area failed to give necessary financial support for operation of the translator. Signals are picked up from the translator, not by cable, but by antennae on sets in the area, and there is a difficult problem of enforcing any payment of fees for support of the translator. The drastic action was a step to get this support.

Heppner TV has been picking up the Portland signals from the translator, although because of distance involved, the signals

are erratic and undependable. When the translator went off the air, this meant the loss of the Portland stations here, but they will be restored when the microwave installation is completed, and the local cable system will no longer rely on the Wasco system for the relay.

When the shutdown came, Heppner TV restored KNDU, Richmond, to channel 2, replacing KATU.

When microwave is a reality here, it will end a long period of waiting for the service. Approval by the Federal Communications Commission took many months, and a proposed FCC directive that would have prohibited the viewing of channels from more distant points in areas served by closer stations was headed off when a storm of protest rose around the country.

Portland Hunter Dies on Saturday Of Heart Attack

Isadore Cohen, 52, of Portland, died of a heart attack Saturday afternoon in the Wilson Creek area some 18 miles south of Heppner, but he had little time to enjoy it.

He died of a heart attack as he and a companion, Richard Lowry, also of Portland, started to skin out the kill at their camp.

Lowry went to the Larry Gentry place on Rhea Creek and called Sweeney Mortuary. The body was brought to the mortuary before being taken to Portland for services.

Death occurred probably between 2:30 and 3 p.m. Saturday, Sweeney said. It was understood that Cohen had a history of heart trouble.

It was believed that he was employed as a meat cutter by a market in Portland.

Edward Holman and Son, Portland, was in charge of arrangements for funeral services, which were Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Interment was in Willamette National cemetery.

Straub Expected Here October 17

Robert Straub, Democratic candidate for governor, will be in Heppner Monday evening, October 17, according to Orville Cutsforth, campaign chairman here for the candidate.

A dinner will be held in the Wagon Wheel banquet room, and a public meeting will follow at 8 p.m. Everyone is invited to come to the meeting and get acquainted with him.

WEATHER

By DON GILLIAM
Official weather report for the week of September 29-October 5 is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	78	51	—
Friday	75	38	—
Saturday	84	44	—
Sunday	87	46	.36
Monday	68	36	—
Tuesday	73	38	—
Wednesday	78	41	—

City Council Passes Anti-Litter Law

Heppner's city council passed the "anti-litter" ordinance at its third and final reading, approved the zoning ordinance's first reading, and considered possible changes in the city charter at the regular monthly meeting Monday night.

The ordinance against littering provides a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$100, or a jail sentence of not less than two days nor more than 30 days, or both, for those found guilty of scattering any type of debris or trash on either public or private property.

First reading of the ordinance audit of the city's records and

on zoning followed the recent public hearing at which no one appeared. The ordinance must be presented twice more at ensuing council meetings before it can become city law.

Possibility of charter changes came up after Allan Langenwaller, C.P.A., of Hermiston gave a report to the council on the made recommendations.

He suggested that the council consider offering an amendment to the charter for vote of the people that would make the position of city recorder appointive rather than elective. Langenwaller pointed out that he felt the council, working closely with the recorder, is in a better position to choose a capable person for the office than leaving the matter to an election. He also felt that once a competent recorder is on the job, it should not be necessary for the person to seek to continue his position by running as a candidate for reelection.

To Review Charter

City Attorney Bob Abrams concurred in the suggestion and added that the city should consider proposing other charter changes. Abrams said that he felt it didn't seem right to have some city officers elected for four-year terms, as councilmen are, and have some elected for two-year terms, as the recorder, treasurer and mayor are.

Abrams asked the council for permission to do more research on the charter. He suggested that it should be compared with the model charter prepared by the League of Oregon Cities with an idea of bringing the entire document up to date, rather than doing it "piecemeal."

Langenwaller reported that the books and records of the city are in "very good shape" and commended Elaine George, city recorder, for excellent work done. He also said that Mrs. Ernest McCabe, treasurer, is doing a very good job.

The auditor had only two other comments to make on the city's business. He said that the state tax street fund is accumulating more funds than are necessary and that the sewer fund is now "beginning to carry its own weight" after sewer fees were raised. This is relieving the burden on the water fund, he said.

Sidewalk Repairs Set

It was reported at the meeting that all but two of the letters sent by the city advising some property owners to repair sidewalks have brought replies. The city had ordered that arrangements for making the repairs be made by September 15, or the city would do the work and file liens for the costs against the properties.

On the two who were not heard from, it was voted to proceed with the repairs and file liens for the costs.

Agreement Reached

It was also announced that the city and the Parker Corporation have reached an agreement on an easement across the Parker property west of town for a water main that will extend to the high school. The city will pay \$400 for the easement.

The Parkers asked the city to consider supplying water to the Fred Hoskins residence just north of the city limits. The council, aware of the increasing demands on the system inside the city, did not act on this matter as yet, even though the proposed customer would be willing to buy the water subject to prior use by those within the city and confining the consumption of water to the residence only.

Mayor Clarence Rosewell announced that the general election for city officers will be November 8, and the council approved giving the usual notices of election and set fees to be paid members of the election board at \$5 each.

Jail Report Given

Chief of Police Dean Gilman reported on a visit to the new Malheur county jail in Vale in connection with the joint city-county committee's work to see what can be done about improving jail facilities here. Gilman made the trip with Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman and State Officer Curtis Culp.

The Vale jail is much larger than would be needed here, he said, and it provides for maximum security. It can house 52 prisoners and at the time of the visit had 32 inmates. Malheur's (Continued on page 8)



WEARY FIRE CHIEF Charles Ruggles, wearing protective glasses, looked like a man from Mars after the Elks Temple fire in May, 1962. (G-T Photo)

Charles Ruggles Resigns Position As Fire Chief

Fire Chief Charles Ruggles will soon end his service as a "smoke eater" after being a volunteer fireman for 37 years.

He tendered his resignation to the city council at the Monday night meeting and asked that it be effective no later than January 1, 1967.

The council accepted the letter with reluctance and immediately cast about for a replacement. The fire committee will consult with Chief Ruggles and members of the department to seek a new head for the volunteer department.

Ruggles, whose insurance business is located almost directly across the street from the city fire station, has been chief here for about 16 years. It was in January, 1948, within a week after he moved to Heppner, that he fought his first fire in this city.

The worst blaze in his recollection was the fire of July 18, 1949, that destroyed grain elevators of Morrow County Grain Growers here with total loss, including nearby buildings, of \$200,000.

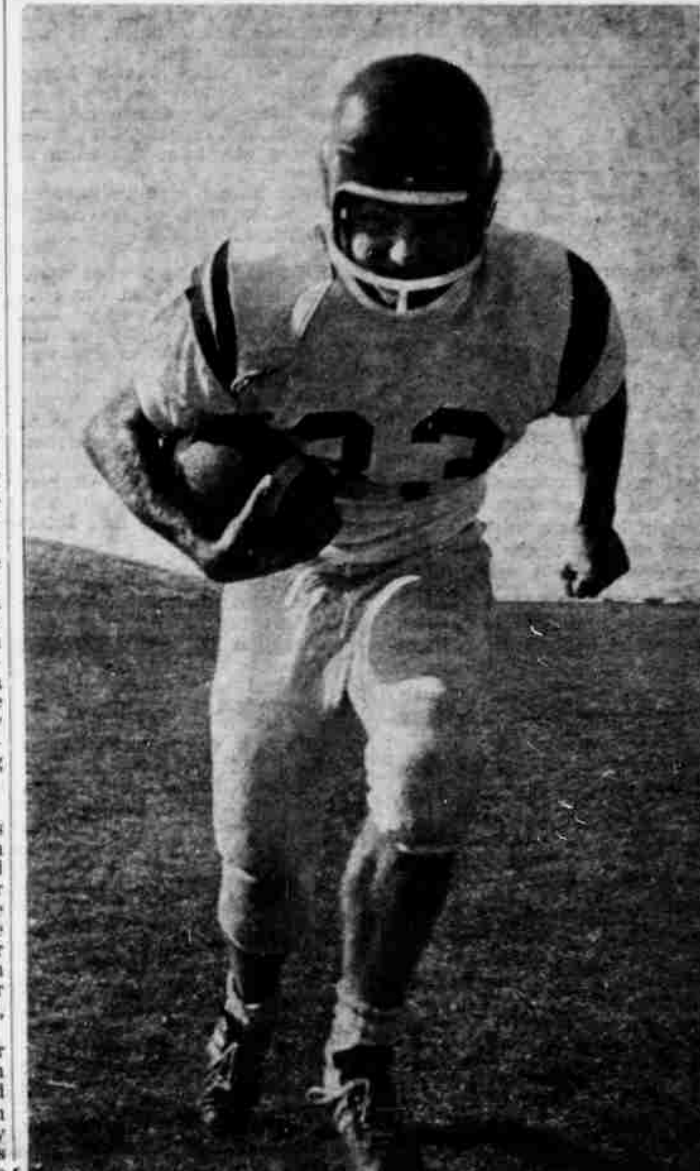
Probably the second worst fire was that which gutted the Elks Temple in downtown Heppner on May 11, 1962.

Chief Ruggles said in his letter to the council that his resignation is "due to business and personal" reasons. He said later, in elaboration, that he is quitting on instruction of his physician.

He first started as volunteer fireman at the age of 18 and was a fireman at Moro and other places before coming to Heppner.

Because the living quarters of Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles adjoins their business and because the location is so close to city hall and the fire station, it has been an ideal situation. All fire calls could be handled through the one central location, and Mrs. Ruggles has devoted freely of her time to stand by and take and receive calls while the department was answering alarms.

And how is an old "fire horse" going to restrain himself from answering the call when the fire horn blows during the night after January 1? "Well, for a while I'm sure I'll have trouble staying in bed," he said, a little remorsefully.



WHEN JIM JACOBS, Heppner High fullback packs the ball for the Mustangs, this is what opposing tacklers see. Jim, who has been troubled with injuries some this year, expects to be in the starting lineup against Burns here Friday night. (See Story Page 6) (G-T Photo by Spike Pardee)

Heppner Lumber To Shut Down; Market Blamed

Heppner Lumber Company sawmill will shut down following the close of work Friday, J. B. (Barney) Malcom, president of the company, has announced.

The closure will be for an indefinite period and is due to a depressed lumber market blamed on the nation's "tight money" situation, Malcom said.

Most of those employed in the sawmill here will be offered work at the Spray sawmill of Heppner Lumber Company. The plant at Spray will work two shifts and will employ some 30 men.

Malcom said that he can effect certain economies by operating the Spray plant two shifts rather than to operate each of the mills on one shift. He said that he has green logs to cut at Spray as compared to the dead timber available here, and the logging supply situation is better at the Spray operation.

Planer of the Heppner Lumber Co. here will continue to operate.

Malcom said that the plant here has operated continuously since it started eight years ago except for temporary shutdowns due to severe weather conditions or similar circumstances. The operation has previously weathered depressed market conditions.

"If and when the market picks up, we will start again," Malcom said.

Ione Lions Slate Broom Sale Soon

Ione Lions club will hold its annual broom sale on Wednesday and Thursday, October 12 and 13, it is announced by Ted Palmateer of the club.

Men of the club plan to go from door to door in the sale, expecting to cover Heppner Wednesday, October 12, and Lexington and Ione the following night.

They will have both regular brooms and whisk brooms for sale. The project is carried on cooperatively with Oregon Industries for the Blind, and proceeds are shared between the blind and the Lions. In the latter case the funds are used for civic projects.

Ballots Printed; Saturday Deadline For Registering

Ballots for the general election, to be on November 8, were printed by the Gazette-Times Saturday and were delivered to Mrs. Sadie Parrish, Morrow county clerk. Conspicuously missing from the ballot was the 1 1/2% property tax limitation measure, ruled off by the courts.

Sample ballots will be available to voters from now until election time at the clerk's office in the courthouse.

A final reminder is given that Saturday, October 8, is the final deadline for registering. For the convenience of late registrants, the clerk's office will be open Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. Any who are in doubt as to whether they are properly registered should check with Mrs. Parrish.

PTA Sets Dinner For High School Staff, Parents

Heppner High school parents will welcome this year's high school teaching staff with a potluck dinner on Wednesday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria, according to announcement by Mrs. Marshall Lovgren, high school PTA president.

Parents are asked to bring dishes on the following plan: senior parents, salads; junior parents, vegetable and potato dishes; sophomore parents, meats and hot dishes; freshmen parents, desserts.

Urgent PTA business will be the subject of a short PTA meeting at 8 p.m. after which Principal Dick Carpenter will introduce the teachers to the group, and there will be time for the guests to visit.

Those who cannot be there for the dinner will be most welcome for the later part of the evening.

PFC. MONAGLE HOME

Pfc. Larry Monagle is home on two-weeks furlough from his army training at Ft. Sill, Okla., and will be visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Monagle. He will leave to return to his base on October 15, where he is training with the 73rd Light Maintenance Company.