

# Sumner explains controversial bills



JACK SUMNER

"I would like to tell you of some of the activities I am involved in, and of some of the bills I have introduced in the Legislature, and the reason why," State Representative Jack Sumner told the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

Sumner is a member of the Joint Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature and was recently appointed to the Emergency Board filling a vacancy created by the election of Les AuCoin to the Senate. He is also serving his first year as chairman of a subcommittee dealing with general government.

"The measures that come before us are introduced by you people," said Sumner, "and are referred to committees for approval or changes. They are passed on to the Senate and the House for their approval, then to the governor for his signature."

The Joint Ways and Means Committee is made up of members of both the House and the Senate, while other subcommittees are composed of either members of the House or Senate.

At present he has meetings in the morning lasting until noon and then meetings in the afternoon lasting until about 3:30 p.m. When the afternoon session ends he has phone calls to make, which usually take the remainder of the day. "With so much time spent in meetings, we hardly ever get a chance to see the public who is paying the bill," he said.

Speaking on the four controversial measures introduced by Sumner, namely: Repeal of collective bargaining between teachers and school boards; repeal of the teacher tenure bill, collective bargaining at a state level with the state paying the bill; and a measure prohibiting teachers from serving in the legislature.

In repealing the collective bargaining between school boards and teachers would enable school boards to spend more time on issues rather than those of teachers and their salaries.

In asking for a repeal of the teachers tenure bill, many qualified teachers feel they have to support some personnel who are not presently carrying their load. Many teachers do

not want tenure, as it is almost impossible to fire a teacher once tenure has been established. "About the only way possible to fire a teacher is to terminate his job, then all that remains is for the teacher to go to another district and ask that his job be re-instated. At present, teachers sign a contract with the school board for another term; however, if they choose to resign they may do so by contacting the school board 90 days before school starts, and have their contract pulled. Teachers can quit by giving 45 days notice prior to the school term with no obligation to the school board," Sumner observed.

If a state agency were responsible for the collective bargaining of the teachers, and all salaries were basically the same on a state-wide level, this would allow school boards more time to act on more important issues. Teachers salaries have doubled within recent years, and this year their salaries appear to be on the increase, yet their salaries are not on a state wide level. To sell the idea of salaries on a state level would cost about \$480 million; however, if the state paid the tab with the various counties paying their fair share, this could eliminate a lot of problems.

"At present there are 16 teachers in the legislature. As with most professions there comes a time when there is an influx of a certain profession in the legislature, and this needs to be changed. With the present 16 teachers there are also their husbands and wives, so instead of 16 votes being cast there are 32 votes cast. It would be better to have a variety of persons in the legislature rather than teachers. If their terms expire they can always go back to teaching," he added.

Dr. Wallace Wolff, M.D., told Sumner that Umatilla and Morrow Counties have taken the responsibility away from the physician on malpractice suits. "Malpractice has gotten out of hand, putting doctors out of business," said Dr. Wolff. "In the State of New York some physicians and surgeons are having to pay as much as \$25,000 for malpractice insurance per year," he said.

"In the State of Oregon, orthopedic and neurosurgeons are paying as much as \$9,000 per year for insurance. The doctor has two alternatives. If he is close to retirement age he

retires. If not, he must add the cost of his insurance to the patients' fees, and what does this do to his fees?"

"In a short while there may be four doctors practicing in Morrow County, and with the amount of surgery these doctors will perform they will have to pay an estimated \$16,000 for malpractice insurance, with the added cost passed on to the public. As it now stands, many doctors will not perform surgery, so they will not have to pass the added expense on to their patients. A system should be worked out that is both feasible and practical to the public," Wolff explained.

Something feasible should be worked out where if two patients sue two separate doctors for the same injury, both of them would receive the same compensation. As it stands today, one may receive a small fortune and the other patient not receive any compensation at all, Wolff pointed out.

"The present system is not practical for the patient, as in some cases the patient is entitled to compensation for an injury, yet doesn't receive any."

Sumner responded by saying, "A bill has been introduced where patients may be treated on the same level as those receiving workmen's compensation benefits, where most patients can be treated as employees." Another solution would be to limit the amount of the suit filed against a doctor, he said.

Sumner spoke briefly on the use of 2.4D, saying that \$90,000 has been set aside by the Department of Agriculture for the states of Washington and Oregon to continue further testing during spraying time. A decision should be reached Friday on the use of 2.4D, and if the law goes into effect it will be retroactive to Feb. 1, 1975.

Sumner also stated that he sees no reason why the legislature should not be able to conclude its session by May 15 without the need for special sessions during the summer.

Next week's speaker at the Chamber of Commerce will be Mr. and Mrs. Fred Martin, lone, who will show slides of their recent trip to the Holy Land, which should be appropriate for the Easter Season.

## School levy wins

Morrow County residents went to the polls Tuesday and by a margin of 57 votes passed the Morrow County School District budget of \$2,272,309 for the fiscal year 1975-76.

The final tally of the county showed 290 yes votes against 233 no votes, with the Boardman and Irrigon carrying the budget by a near 2-1 vote.

A breakdown of the precincts follows:

	Yes	No
Boardman	60	28
Ione	52	55
Heppner	114	93
Irrigon	43	23
Lexington	21	34
Total	290	233

Elected to the Morrow County School Board were Irvin Rauch and Harold Snider. Winning post on the school advisory committee were Virginia Grieb and Ron Haguewood. Heppner-Lexington area, and Mike Palmer for the Ione area. In the Boardman-Irrigon area Kenneth Broadbent, Barbara Hug and Francine Evans were elected to positions on the school advisory committee. All candidates were running unopposed for their respective positions.

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## School board sets '75-'76 calendar

The Morrow County School Board established the school calendar for 1975-76 at its Monday evening board meeting.

Difficulty was experienced in trying to arrive at 177 student days and a total of 189 teacher days. School will begin on Sept. 2. Christmas vacation will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 23 and school will resume on Jan. 5. Spring vacation is again scheduled for the fourth week in March to coincide with college spring vacations. School will end on May 28, 1976. Teachers will have four half-day inservice days during the year. The board stressed that the days not be work days scheduled at the end of grading periods, but inservice training days as established during contract negotiations with teachers.

Requests for unscheduled field trips were again approved by the board. Board members expressed the opinion that next year board policy on field trips needs to be rewritten. It was pointed out that certain field trips, often the better ones, have not been scheduled at the time the field-trip section of the budget is drawn up. The board agreed that priorities need to be established in terms of the type of field trip as it relates to courses taught and those trips for which students need to raise money to pay for the trip.

Three music field trips were requested and approved. On April 18 Jim Ackley will take the Heppner High School Band to the Oregon Band Festival in Corvallis. On April 19 he and Mr. Buckendorf will take 65 to 70 band and chorus junior high students, from Heppner Elementary, to the Tri-Cities Jazz Festival. Ione High School Band and chorus students will travel to Warner-Pacific College, in Portland, April 30 and May 1, to observe music classes and participate in music clinics. Enroute, they will give a concert at Cascade Locks High School.

The board approved a change in graduation requirements for the county's high schools. A total of 22 credits will now be required for

graduation rather than the 21 previously required. Only one physical education credit had been required. The board approved a second physical education requirement.

The board approved a long range plan for kindergarten through grade 12 career education. Advisory committees have been appointed for three vocational clusters in the district. The members of the Heppner vocational agriculture are Gary Grieb, Fritz Cutsforth, Ken Wright, Larry Mills and Cliff Green. Advisor of this cluster is Hall Whitaker.

Walt Pilgrim is the advisor for the Heppner secretarial, clerical cluster. Committee members are Lib Dagggett, Nonna Sowell, Mary Bryant and Chista Venard. Committee members for the Ione secretarial, clerical cluster are June Crowell, Paul Pettyjohn, Gene Rietmann, Karen Palmer and Donna Fetsch. Advisor for that cluster is Bob Beital. Committees for the Riverside agriculture and secretarial, clerical clusters are being appointed. A cluster consists of a series of related courses developed to give a rounded view of a particular

career field. The board voted to sell a piece of property in Ione to Mr. and Mrs. Stein for \$225. Because the board had to buy back the property once before, when it was supposedly sold to another party, it voted to sell this time by bargain and sale deed with no warranty provided. The board granted an easement request made by the City of Heppner to dig water lines on district property. Several board members commented that the request was coming late.

Supt. Matt Doherty reported that pending legislation concerning basic school support looked as if it would pass. The legislation, if passed, would add \$62,390 in school support monies to the district, decreasing county taxes approximately 50 cents per \$1,000 valuation. Board member Jack Sumner told the board that it looked as if the bill would pass. He expressed the opinion that it is possibly one of the better pieces of legislation to come of the current legislative session.

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## Lions Club sponsors Grand Ole Opry star

# Pat Roberts show here Sunday

Recording Star Pat Roberts will bring his show to Heppner High School Sunday, March 23, beginning at 4 p.m.

Also on the program are the Country Bugs, musical family group.

Roberts' rise to fame began June 9, 1973 when he stepped out on to the stage at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., the storied Grand Ole Opry. The spotlight picked out a handsome young man in his mid 20s. He strummed his guitar and started singing his hit single: "Listen to the rhythm of the fallin' rain."

For a young singer in the country field, the Grand Ole Opry is the Palace of vaudeville days. Broadway, the Las Vegas Strip all rolled into one. Pat Roberts, standing on the stage that was scuffed by the boots of Hank Williams, Red Foley, all the greats of country music, had fulfilled one dream. He was the first singer from the Pacific Northwest to star on that stage.

The Grand Ole Opry Spring of Pat Roberts quickly turned into a Summer of Stardom.

"Rhythm of the Rain," his first Dot record, was a national hit. This was followed by "Thanks For Lovin' Me," another big one for young Roberts. With the hits starting to roll out, could an album be far behind? Nope. "This is Pat Roberts," produced by George Richey in Nashville, introduced the full range of the versatile Roberts sound to the country.

It also spawned another single record, "I'm Gonna Keep Searching," another record that immediately broke into all national charts as a top seller.

The Pat Roberts on the album is a singer of country songs in a crystal-clear voice that takes every nuance from a ballad, a young man who sings of love with a young man's optimism—and a young man's despair. "This is Pat Roberts" introduces a talented musician whose roots lie in the rich, black soil of the Pacific Northwest and whose talent rises as high as the Douglas fir of his homeland.

Pat was born in Seattle. His dad, Walt Roberts, was a country music fan who last June took his first airplane ride—to Nashville to hear Pat sing on the Grand Ole Opry.

While he was growing up, Pat could look up to his uncle, Jack Roberts, a country music star in the Northwest who now is one of the nation's leading producers of country music shows.

The youngest Roberts grew up with a guitar in his hand and like many of his contemporaries, first found expression with a rock-folk band put together in high school. Then he put in a tour in the Air Force where he supplemented his airman's pay with nighttime performances wherever he was stationed. By then, though, rock was behind him. Pat Roberts had gone back to his country roots.

Following his discharge from the Air Force, he started playing the Northwest with his Uncle Jack's Drifters.

"It was kind of tough at first," Pat recalled recently. "There were the former musicians who had played for years with the Drifters and I was pretty young. But there can be only one leader and I had to be it."

Pat built his experience, step by step, playing lodges, small fairs, a few clubs, honing his already sharp talent in front of a variety of audiences. Today he's equally adept at a smart supper club, on the concert stage with the Merle Haggard Show (as he was recently) or at fairs throughout the country.

Pat and his wife still make their home in Seattle when he's not commuting to Nashville for a recording session, to the southwest to work a concert date, to any number of cities to perform.

The Pat Roberts Show is sponsored in Heppner by the Heppner Lions Club. Advance tickets at \$3.50 are available at Peterson's Jewelers, Gardner's Men's Store and Murray's Drug. Tickets sold at the door are \$4.



PAT ROBERTS



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GENE PIERCE and Howard Bryant watch as Monty Evans places a brand on a block of wood. Each person who brought in a branding iron received a \$5 donation from the Bank of Eastern Oregon to the charity of his choice. Evans set 66 brands in wooden blocks during the bank's opening.

### MOVIES TO BE SHOWN AT HEPPNER HIGH

The Heppner High School Student body will present two movies Friday, April 4, at the High School Cafetorium.

The movies are High Noon and Les Mans, with the first feature starting at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$1 for adults and 75 cents for grade school students.