

Sales Tax Package Faces Voter Verdict Tuesday

(Sample ballot on page 2, Section 2).

Morrow county's registered voters, like those in the rest of the state, will go to the polls Tuesday, June 3, to cast ballots on the "sales tax package" referred to the people by the state legislature.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. and the polling places in the county will be as follows: Riverside High School, Boardman; the old school building, Irleton; Lone City Hall; Lewis City Hall; and the County Courthouse, Heppner.

For this special election, the four Heppner precincts and the Hardman-Ruggs precinct will all vote in the same place—the courthouse. Other voters throughout the county will cast ballots in their usual precincts. The one issue will be the only matter on the ballot.

Constitutional Amendment

In voting, the public will approve or reject House Joint Resolution 8, a constitutional amendment. It provides: 1. A new tax base for school districts to be established by combining four 1969-70 items—the districts' operating budget, the basic school allotment, the county school fund levy (I. E. D.), plus 5% of this total. This new school base could be increased only 5% a year without a vote of the people. No more than two elections for this purpose could be held in one year. 2. A 3% sales tax with proceeds dedicated to the Property Tax Relief Account.

If the constitutional amendment is approved by the voters, House Bills 1126, 1127 and 1055 will take effect automatically. These include: 1. A 3% sales tax exempting food; drugs; water; motor vehicles and aircraft fuel; animal life, feed, seeds, plants, fertilizer (limited to that portion which will become or used in the preparation of food for human consumption); food products; one-half the fuel and electricity for industrial, agricultural and agricultural irrigation purposes; meals in certain public places (schools and churches); motor vehicles sold to nonresidents; new vehicles purchased from out-of-state dealers (for out-of-state use); prescription medicine; caskets; and several other items.

It is estimated that such a tax will bring in \$71.9 million for the three-quarters of the 1969-70 fiscal year, and \$101.2 million for the full 1970-71 year.

1. A ceiling on property taxes of senior homeowners, beginning at age 65, provided the home has a market value of less than \$20,000.

3. A partial refund of property tax to low-income homeowners or renters. It would be paid in the form of an income tax rebate, to families with incomes of less than \$3,500 per year.

4. An increase in the Corporation Excise Tax—on financial institutions from 8% to 9%, and on other corporations from 6% to 7%.

Rate of the sales tax could not be increased without another constitutional amendment approved by the people. Money collected from the sales tax could be used for nothing except property tax relief.

Projections Given

It is estimated that in 1969-70 if the referendum fails to pass, the average property tax rate is projected to become \$25.50 per \$1,000 of true cash value. If the referendum passes, the tax rate is projected to be relieved an additional \$4.21 per \$1,000 true cash value.

Hence, the adjusted property tax rate would become \$21.29 per \$1,000 TCV. For the first year, then, if this referendum is approved, the average property tax relief would be about 16.50%.

In the year 1970-71 if the referendum fails to pass, the average property tax rate is projected to become \$26.70 per \$1,000 TCV. If the referendum passes, the tax rate is projected to be relieved by an additional \$5.58 per \$1,000 TCV. This would make the adjusted property tax rate \$21.12 per \$1,000 TCV. For the second year, then, if the referendum passes, the average

property tax relief would be 20.9% or greater.

Opponents of the sales tax argue, however, that for the average person the sales tax payments would exceed the property tax relief that he obtains from the tax.

Proponents say the measure is sound and vital to relieving the distressing property tax burden across the state. They say that increase of the corporation excise tax will help to equalize the property tax savings that the big concerns will obtain from the sales tax.

School Pros. Cons Listed

The Oregon School Boards Association sees both advantages and disadvantages in the "package."

It cites these advantages:

- 1. Up-to-date tax bases for each school district would add flexibility and stability to public school finance.
- 2. Local voters will have an opportunity to express their approval or disapproval of new programs at the polls without fear of totally destroying their school system.
- 3. Reducing property taxes would help schools by making voters more receptive to improvement.

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Picnic on Friday To Attract Many County Oldtimers

One of the most enjoyable occasions of the year for former residents, county oldtimers and even some of the newcomers—the annual Pioneer Memorial Picnic—will be held Friday at the fair pavilion, starting with registration at 10:30.

This will be the 16th annual event, and Carl Troedson of Lone is chairman. It was learned some time ago that it is futile to plan an impressive program because most of those who gather want to spend the time reminiscing and visiting. Therefore, Chairman Troedson has kept the formal program to a minimum.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. with Gerald Rood, commander of Heppner's American Legion post, in charge of the honor guard. Taps will be sounded by Gene Rietmann. The buffet lunch will be at noon with Sans Souci Rebekah lodge in charge of the kitchen. Invocation will be by Pastor Rudolph Mensch of Hope and Valby Lutheran churches. Rainbow Girls will serve.

During a 15-minute period, starting at 1:45, guests will be recognized and door prizes will be given for the oldest one attending and the one traveling the farthest distance.

Election of officers for next year will follow. Benediction is scheduled for 2:15 by Pastor Mensch.

The Golden Age club will conduct the registration. Mrs. Wallace Matthews is secretary for the picnic.

After the event, those attending are invited to join the crowds at the intercollegiate regional rodeo which will be at the adjoining rodeo grounds with the performance starting at 3 p.m.

School to Dismiss At 1 p.m. Thursday

Heppner Elementary school will be dismissed at 1 p.m. Thursday (today), the last day of school in the county, Alan Martin, principal, announces.

The elementary school decided to dismiss at the early hour because testing is concluded at the high school here at noon. Thus, buses will depart at 1 p.m. on their last trip of the year in taking the students home.

Judge Jones to Appeal For Willow Creek Project

County Judge Paul Jones will leave by airplane Friday morning from Pendleton to keep a scheduled appointment Monday in Washington, D. C., to plead for appropriation for the Willow Creek project here.

He will appear before a subcommittee on appropriations with the appointment arranged by Congressman Al Ullman. Judge Jones has compiled a six-page brochure to present to committee members to tell the need for the project. He will be allowed about five minutes to make his presentation.

College Regional Rodeo Starts Friday

Fifteen crack college rodeo teams from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana will be in Heppner this week-end to participate in the intercollegiate rodeo finals at the Morrow county rodeo grounds.

Sponsoring the three-day rodeo here is the Blue Mountain Community College Rodeo club, and the BMCC team, which has made a fine showing through the season, is counted upon to show some of the top performers.

The event will kickoff Friday, May 30, with the first show at 3 p.m. Others will follow on Saturday and Sunday with grand entries scheduled to start promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Teams will participate from these colleges: Western Montana State of Dillon, Mont.; Montana State University, Bozeman; Eastern Montana State, Billings; Northern Montana, Havre; University of Montana, Missoula; Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario; Everett Community College, Everett, Wash.; Eastern Washington College, Cheney, Wash.; Yakima Valley College, Yakima; Washington State University, Pullman; University of Idaho, Moscow; Lewis and Clark Normal, Lewiston, Idaho; Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla, Wash.; Eastern Oregon College, La Grande; and Blue Mountain of Pendleton.

Blue Mountain men's team, headed by such performers as Bill McCain, Mark Rosenberg and John Rhoden, won one of the intercollegiate rodeos earlier in the season and has ranked high in other meets through the year. They—together with other teams—will be working for the right to enter the National Finals in Deadwood, S. D.

College women will participate with their teams, too. Among the outstanding contenders is Patti Pettyjohn McCain, Bill's wife, who is from Lone. She is favored to be the national collegiate winner in barrel racing.

Six men compose the men's teams and three women are on each women's team.

Jim Bothum and Les Kamm are scheduled to be judges for the 3-day rodeo, and Bob Chambers will be announcer.

First show of the rodeo will start late (3 p.m.) in order to avoid conflict with the annual Pioneer Memorial picnic at the fairgrounds. Those attending are invited to round out their day by going to the rodeo.

Admission to each show is \$2 for adults, and two for the price of one (\$2) for those of ages 6-15. Pre-schoolers will be admitted free.

Cowboy breakfasts will be provided at the fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7 until 11 a.m. with the Morrow County CowBelles putting on the breakfast Saturday and the American Legion doing the job on Sunday.

Dances will be held Friday and Saturday nights at the fairgrounds, starting at 9:30 p.m. with the Western Gentlemen furnishing the music. Friday night and Sheldon and His Cowpokes Saturday night.

86th Year

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A Few More Drops

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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Price 10 Cents

Another .34 inch of rain came this week but May is still below normal, Don Gillam, official weather observer, reports. One day's temperature climbed to a very warm 90 degrees, however. That was on Friday. Complete report for the week is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	75	42	—
Thursday	82	48	—
Friday	90	55	—
Saturday	80	56	.02
Sunday	78	44	—
Monday	67	45	.01
Tuesday	67	41	.31



SECOND GRADERS in the class of Mrs. Lucile Peck (back to camera) proved to be an interested and alert audience when they toured The Gazette-Times plant Thursday. Mrs. Wes Sherman, co-publisher, (upper left) is explaining to them how news is gathered and processed for the paper. The youngsters have published a little paper of their own and were profuse in their "thank you" letters following the tour. (See Chaff and Chatter column, page 2). G-T Photo.

Heppner Seniors Receive Diplomas, Achieve Honors at Graduation Ceremony

Seated under the banner, "America's Destiny is Our Tomorrow"—their class motto—Heppner High School's seniors received their diplomas at combined baccalaureate-commencement Sunday afternoon.

Many of their number were awarded scholarships and other recognitions for academic achievement with presentations being made by Principal Dick Carpenter, in his last public appearance at the school, and by others in the community. Carpenter has accepted a new position at Central-Linn High school as principal.

The seniors heard addresses by the Rev. Melvin Dixon and by two of their number, Terry Peck, valedictorian, and Sara Miller, salutatorian.

"We live in a time when our know-how so far surpasses our know-why," the Rev. Dixon said. "We clamor for more knowl-

edge, and this is good, but it is not good only for itself."

New Resolve Needed

He told the seniors that there should be a new resolve among them for a "great infusion" of love, courage, faith, hope and wisdom.

"The challenge comes to everyone of us that we can be very much alive with meaning, purpose, and direction," he said.

Declaring that the older generation has given the younger generation "a pretty messed-up world," the minister told the seniors to find the good in it, take it and build upon it.

"We are the crowning act of God's creation. Let us not let Him down," he urged.

In her salutatory, Miss Miller said that graduation, a once-in-a-lifetime experience, receives much emphasis.

"But the actual ceremony is not important," she said. "We will be the same people after graduation."

She told her classmates, "Each one of us must now accept the responsibility for our own lives. But what do we want to do with ourselves? We must use what

we have learned in high school to make our futures a success."

The salutatorian said that she felt Socrates had the key to

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Farm Deferral Reduces Valuation \$11 Million

Morrow county's assessed valuation will be cut by \$11,023,170 as a result of farm land deferrals this year, Mrs. Joyce Ritch, special county assessor, said Monday.

Applications granted for the 1968-69 roll decreased the county valuation by \$3,717,360, but for the coming fiscal year the number of applications for farm deferrals increased. A total of 246 filed this year, as compared with 144 last year. Thus, the valuation loss for 1969-70 taxable year will be about \$7,000,000 more than 1968-69.

Total valuation for 1969-70 is figured by the assessor at \$90,290,685. On the 1968-69 roll it was \$97,313,855. Without the farm land deferrals the valuation would be \$111,313,855 for the ensuing year.

Loss of the valuation will be reflected on the 1969-70 tax roll.

and it will result in sharply higher levies to property taxpayers who are not benefited by the farm land deferral.

Mrs. Ritch was unable to say at this time what the increase in property taxes might approximate around the county. Budgets of many of the taxing agencies and districts have not yet been certified to her, and she has not yet received figures from the State Tax Commission on valuation of public utilities.

It is expected, however, that the utilities valuation will be about the same as for 1968-69.

Indications are that budgets of most taxing bodies will be increased. The county school district budget was increased by some \$42,000 over last year. Others, though they hold within the 6% limitation and consequently do not require a vote, may, nevertheless, increase to the 6% limit.

Combination of the decrease in valuation and increase in budgets bring of the prospect of considerably higher tax rates.

71 Pints Given At Blood Drawing

Seventy-one pints of blood were donated at the Red Cross blood bank visit here Tuesday. This was 19 pints less than the quota but a considerably better response than many of the previous prior drawings. Six or eight willing donors were rejected for physical reasons.

Jaycee wives assisted with the drawing and with recruiting of donors. Mrs. Gene (Faye) Pierce was in charge of arrangements as blood program chairman for the Morrow county chapter, Red Cross.

Columbia Basin Pays \$15,158.11 As Tax Donations

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, Inc., has made payments to three counties—Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam—totaling \$15,158.11 as tax donations for the 1968-69 year, Harley Young, manager, announces.

Morrow county received \$4,794.29; Gilliam \$5,419.71 and Wheeler, \$4,944.11.

This is addition to the payment of 2% of the gross revenue of the utility in lieu of ad valorem taxes, which is required by Oregon law.

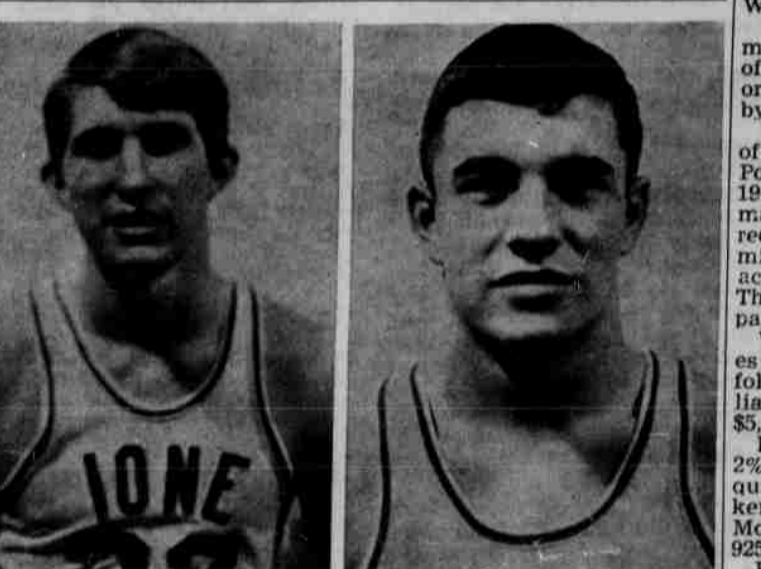
At the time of the exchange of utility properties with Pacific Power and Light Company in 1964, the cooperative agreed to make up any difference in tax receipts to the counties which might occur as a result of the acquisition by the cooperative.

The \$15,158.11 represents these payments for the current year.

With the donations, total taxes paid to the counties are as follows: Morrow, \$12,820.63; Gilliam, \$11,345.52; and Wheeler, \$5,656.96, totaling \$29,823.11.

Included in the total is the 2% of the gross revenue as required by Oregon statute. Broken down, this is as follows: Morrow, \$8,026.34; Gilliam, \$5,925.81; and Wheeler, \$712.85.

Franchise tax paid to the cities in the three counties is an additional \$6,675.30. This is distributed as follows: Heppner, \$2,850.44; Condon, \$2,139.90; Fossil, \$903.06; and Ione, \$784.90.



FRANK HALVORSEN EDIE SHERMAN

Ione's 2-Man Team Ties For 3rd in State B Meet

Ione High school had only two entrants in the Class B high school track meet at Pleasant Hill Friday and Saturday, but the "two-man gang" was powerful enough to bring back a third place trophy for the Cardinals.

Between them, Frank Halvorsen and Eddie Sherman, scored 38 points, enough to tie Ione with Wasco county for third place in the B championships.

Sherman won the 100-yard dash and the 220. Halvorsen won the high jump, placed fourth in the high hurdles and fourth in the low hurdles.

and Gilchrist was second with 54%. Thirty other schools placed in the meet. Scores of some nearby schools were: Umatilla 8, Arlington 8, McEwen (Athens) 6, Prairie City 4, and Condon 2.

Sherman ran the 100 in a time of 10.2 and the 220 in 23.0. Halvorsen cleared the bar at 6'2" in the high jump, an inch below his 6-3 of last year. He ran the high hurdles in time of 15.4 and the lows in 21.2.

Sherman also was the only man to win two first places in the meet. This brought 20 points for Ione and tied the fleet-footed star with Alan Mayhew of Wasco county for high point honors. Mayhew scored his 20 on a first in the discus at 137.4, fourth place in the shotput and long jump and fifth in the pole vault.

Lucore to Take Pendleton Post

Loren Lucore will assume duties as fire dispatcher for Umatilla National Forest Service, effective June 15, with headquarters in the supervisor's offices in Pendleton. He has been employed as fire control officer for the Heppner Ranger District for the past five years, and was notified of the new appointment last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucore and family plan to move to Pendleton as soon as they can complete housing arrangements and dispose of their home here. They have been active in community work during their years here and he has helped with many of the extra educational tours sponsored in the interest of conservation.