

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97636  
Phone 676-9228  
MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Los Alamitos, Calif.  
April 25, 1970

Editor, Heppner Gazette-Times  
Heppner, Oregon

Dear Sir:  
While reading our Gazette-Times this week my wife called my attention to the "want ad" in that paper. We were interested because only a few days before a story had appeared on the front page of a local daily about the prairie.

As you will note, the California State Agricultural Agents indicate that the rodent is illegal in California because of damage it can do to crops. I don't believe Oregon has a similar law.

However, if the rodent is the menace indicated by the actions of the California Agricultural Agents, perhaps the farmers of Oregon would be interested in such controls.

Sincerely,  
Edward L. Burchell  
11302 Duvenport Rd.  
Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720

EDITOR'S:  
F. W. Turner is still going strong with his typewriter and what not. But back when he was 22 years of age he was considered one of the fastest. If not

automatically use the full 6% each year, thus increasing the school taxes by 6% annually.

The only answer of course is that the voters must have more confidence in the fourteen elected and appointed officials who make up the budget committee. It is their responsibility to approve only those items that are necessary and will result in educational benefits to the district. A budget committee would make every effort to remain within the 6% limitation if it meant that no election would be necessary.

However, under present conditions where a vote is required annually it is just as easy to vote on an amount in excess of 6% as it is to stay within the 6% limitation.

As a matter of record the voters in Morrow County have approved budgets with an average increase of 6.5% in the tax levy since 1959.

Second, it is felt that by establishing a realistic tax base, the voters lose the right to express dissatisfaction with the schools or school programs, by casting a no vote at budget election time.

This argument is sound except that a no vote still does not indicate to the board or budget committee the specific budget item or school program that is creating the problem. Here again the voter must place confidence in the board and budget committee and indicate at board meetings and budget hearings the changes they would like to have implemented.

In summary the reasons advanced by both groups have a certain amount of logic and it is up to you, the voter, to determine which line of reasoning you find most acceptable.  
Ron Daniels

the fastest sheep shearer in the countryside, if not in the nation. But be that as it may he admits doing 10 sheep in 15 minutes in those happy days long gone now.

But retiring from the sheep shearing business where he later had his own crew he opened a real estate and insurance business on Main street in the Heppner Hotel, then moved across the street. He has done right well for himself and the town of Heppner in general and is always there to lend a helping hand to young and old alike. A kind heart no less. He is well liked and is included in all functions in the town.  
Josephine Mahoney Baker  
Portland, Oregon 97201

To the Editor:  
I wonder if the people here in Morrow County realize what is happening to us property tax wise?

These are facts pertaining to our situation here.

The average property tax throughout the nation is 11% of the taxpayer's net income. While ours here in Oregon is and has been for the last 10 years, the highest in the entire United States. 30.2% of the farmer's net income with the general rate included. And the home owner in the city is carrying almost double the national average.

Now this is an unbearable burden and cannot continue. Why if the home owner loses his job can the state step in and sell his home or if the farmer has a couple years of drought or low prices can he be sold out?

All taxes in the end must be paid out of income, so why don't we go direct to income to get the money?

The Oregon Farm Bureau is initiating a constitutional amendment to remove the operations of schools from the property taxes, which will in the end put the cost on income and since school taxes are from 60 to 70% of our property tax it will save the property tax payer.

O. W. Cutsforth

Dear Sir:  
The Blue Mountain Community College Rodeo Club would like to thank the Heppner Chamber of Commerce for inviting us to lunch May 3. We were delighted to meet with our friends from Heppner and discuss our forthcoming rodeo May 22, 23 and 24. All the help from the Heppner community, the Morrow County Fair Board and the Chamber is very much appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Ruby Fulleton  
Jan Reitz  
Dean Longgood  
Gene Ann Seeger



### Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

#### This May Be The Time

In this period of readjustment this may be the time to invest our money in our own paper. If we are facing a high interest debt, we might cut out some of the nonessentials, such as cigarettes a trip to Reno, or a night on the town, and apply the savings to reduce our obligations. Not everyone can do that, but if those who can do it will build up the money supply for those who need it more, this may be the time.

#### School Lunch Menus

Presented Through Courtesy of Heppner Branch



Heppner Elementary and High Schools

Monday, May 11 — Spaghetti, biscuits, green salad, Brownie sandwich, ice cream slice, milk.  
Tuesday, May 12 — Hot beef sandwich, green beans, rolls, milk, fresh fruit or Jell-O, cookies.

Wednesday, May 13 — Beans and franks, peas, rolls, celery and carrot sticks, fruit cobbler with topping, milk.  
Thursday, May 14 — Pizza, tossed green salad, mixed vegetables, pudding with topping, milk.

Friday, May 15 — Tuna and noodles, Jell-O, vegetable salad, rolls or bread, frosted cake, milk.

### PROPERTY TAX FAX

If you have a question concerning real or personal property please state all the facts as briefly as possible and mail it to Mrs. Joyce Ritch, Morrow County Special Assessor, Box 742, Heppner, Ore.

#### QUESTION:

I am a disabled veteran and received a reduced license fee under ORS 481.472. My license expires August 1, 1969, and my county assessor has placed my mobile home on the real property roll. How many dollars exemption would I be entitled to under the new Mobile Home Act?

#### ANSWER:

Section 55 (2) of the Act provides, in regard to a veteran's exemption: "(2) Any exemption of a mobile home under this section shall be reduced in any calendar year by a percentage equal to the number of months in such year during which the home was licensed under ORS chapter 481 and received a reduced license under ORS 481.472 divided by 12. \$7,500 - (\$7,500 x 1/12) equals \$3,125. You would be entitled to an exemption of \$3,125 on the value the assessor placed on your mobile home for the 1970-71 tax year.

### Civic League Has Successful Rummage Sale

Heppner Civic League reports \$675 taken in on the recent Spring Rummage and Bake Sale.

Proceeds will go to aid the Kindergarten and furnish scholarships.

Chairmen Carolyn Huston and Arletha Brannon express thanks to everyone that made this sale such a success.

Members report this year's sale to be the best one in many years. They hope to schedule next year's spring rummage sale on the same date as the Moonlight Sale as it accidentally was this year.



VIVIAN LOUISE ZINDLER

### Zindler-Messenger Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Zindler of Rapelji, Mont., announce the engagement of their daughter, Vivian Louise, to Carroll Lee Messenger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Truman Messenger of Lexington. Miss Zindler graduated from Cascade College in Portland, and is employed with an insurance firm in Portland. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and is also employed in Portland.

Friends and relatives are invited to their wedding at Evangelical Baptist Church, N. E. 29th and Flanders, in Portland. The wedding will be held on June 20.

### Visit in Connecticut

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Plocharsky, Carolyn, Janet, Steven and Paula have returned from a three week's vacation trip to Connecticut. At Bristol and Plymouth they visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Perkins and his mother, Mrs. Stanley Plocharsky.

It had been four years since they had been back. The biggest change they saw was new highways. They had snow and high winds as they drove back but they had marvelous weather returning.

### Ladies Nite Tonite At Elks Lodge

Roast pork is on the dinner menu this evening for Ladies Nite at the Heppner Lodge 238 BPOE. The dinner will be prepared and served by Mrs. Ralph Richards and her committee. The Lodge will hold a Mother's Day observance.

### Elks Honor Grade Students

Soroptimists will again chaperone the Elks-sponsored Grade School party on May 8. Music for dancing by Page 12 from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Students of Ione and Heppner in grades 6-7-8 are invited.

### HEPPNER KNITWITS

The Heppner Knitwits met May 4 at the home of leader, Mrs. Boner. We worked on projects: sweaters, slippers and hats. Refreshments were served by Joan Ployhar.  
Pat Saling, reporter



### COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

MAY 7-8-9  
Milton-Freewater Pea Festival

MAY 8  
Scholarship Dinner for Senior boys and men faculty members  
Masonic Hall

MAY 10  
MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 10  
Rainbow Installation

MAY 16  
Methodist Church Lawn Sale  
10:00 a.m. — Pie and coffee served.

MAY 8  
Degree of Honor Food Sale,  
10:00 a.m.  
Evans Lumber Yard. Pie and Coffee served.  
Benefit Linda Cooper travel fund.

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**C. A. RUGGLES**  
Insurance Agency  
P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9623  
If no answer call Ray Boyce, 676-5384  
Heppner

## Tax Base Meeting Set

On May 26 voters will be faced with decisions on many important issues, one of which will be how to vote on the proposed new tax base for the Morrow County School District.

This article is intended to provide some rationale, both in favor of, and opposed to, an up-to-date tax base. It would be very easy for me to recommend a blanket "yes" vote on this issue, but someone might accuse me of being biased. I will therefore present some basic reasoning advanced by both those who advocate realistic tax bases and those who oppose their approval.

The concept of an up-to-date tax base and the 6% limitation is to insure a taxing agency that it will be able to operate the same program it has been operating with the 6% increase providing the additional funds required due to inflationary costs and salaries. Any new program would conceivably require funds beyond the 6% increase and would have to be submitted to the voters for their approval. With the Morrow County School District tax base providing less than 28% of the funds required to operate the schools, it is necessary for the voters to vote each year on the largest amount of the tax levy.

It is impossible for the average voter to become well enough informed on the total budget that he is able to cast a responsible vote. If he dislikes part of the budget, he must vote no on the total budget. However, the tax base in Morrow County would not permit the

schools to open as it is too small to pay contracted salaries, and this means that eventually the budget must be approved. (The good with the bad.)

A new tax base representing the basic operating needs of the School District would make it possible for the voters to know precisely what the budget committee was asking for when it proposed a budget beyond the tax limitation. This would also clarify the issue for the voter and give the voter a responsible choice he does not now have. If the voters said no, the school district could then operate within the tax limitation without the necessity of holding additional budget elections.

Another sound reason for advocating realistic tax bases is that it would insure financial stability and guarantee schools a minimum level of financial support to operate present programs.

This stability would permit more definite planning for the next school year and would result in improved program planning. It would also enable budget preparation to begin at a later date and would result in more accurate estimates for both receipts and requirements.

People who oppose up-to-date tax bases list two basic reasons for their opposition: First, the 6% tax levy increase, permitted without a vote, may be more than is needed especially if inflation slows down. The contention being that as long as the funds are legally available, budget committees will auto-

Vote For

## JOYCE RITCH

For Republican Nomination For  
**Morrow County Assessor**

"Acting Assessor. Experienced in Assessment work.  
President Eastern Oregon Assessors' Association."  
In The May 26 Primary  
(Pd. Adv. by Joyce Ritch, Heppner, Ore.)

# BOYSEN PAINT ONE CENT SALE



<p><b>ALKYD MARINE</b></p> <p>Alkyd Marine House Paint combines the deep beauty of its smooth glossy finish with the ingredients for the toughest coating around. 10 colors and white.</p> <p><b>\$8.87 a gallon PLUS ONE GALLON FOR 1¢</b></p>	<p><b>RUSTIC-KOTE</b></p> <p>Heavy wood grain shakes, shingles, fences and siding really come to life with Rustic-Kote Exterior Flat finish. 6 colors and white.</p> <p><b>\$5.45 a gallon PLUS ONE GALLON FOR 1¢</b></p>	<p><b>DREAM LATEX</b></p> <p>Forget painting problems when you use the amazing Dream Latex Flat Wall Paint... washable, odorless, fast drying. 10 colors and white.</p> <p><b>\$7.48 a gallon PLUS ONE GALLON FOR 1¢</b></p>
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Sale Ends May 16

# Evans Lumber Yard

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I have filed for County Commissioner on the Democratic ticket and earnestly solicit your support.

I've had 14 years of road construction and maintenance and am willing to listen to other county problems.

**M. V. NOLAN**

You Are Invited to Attend the

# MOVIE

## "Baby, The Rain Will Fall"

Starring Steve McQueen and Lee Remick

**HEPPNER HIGH CAFETORIUM**  
May 8-9 -- 7:30 P.M.

Sponsored by Heppner High Associated Student Body

Proceeds Go To Peace Corps School Partnership Program

Only \$335 More To Go To Reach The Goal of \$1,000	ADMISSION— ADULTS \$1.00 STUDENTS 75¢
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**TURKEY DRAWING ON SATURDAY NIGHT**

THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED BY YOUR HOME-OWNED BANK AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE

## BANK OF Eastern Oregon

HEPPNER—JONE—ARLINGTON  
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION