

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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A Plea on the School Budget

Morrow county's school budget is published in this week's paper and it will be published again in next week's paper. This is done not only in compliance with the law but to give taxpayers and patrons a chance to review the expenditures and receipts for the coming year.

At this stage of proceedings the budget is not firmly established nor approved. This is the time when concerned citizens should conscientiously review it and scrutinize it. This is the time that the questions should be asked, suggestions should be offered, and criticisms should be made.

Public hearing on the budget will be March 17. At that time, if taxpayers and citizens have done a little studying of the budget, they can express their feelings, particularly if they feel something should be cut or some particular expenditure explained.

There will be many who may look at the budget and declare that they don't understand it. There are very few people, even some who think they are experts, who will understand it 100 percent without explanation.

Supt. Ron Daniels, any member of the school board or budget committee, or any of the school administrators will be happy to hear your questions and discuss them to give a better understanding.

The point is: Now is the time to do it—now is the time to ask questions.

The budget is published so that you—the taxpayer and school patron—may know. You have every right to be heard on your objections and criticisms.

The great mistake made year after year is that few actually review the budget. Very few ever attend a public hearing on the budget. But one hears all sorts of objections on the street, and when it comes time to vote, the budget has a tough time passing or may not pass on the first try.

This isn't a logical approach; it isn't a sensible approach; it isn't an economical approach; nor is it a fair approach for those who have worked so long and hard to prepare it.

One who is really interested in economy, by any reasonable standard, should form his views now and bring them out at the hearing March 17, or see that someone else does it for him. Tell a budget committee member and he'll work on it for you at the hearing.

By attempting to get the budget as palatable as possible for everyone by the time the public hearing is over, it stands a better chance of approval on the first try. Every succeeding election costs more money and takes more taxes.

Supt. Daniels will appear or have other qualified persons appear for him at meetings of organizations to discuss the budget and answer questions.

Let's be different this year. Let's get at the job now and get the things ironed out that may be subject to scrutiny. Let's make any necessary changes at the public hearing so that when it comes time to vote, the school budget will find approval with most people as being the best we can do in supporting a good school system.

By procrastinating we only compound our problems and add to our costs when we should make every dollar count.

Put your questions, comments or criticisms to any of these: Ron Daniels, school superintendent (Ph. 989-8123—district school office); Don McElligott, lone, chairman school board; Maxwell Jones, Irrigon; Irvin Rauch, Lexington; Beverly Gunderson, Heppner; Dr. Wallace Wolff, Heppner; Jerry Peck, Boardman; Jack Sumner, Heppner, all members of the school board; C. E. McQuarrie, Albert Wright, and Frank Anderson, all of Heppner; Elden Padberg, Lexington; Wanda Witherspoon, Irrigon; Bob Sicard, Boardman; or Bob Rietmann, lone, all lay members of the budget committees; or Dick Carpenter, Heppner High principal; Al Martin, Heppner Elementary principal; Harold Beggs, lone principal; Michael Tolar, A. C. Houghton principal; or Dan Dalto, Riverside Junior-Senior high principal.

Morrow county folks show far better than average interest on such matters, as evidenced by their leading the state in the percentage voting in the general election. Let's continue to lead the way by taking a logical and fair approach on this school budget so that we get the job done and it doesn't drag out all summer.

We Can Do as They Did

When Robert Gaynor and Del Putman of the Small Business Administration spoke to the Chamber of Commerce Monday, they gave some thoughts that could serve as clues for hastening development of commerce and industry in Heppner and Morrow county.

The two men spoke on behalf of community development programs, which the SBA is prepared to assist through financing. In a community such as Heppner, the federal agency will loan a development corporation up to 90% of the amount needed to start a business or industry, or to help expand existing ventures that are approved.

They cited examples of what is being done in other communities. While many of us are trying to dream up ideas that may bring a little stronger economic base here, the thought comes that we can do as some Oregon communities have done.

For example: Putman told of one town in Oregon where nothing was going. A group of businessmen decided to form a development corporation to try to bring business, and so they formed the corporation. They met every week or so, sat around and drank coffee, but didn't come up with any ideas.

After a number of months, one of the members suggested that they get down to cases, go to work on one of the ideas that had been banded around, and they did. They landed a packing plant, and at last count they had brought in four new industries to bolster their community.

Probably McMinnville—another example—has one of the most shining records in the state. Its development corporation, formed a good many years ago, almost literally saved the city from economic ruin, bringing it now to the point of being one of the state's most prosperous and progressive cities. The SBA men said that on one recent day the corporation in McMinnville dedicated not one, but nine new industries all in one day.

As an organization subsidiary to the Chamber of Commerce, Heppner already has organized the nucleus of a development corporation. It was most active when the Boeing deal was first completed in 1961, but it has been in slumberland since.

This group might well be rejuvenated and get together for regular meetings, drink coffee and bat around some ideas.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHEN THE SNOW was deep on the ground, you will recall, Weatherman Don Gilliam said he hoped that it would quit because everyone was giving him dirty looks.

But he has gone past that. "I'm giving myself dirty looks now," he said when he brought in his report Tuesday night.

If it keeps up — Don may soon be in the category of the fellow who talks to himself, and then starts talking back.

ALICE AND GRACE are sort of broken up at Milladies Apparel. The other day the delivery man rushed in via the front door. It flew back, struck a display table and shattered the heavy plate glass. They covered the door with plywood.

Not long afterwards a little boy was in the store and somehow tangled with their full-length plate glass mirror, toppling it and shattering the glass. They haven't yet quite figured how many years of bad luck this adds up to.

AND JERRY SWEENEY came back from the state capital with his eyes glazed Tuesday. He appeared before a legislative committee hearing Monday and found that it was something more than visiting with a neighbor over the backyard fence. When he made a statement, he said, the committee members really pinched him.

He pursued the point. Probably felt more as if he were on the witness stand taking cross-examination in court than trying to present facts at a hearing.

FATHER RAYMOND BEARD had a piece in his Sunday church paper at St. Pat's that two persons have submitted to us. It really strikes home. Father Beard gives credit to an editorial in The Atchison Globe for it.

TEN WAYS TO RUIN YOUR TOWN

1. Attend no meeting of any kind. Criticize the way "they" are doing things.

2. Remind others at all times of the cold winters and hot summers—and the ruggedness required for those who live here.

3. Complain about the police department, the fire department, Chamber of Commerce, and all other governmental and civic groups.

4. Keep convincing yourself that your attendance at school programs, service clubs, concerts, ball games, exhibits, and benefit programs is not important—you'll never be missed.

5. Knock your city council or county commissioners—and be sure you never attend while they are in session.

6. Stay away from church. You might attend on Easter or during the Christmas season just to reassure yourself that all who attend are hypocrites.

7. Purchase most of your requirements through "discount" catalogs. These firms are the first to come forth with donations and service to the community.

8. Remind others that your local newspaper is no good — it misses more local news than the out-of-town papers get by accident.

9. Remember that all the kids are delinquents. All the businessmen are crooks. And that complimentary remarks about the town are the order of the day.

10. Above all, always be skeptical, cynical, and negative about anything that is designed for the community's progress and betterment. Your motto should be: "If it's good, it can't happen here."

To which we vent a strong Methodist "Amen!"

WE QUOTE from "The Sideline"

Yes, there are some good ideas for development right here in Heppner.

Who knows, maybe in a few months someone will get tired of drinking coffee and say, "Let's get the job done!"

We can look at some other Oregon towns and do as they did.

The Rhyming Philosopher

SUFFICIENCY

SIMPLY RIDICULOUS, WITH INCOME SO LOW,
JUST BARELY ENOUGH FOR THE TAXES AND BREAD,
WE'RE STILL BUYING WALNUTS AND OATMEAL TO FEED
THE SQUIRRELS AND CHIPMUNKS; AND PACKETS OF
SEED

FOR LINNETS AND SPARROWS, SO IT CAN BE SAID
WE'RE CRAZY? YET HUNGER IS SOMETHING WE KNOW.
THE CHICKADEES MUST HAVE THEIR WALNUTS
AND FLASH IN AND OUT OF THEIR OWN FEEDING BOX,
BUT EVERY SO OFTEN SOME BIRD HAS THE GUTS
TO TRY TO MAKE OFF WITH THE SQUIRRELS' WHOLE
NUTS;

LIKE HUMANS AT TIMES IN THAT STRANGE PARADOX
OF QUITTING GOOD SENSE FOR THE SHEER ASININE,
OUR BUSHY-TAILED SQUIRRELS COME DOWN FROM THE
TREES

TO PEER THROUGH THE PANE IF BY CHANCE WE FORGET
TO FURNISH THEIR QUOTA OF LUXURY FARE
LIKE CHILDREN EXPECTING WITH CONFIDENT STARE
THEIR PROMISED ALLOWANCE; REMINDER OF DEBT
WE OWE FOR THE PLEASURE OF FRIENDS SUCH AS
THESE

OUR PROGENY LEFT US FOR FAR FOREIGN SCENES,
BUT ALL THE WILD CREATURES STAY HOME, THANK
THE LORD.

WHILE DOGS AND THE CATS HELP INHABIT THE PLACE,
WHAT MORE CAN ONE ASK? WE ENJOY BREATHING
SPACE

WHICH NEVER A MILLIONAIRE COULD MORE AFFORD
OR PURCHASE MORE PEACE THAN OUR LIMITED MEANS.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

er," sports column of the Blue Mountain Eagle, John Day, of February 20:

"Heppner, taking a double dose of sick pills, fell out of the top rankings in the Journal poll but for some strange reason still rated by the Oregonian. Sherman, the team that doesn't want to play Grant Union, surprised everyone by knocking off Heppner."

We rather think that we may be of some assistance to The Sideline about district tournament time when the Mustangs play at La Grande. Our journalistic friend might possibly have a better understanding of why Heppner has been rated.

IT COULD be that Pilot Rock might have some thoughts on the subject. If a team ever deserves to feel the severe pangs of frustration, the Rockets do—and have! In both ball games with Heppner this year, the Rockets came on like fire and brimstone. They looked great, and they played as well as they looked. They rolled up substantial leads over the Mustangs in both games, only to get bumped in the waning seconds.

We'll confess that the Mustangs almost made us feel guilty, as if they had deliberately stolen the games from the Rockets. But it was a case of coming through with the goods when the chips were down.

I don't think I ever saw a team as distraught in losing as the Rockets were Friday night, but any team would feel that same way under the circumstances.

After losing the one at Heppner, the Rockets probably figured that they were really going to top the Mustangs at Pilot Rock, and it surely looked as if they would—holding a 10-point lead late in the third quarter.

But when the buzzer sounded and Heppner was on top by one point after trailing since early in the game, the Rockets couldn't believe it.

One of the boys jerked off his glasses, threw them half the length of the court and into the wall, ker-smash! Then he ran down the floor, and kicked the glasses into the wall again.

If I were his dad, I don't know whether I would figure he was justified in smashing \$40 or \$50 worth of glasses or not.

Pilot Rock has always displayed good sportsmanship and intense rivalry at the same time. It is enjoyable to visit their school and see the spirit they show. We certainly know how they feel after losing that one.

Heppner has had a taste or two of this, too. Rocket brothers! It seems that Sherman County upset them and Wahonka edged them by one point — and they had to take their lumps!

LOOKING BACK on that dandy ball game, one has to concede that every basket Heppner made was the winning one. If any one basket hadn't been made, the game—as it turned out—would have been lost.

Take that steal that John McCabe made. It was one of the most beautifully executed steals I have ever seen in basketball. It should have been recorded on movie film. John came from behind his fast dribbling opponent, timed his movements perfectly, slipped his hand on the bouncing ball and was on his way down court with it while the Rocket was still trying to bounce a ball that wasn't there. John laid it in for two points. That steal could have been the difference in the game.

Or at the end of the third period with perhaps three seconds left, Heppner had the ball deep in back court. McCabe got it in bounds and threw it the length of the court. It came close to the basket but bounded down

School Bells



By RON DANIELS
Superintendent,
Morrow County Schools

Sales Tax Package

The 3 per cent sales tax package has now been passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the governor. The bill provides for a special election on June 3, 1969 to determine the fate of the sales tax in Oregon.

The final version of sales tax package is quite different from the package worked out by the House. The House version provided for a 3 per cent sales tax with the proceeds to be distributed as property tax relief through the basic school support formula. No exemptions were provided for food and drugs but a credit on income taxes was included in place of food and drug exemption. The program would also have included a new up-to-date tax base for every school district with an allowable 5 per cent increase in the

base each year as well as an increase for growth in the number of students. School elections would have been restricted to two elections per year and a new basic school support formula was a part of the total tax package.

This bill was not acceptable to many groups and especially the Portland area as they felt the property tax relief should be general and not tied to the basic school support formula.

The Senate made numerous changes in the final sales tax package and the House Conference Committee accepted the changes.

The final sales tax bill contains the following provisions:

1. The rate of the sales tax will be established at 3 per cent and will exempt food and drugs. The rate of the sales tax cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

2. Receipts from the tax bill will be used exclusively for property tax relief and will be distributed through the Property Tax Relief Account, not the Basic School Support Fund. Relief will be approximately \$6.21 per \$1,000 valuation and will be uniformly applied throughout the entire state.

3. Individuals with income below \$3,500 may receive a return on his income tax based on an established schedule. A formula is also established to provide relief to low income renters.

4. If a person is 65 years of age, owns a home worth \$20,000 or less, and has been a resident in said home for a minimum of one year, then his property tax will be frozen at its present level.

5. Under the program a new tax base would be established for all school districts. The base would be the 1969-70 operating levy plus the basic school support plus the County School fund. This base could then be increased each year by 5 per cent.

6. School districts could exceed the tax base by holding elections in March and May, if necessary. The number of elections to exceed the tax base is restricted to these two election dates.

7. The proposal increases the rate of corporate excise tax upon banks and financial institutions from 8 per cent to 9 per cent, and on other taxable cor-

porations from 6 per cent to 7 per cent.

Without advocating passage or defeat of the sales tax package I can say that the Senate position of distributing the funds through the Property Tax Relief Account instead of the Basic School Support Formula is certainly an improvement for Morrow county.

If the funds were distributed through basic school support Morrow county would have received approximately \$220,000 in Property Tax Relief. Distributing the funds as General Property Tax Relief without taking into account the present level of Property Taxes or True Cash Value means that Morrow county would receive approximately \$608,000 in Property Tax Relief.

If the people defeat the sales tax package on June 3, it is quite probable that the legislature will appropriate additional money to the Basic School Support Formula from existing revenues. This would be accomplished by reducing appropriations to other taxing agencies.

Two bills have already been introduced, one in the Senate and one in the House that would provide 70 to 75 million dollars to schools, over a two year period.

MEETING CALENDAR

Monday, March 3—

South Morrow Ministerial Association, 1 p.m.
City Council, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Ruth Assembly No. 50, Order of Rainbow for Girls, Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.
American Legion and Auxiliary, Post No. 87, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 4—

Evening Group, Home Extension, 7:30 p.m.
Catholic Altar Society, 8 p.m.
Wranglers, Potluck dinner and business meeting, Fair Dormitory, 6:30 p.m.
Golden Age Club, Potluck dinner, Episcopal Parish hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5—

Rhea Creek Extension Unit, 10:30 a.m., Rhea Creek Grange Hall
County Court, 10 a.m.
Willow Lodge, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.
Jaycees, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 6—

Soroptimist, Business meeting, 12 noon, Wagon Wheel Cafe
Holly Rebekah Lodge, Lexington, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 7—

Sans Souci Rebekah Lodge No. 33, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.

YOU COULD see it on the face of Jon O'Donnell in that last quarter when he scored an amazing 16 points. That young man was determined he wasn't going home on the losing side. He wouldn't quit. Somehow he found the reserve within himself to do better than he ever thought he could by his sheer determination. Jon, incidentally, made 12 of 19 field goal tries against Pilot Rock.

But that was a team victory. Larry Pettyjohn probably was a big factor in the victory by his agile full court pressing tactics. Cal Ashbeck didn't make as many points as usual, but any two of the four points he did make can be construed as the winning ones — and he was a demon on the boards. The same goes for Gary Kemp and the rest of the boys who played.

WE DON'T care how they rate in the Oregonian, nor the AP, nor the Journal, but when they perform like they did at Pilot Rock they rate No. 1 with us!

INCIDENTALLY, the Sherman County Journal reports in the writeup on upsetting the Mustangs: "Heppner hit 331 of 48 foul shots for 65 per cent." We hope they can continue to do that well Saturday night when the teams play again!

You'd have thought that after Heppner had scored 300 points, Sherman would have tossed in the towel! But we don't mean to be facetious. This is just one of those types that beset all newspapers.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

HEPPNER BASKETBALL

Saturday, March 1, Sherman, here, last league game
March 7-8, District Tournament, La Grande
Support the Mustangs!

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.
Episcopal Parish hall
Potluck dinner and entertainment

WRANGLER MEETING

Tuesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.
Potluck dinner, fairgrounds
Important business meeting

PUBLIC CARD PARTY

Sponsored by Holly Rebekah Lodge
Saturday, March 8, 8 p.m.
Lexington IOOF Hall
Bridge, pinocle, prizes and refreshments

SUPPER AND CARD PARTY

Saturday, March 8, Rhea Creek Grange Hall
Pancake supper, 6-7:30 p.m., cards following
Benefit for March of Dimes, Heart Fund, Cancer Society
Everyone welcome

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Heppner

FOR A LIMITED TIME

SAVE ON 4 8 12

PLACE SETTINGS OF WALLACE STERLING

For the first time in years—and for a limited time—until March 30, you can save when you buy 4, 8 or 12 basic 4-piece settings* of Wallace Sterling Flatware.
*knife, fork, salad fork, teaspoon

SAVE When you purchase \$30 4 piece settings

SAVE When you purchase \$65 8 piece settings

SAVE When you purchase \$100 12 piece settings

Special Savings from January 1-March 30, 1969.

Offer also applies to: Dawn Mist, Evening Mist, Grand Colonial, Meadow Rose, Michele, Rose Point, Royal Rose, Royal Satin, Romance of the Sea, Sir Christopher, Spanish Lace, and Stradivari. Ask about savings on Serving Piece Ensembles too!

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Store Hours: 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.
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