



# Third School Budget Election Scheduled Monday

85th Year

Number 18

## Levy Pared \$50,000 After Defeat

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, June 27, 1968

10 Cents

## Movie, Fireworks Planned at Ione Wednesday, July 3

Something new has been added to the Fourth of July observance at Ione this year.

In addition to the annual fireworks display, a full-length motion picture will be shown for family entertainment prior to the fireworks, Herb Ekstrom, Jr., president of the Ione Lions club announces.

The fireworks display, sponsored by the Ione post, American Legion, will start at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, at the Ione Memorial field. The Legionnaires again have a "bang-up" display planned. There is no admission charge, as such, but freewill donations will be taken to help defray cost of the fireworks.

The movie will be provided to add extra enjoyment for the families attending the fireworks, and it will be shown under sponsorship of the Ione Lions in the American Legion hall. The movie will roll promptly at 8 p.m., the sponsors state. Name of the film was not available by press time, but the sponsors will have a good full-length feature and were seeking a top-notch comedy aimed particularly at delighting the children. The name of the picture will be announced by poster and other means sometime next week.

Admission to the motion picture will be \$1 for adults, 50¢ for children 12 and under, and no charge for pre-school children.

The movie will be out in plenty of time for the viewers to get out and see all the fireworks.

The Lions plan to sponsor movies periodically through the summer and winter for the entertainment of the public if a good response is shown to this initial endeavor.

## Holiday Next Week; Paper Due Early

Since the Fourth of July falls on Thursday this year—next Thursday, in fact—The Gazette-Times will be placed in Heppner post office boxes late in the afternoon of Wednesday, July 3.

Like virtually all places of business here, the paper office will be closed on Independence Day.

In view of the short week, all those with advertising or news matter can help the staff for the holiday week by getting their material in early.

While there are no observances set for the Fourth in Heppner, the neighboring cities of Ione and Condon have celebrations that will attract many people. The Ione fireworks display, preceded by a full-length motion picture at the Legion hall, will be Wednesday evening; and Condon offers its great all-day celebration on July 4.

## Condon Slates Big Celebration, 'Fabulous Fourth'

Condon is ready for its "Fabulous Fourth" celebration, and Darrell Blake, president of the Condon Commercial Club, and Bill Platt, also of the organization, were in Heppner June 17 to tell about it.

They appeared at the meeting of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce, pressed their request for Heppner's organization to enter a float in the parade, and told of events planned for the Fourth of July celebration.

Blake outlined events for Independence Day as follows: Buckaroo breakfast, 6:30 a.m. until 10 a.m.; welcome (commercial club and mayor) at the city park, 9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m.; parade, Main street, 10:30 until 11:30 a.m.; porcupine race, 12 to 12:30 p.m.; rodeo and horse show, 1 to 3 p.m. at the fairgrounds; hole-in-one contest at the city golf course, 2 p.m. until finish; kids' games, city park, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; softball game, Commercial club vs. Air Force, grade school field, 3 to 4:30 p.m.; swimming, tennis, horseshoes at the city park, all afternoon.

Preliminaries in an old time fiddlers contest will be at the high school gym, 2 to 4:30 p.m.; barbecue at the city park, 5 to 7 p.m.; finals in the fiddlers' contest, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; fireworks display, football field, 9:30 to 11:30; and Dance with music by the Western Gentlemen at the fairgrounds, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

An antique sale and flea market will be at Memorial hall Friday and Saturday, July 5 and 6.

Blake pointed out that the porcupine race is sanctioned by Fossil, world's capital of porcupine racing and that the Commercial club is entering its prize racer, "Dirty Ernie." Other entries are invited.

## Salary Increases In City Budget

Motion to give seven full-time Heppner city employees a 7% wage increase in lieu of placing them on a proposed retirement plan was approved at the hearing on the 1968-69 city budget at the city hall Monday night.

The seven who will be given the raises are the same ones who would have been eligible on the retirement plan. It was decided to give the wage increase rather than adopt the retirement plan because of the fact that increased deductions are cutting into employees' pay. Among the increases are those in Federal withholding, Social Security, and the health insurance plan.

The increase does not affect the tax levy because it was provided for in the budget as either an adoption of the retirement plan or the increase.

There were no other changes in the city budget from the published document. No one appeared at the hearing to speak for or against the budget, and it was adopted with only the one change.

## Rodeo Committee To Meet Wednesday

Meeting of the Morrow county Rodeo committee will be Wednesday, July 3, at 8 p.m. in the conference room of the Heppner branch, First National Bank. Meeting place has been changed from the fairgrounds. With the rodeo set for August 24 and 25, the committee is entering the final planning stages for the event. Anyone with matters to present or in any way interested in attending is invited to the meeting.

## Mountain Zoning Need Discussed

Need for establishing some form of building codes and zoning for recreational centers under development or in the planning stages was discussed briefly at the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday.

Orville Cutsforth said that he felt it is one of the most pressing needs facing the county today, pointing out that mountain home sites along fronts of proposed lakes and in other areas should have codes that control building, sanitation, drainage and other matters.

He called for the Chamber to back up the county court in adopting building codes for such areas through "spot zoning."

However, others felt there were legal technicalities that might not permit such "spot zoning."

County Judge Paul Jones said that it is something that the county is going to have to consider very carefully and said it must be considered by the Morrow county planning commission.

"It's something that is starting us all in the face right now," he said.

President Wes Sherman turned the matter over to the countywide development committee of the Chamber of Commerce for consideration and recommendation.

Cutsforth said that in his proposed Penland Prairie development, which offers private lots for sale as well as providing a public recreation area, provisions will be stipulated in the deeds regarding mason foundations on buildings, sanitary requirements and other items.

## Lexington Grounds On Meeting Agenda

Members of the Lexington City Council have been invited to the July 15 meeting of the Morrow County school board at the district office in Lexington to discuss the matter of the Lexington school playground, Supt. Ron Daniels of the school district announces.

The superintendent said that because of some misleading reports regarding the school board's action at its June meeting, the district's position should be clarified.

"Action taken by the board was simply to leave the matter as it now stands until an agreement can be reached with the City of Lexington," he said.

It is hoped that a satisfactory agreement can be reached at the July 15 meeting. The city is interested in taking the playground for development for park purposes and has asked the district to convey it to city ownership. The directors have been reluctant to deed the property to the city without a stipulation that it could revert to the district in case it is later needed for school purposes.



MORROW COUNTY had a good-sized delegation to the recent 4-H Summer School at Corvallis with 27 attending. All but two are pictured above. They are (front row, from left)—Peter McElligott, Craig Munkers, Cindy Harsin, Kristin Nelson, Christine McCabe, Kelli Snyder, Nancy Doherty, Carley Bergstrom and Debbie Warren. Second row—Rick Partlow, Leonard Munkers (bus driver), Herb Ekstrom III, John Hall, Karla Weatherford.

Becky Doherty, Sherri O'Brien, Mary McElligott, Dee Ann Pettyjohn, Darlene Warren, Patti Healy, Tracie Harsene, Kristine Peterson and Gail McCarty, county extension agent. Back row, Mike Partlow, a counsellor at the school, Dave Hall, Chuck Nelson, Ron Baker, Keith Nelson and Leon Wilson. Not present for the picture were Kathleen Ayres and Shauna Bergstrom.

## Harvest Ahead

Warm weather is bringing harvest time on fast with another new high for the season set Tuesday with 95 degrees recorded, Don Gilliam, weather observer, reports. Minimums never dropped below 50 during the week. Complete report is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	85	56	—
Thursday	80	51	—
Friday	85	50	—
Saturday	75	57	.02
Sunday	81	50	—
Monday	87	51	—
Tuesday	95	55	—

## Members Find Variety At 4-H Summer School

Twenty-seven Morrow county 4-H members and their chaperones attended the 53rd annual 4-H Summer School at Oregon State University. There, they joined some 1900 other 4-H members from all over Oregon. While on campus, the 4-Hers attended classes participated in social events, competed in sports, listened to top-flight entertainers, and were exposed to a college atmosphere.

In classes, 26 different subjects were offered in all, with nine of these being offered for the first time. These covered a variety of subjects as diverse as karate, art appreciation, financial planning for education, recreation and song leadership, careers, leathercraft modeling, microbiology, and electricity, among others. This is a far cry from the days when agriculture and home economics were the sole curriculum.

Each delegate is provided with a \$25.00 scholarship for summer school itself, but pays his own transportation cost and other expenses.

This year's delegation and their sponsors include:

Kathleen Ayres—Mahoney & Abrams, Heppner; Ronald Baker—Boardman Tillicum Club; Shauna Bergstrom—Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Branch; Carley Bergstrom—Ione PTA; Becky Doherty—Lexington Grange; Nancy Doherty—Sorop-tist Club of Heppner; Herbie Ekstrom—Boardman Soil & Water Conservation District; John Hall—Rhea Creek Grange; Cynthia Harsin—Central Market; Patti Healy—Umatilla Electric Co-op; Christine McCabe—Willows Grange; Peter McElligott—Gar Aviation, Lexington; Mary M. McElligott—Jordan Elevator & Paul Pettyjohn, Ione.

Craig Munkers—Padberg Ma-

## County Budget Hearing Friday

Hearing on the Morrow county budget for 1968-69 will be Friday, June 28, in the county judge's office at the courthouse. The budget, which was printed in the last two issues of The Gazette-Times, will require a total tax levy of \$346,137 of which \$203,137 is within the 6% limitation and \$143,000 is not subject to the limitation.

The \$143,000 is the amount of the road serial levy which was approved by voters in a special election late last year. Any person may appear at the hearing to discuss the budget or any part of it.

## Public Is Invited To Help Becky's Fund

Residents in this area who wish to assist the Becky Howard Heart Fund of Hermiston are invited to do so through the efforts of Mrs. Frank Hamlin and the Morrow County Jaycees. Big Beef tickets may be purchased for \$1 from Mrs. Hamlin or any Morrow County Jaycee for chances on a quarter of a beef, the drawing to be held Saturday night at the Fair Pavilion in Hermiston. You need not be present to win.

Mrs. Hamlin has been a personal friend of the family and in deep sympathy with the efforts of Mrs. Hamlin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Howland, to have the needed heart transplant surgery, as soon as it becomes available. Much effort is being made to raise the necessary money through individual and organization donations to save the life of seven-year-old Becky. Heart specialists have advised that if a growth in the heart should increase as expected, it would be fatal.

## EDITORIAL

### Let's Get the Job Done

Morrow county's school budget comes up for vote for the third time Monday, and it is to be hoped that it will receive a good winning margin on this try.

Actually, the budget was defeated only once—that on June 3—but the May 6 election, which gave it a 3-vote yes margin, was nullified when five votes were questioned as being irregular.

Time is now running out, since certification deadline for the levy is July 15. This is not mentioned as a threat but a fact. It could be possible that—if the majority is still dissatisfied—an extension of time would be granted from the departments which have the power to do so.

The school system cannot operate without the public approving some kind of budget. Its only alternative would be to try to conduct schools within the 6% limitation. In the 1968-69 budget the amount within the limitation amounts to \$292,000. As Supt. Daniels points out, this would pay for instruction only for about three months.

Since the defeat June 3, the budget committee has held two hearings, called for suggestions, heard all those with comments, and has made some \$47,000 in cuts in various areas.

In short, it seems that the committee has sought to attack the problem in line with the wishes of the majority.

In so doing, they may have lost some affirmative votes from those who favored the budget as it stood and are consequently provoked by some of the cuts.

It is quite obvious, however, that the directors and budget committee have attempted to conform to the wishes of the people. The \$50,000 cut is a major one and brings the budget down "to the bone." It could not go much farther without getting into such services as transportation, the school lunch program and similar areas that would really hurt school students and patrons.

It is time to get the job done and pass the budget. The delay is costly. It takes the time of staff which should be devoting attention to other matters. Each election costs money. The delay also is demoralizing to personnel working in the district.

Signs appear considerably more optimistic now with a good response reported by the Committee to Maintain Better Education in making rounds of the public in the hope of promoting understanding on the budget.

This paper fully supports the committee's efforts and joins in the appeal for a resounding Yes vote on Monday.

Third special election this year on the 1968-69 Morrow county school budget is scheduled for Monday, July 1, with the polls to be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. in six polling places throughout the county.

With reductions having been made in a number of areas following defeat of the budget in the June 3 election, the proposed tax levy is now \$50,056 less than that on which voters balloted at the two earlier elections.

After the budget election was invalidated on May 6, when it registered a three-vote affirmative margin but five voters were in question, it was presented without change on June 3. On the second try, it was defeated by a margin of 114 votes.

A major reduction has been made in the instruction section of the budget with two more teaching positions eliminated following two hearings after the June 6 defeat. Thus, in all, six teaching positions have been eliminated throughout the district this year.

As a result of the reductions made after the second election, the proposed increase in the 1968-69 budget has been cut approximately in half, according to Supt. Ron Daniels. The proposed increase over the 1967-68 budget as it now stands represents about an increase of 4% and parallels the 4% increase in the cost of living index, he said.

Some areas of the budget, over which the district and budget committee has no control—such as fixed charges (social security and retirement) are increased over the present year. Other areas of the budget, such as transportation, health services and capital outlay, are below the 1967-68 budget.

One thing that has tended to increase the proposed tax levy required is the fact that receipts from sources other than property tax have declined. A decline in basic school support revenue from the state is a major area contributing to the total decline of \$52,388.

Should the budget fall again to be passed, the district would face a critical problem in having its needs certified for the tax roll for the coming fiscal year. Law requires that the districts' needs be in the hands of the county assessor by July 15. This would mean that there would not be time for another election, and a defeat would threaten the district with operating within the 6% limitation, which totals some \$292,000, only about 21% of its total general fund requirements of \$1,268,000.

"The amount within the 6% limitation would pay costs of instruction for about three months," Daniels said.

If the budget should be defeated, the district would seek to apply to the State Department of Education and the county assessor for an extension of time for certification.

Polling places for the election are: Rhea Creek Grange Hall, Ruggs; Heppner Elementary School; Lexington School; Ione High School; the A. C. Houghton school, Irigon; and Boardman City Hall.

Within the past week an organization, Committee to Maintain Better Education in Morrow County, was formed to provide information to the public on the budget and the need for its passage at the forthcoming election.

Chosen as co-chairmen were Elden Padberg, Lexington; Don Peterson, Ione; Harry O'Donnell and W. C. Rosewall, both of Heppner. The committee solicited various areas to obtain support for the budget and to raise funds for sending out a letter to registered voters as well as supplying an advertisement in this paper (page 5).

## Chamber Supports School Budget

Members of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce Monday voted support of the 1968-69 budget for the county school district with the third election on the budget set for Monday, July 1.

Don McElligott, chairman of the school board, read a letter being sent to county voters explaining changes in the budget, need for its passage and urging support. The letter is authorized by the Committee to Maintain Better Education in Morrow County.

After McElligott's presentation, a motion was made by Herman Winter that the chamber support the school budget and endorse the position of the committee. The motion was approved unanimously by the some 30 members present, and a sum of \$25 was voted to help defray expenses of sending the letter and promoting passage.