

Morrow County's Newspaper

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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One of the oldest churches in Heppner, The Methodist Church, will probably be over flowing with people this Sunday. We of the Gazette-Times wish all of our friends a Happy Easter.

State Rep. Sumner opposes LCDC

State Rep. Jack Sumner, D-Heppner, said that the State Emergency Board has approved funds over his objection, to the Land Conservation and Development Commission. At issue was \$79,510 in additional requested funds for the processing of appeals.

Sumner said the L.C.D.C. indicated to the Emergency Board that appeal activity and cost have been such as to expend the entire amount provided in the first seven months of the biennium. The Emergency Board in its action today allocated \$49,451 of the requested amount.

Sumner said, "In voting against the action taken today, I pointed out that Senate Bill 100 gave L.C.D.C. review authority of local plans, but not the authority of approval or disapproval."

"L.C.D.C. has wrongly taken the position of approval authority. If they did not take this position, they would not have the necessity of asking the Emergency Board for the funding of appeals, and therefore, their request should be denied."

Sumner added, "one more vote against this request would have denied the additional funding."

State Rep. Jack Sumner, D-Heppner, announced that the State Emergency Board has approved funds for Morrow County for construction of a solid waste facility. The grant will assist in the purchasing of equipment needed for the operation of the Morrow County regional disposal site.

Sumner said, "This money will assist Morrow County in the closing of existing burning dumps and replacing them with upgraded disposal sites. I am very pleased with the Emergency Board's action. The grant to the county is authorized by Chapter 445, Oregon Laws and constitutes a great assistance to area residents."

Sumner said that solid waste money will amount to over \$20,000 and will be added to existing Morrow County money to complete the project. The equipment that will now be purchased will assist in the covering and compacting of solid waste. Sumner added.

March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon

The March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon will be held this Saturday, April 17. Participants will begin the 20 mile walk starting at 8 a.m., from the Ford Parking lot, Heppner and will continue to Lexington and return.

This is a leisurely walk, not a race, and there will be 9 check points along the proposed route, with soft drinks and snacks provided at the rest stops.

Transportation will be provided back to Heppner from any of the check points if a contestant decides he can go no further.

Each contestant must obtain pledges from sponsors for each mile walked and they are urged to get as many sponsors as possible. All walkers must have at least one sponsor in order to enter the Walk-A-Thon.

Prizes will be awarded to the following: youngest to finish; oldest to finish; person with the most pledges; first girl to finish; first boy to

finish; third person to finish; most money raised.

Sponsor sheets may be obtained at the School District Offices, (Heppner, Ione schools, and the Lexington office) or from the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Branch.

The R & W Drive In will issue large soft drinks to everyone who enters the walk and the most participants from each class of these schools will receive one free ice cream cone as prizes. (Courtesy of the Heppner High School National Honor Society.)

All money must be turned in by May 1. Walkers are asked to take or mail their pledges to Pat Gentry, care of the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Prizes will be awarded after May 1, and only to those who have collected their pledges.

All proceeds will go to the March of Dimes. The Walk-A-Thon is sponsored by the National Honor Society of Heppner High School.

BMCC budget

Voters of Umatilla and Morrow Counties were asked by Blue Mountain Community College's president, board chairman and chairman of the budget committee to go to the polls Tuesday, April 20 to support the college budget for the 1976-77 school year.

The budget, which provides for no new programs or facilities, would require \$1,545,259 in taxes in the college district, an increase of 10 1/2 per cent over the current tax figure. BMCC has no tax base, requiring annual budget elections for funds to operate.

College President Ron Daniels expects the levy per \$1,000

true cash value to be less than the current year's because of a projected rise in the district's true cash value. Cost to taxpayers, he said, would range between \$1.60 and \$1.64 per \$1,000 true cash value, with the lower figure being the best guess. The rate this year is \$1.63.

Ben Holdman, Umatilla county rancher and Chairman of the college budget committee, described the budget as "a good, hold-the-line budget" and encouraged voters to support it at the polls.

Also asking for voter support was Harmon Springer, Hermiston, Chairman of the college Board of Education. He termed the budget conservative.

"We are doing the best job possible in providing the facilities and services the people of our district need and want," Springer said. "We have finally attained the balance that has long been the goal of the college, and we need a good vote Tuesday to make sure we can continue to provide for the need and want," Springer said. "We have finally attained the balance that has long been the goal of the college, and we need a good vote Tuesday to make sure we can continue to provide for the needs of all segments of our population."

Daniels described the budget as tight, adding it reflects unavoidable increases in social security payments, utilities, insurance, street maintenance and cost-of-living salary increases. Total budget figure is \$3,079,381, about half of which is made up from tuition, fees and state and federal sources.

Also on the ballot will be three positions on the college Board of Education. Unopposed in their bids for reelection are Ken Dauble, Weston and Bob Rietmann, Ione.

Seeking election to the post now held by Joe Green, Pendleton, are Julianne Sawyer, Pendleton, and Green.

Polls will be open in Morrow and Umatilla counties from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Persons in Morrow County unable to get to the polls may pick up absentee ballots from the County Clerk in Heppner. Umatilla county voters may obtain absentee ballots from the deputy clerk of their school district or the BMCC Business Office.

Following are locations of polling places in Morrow County: Precinct 1, Greenfield Grange, Boardman; Precinct 2, Ione City Hall; Precinct 3, Ione City Hall; Precinct 4, Irrigon School Building; Precinct 5, Lexington City Hall; Precincts 6, 7, 8 and 9, Old City Library, Heppner.

County Board to meet

The regular meeting of the Morrow County School District board of directors will be held at 8 p.m., Monday, April 19 at the A.C. Houghton Elementary School, Irrigon.

The board is expected to hear a report from the Boardman-Irrigon Long Range Planning Committee on land use and other land needs in the districts North end schools.

The board will also consider a request for sale of property in Heppner and a request to rent office space in the district office building in Lexington.

Other items for consideration are quotations for property appraisals and suggested changes in district policies.

Good Friday Services change this year

Traditional Good Friday services presented by the South Morrow Ministerial Association have usually been during the afternoon; however, this year the service will be held Friday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. in the Heppner Assembly of God Church.

Four area ministers will participate: Rev. Edwin Sikes of the Heppner Christian Church will give the sermon entitled "The Paradox of The Cross." Assisting him will be the Rev. Bill Graham of the Ione United Church of Christ, Rev. Gordon Blackburn of the Heppner Church of The Nazarene and Rev. Duane Geyer of the Heppner Assembly of God Church.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend this community service.

Morrow County Schools

Budget goes to voters Tuesday

"The reasons for the increases in the Morrow County School budget are due to the increased cost of living, inflation, state and federal regulations and an increase in school student enrollment, said County Superintendent of Schools, Matthew Doherty, speaking before the Chamber of Commerce, Monday.

The total proposed budget for next year is \$2,659,540. This represents an increase of \$337,231 over last year's budget.

An analysis of this budget reveals that, of the increase, \$227,978 is due to inflation, cost of living and state and federal regulations. This represents a 10.5 per cent increase over last year's budget.

While \$149,253 is due to costs related to student population, or new growth, this adds an additional 6.5 per cent increase for a total increase of 17 per cent.

The school district is trying to play catch-up ball on student increases. Going back to the opening of school two years ago, the schools had 1264 students in school and were experiencing crowding in some classrooms. The district did not have rooms so the board did not add teaching staff at that time. Since that time, enrollment has risen steadily where the schools now have 1452 students. This represents an increase of 188 students. Because classrooms are not available, teaching staff still has not been added. Student population probably will go over the 1500 mark by the opening of school next year. At that time some new classroom space will be available and additional teachers are expected to be hired.

The amount of increase for growth breaks out this way:

7 new teachers	\$75,218
secretarial	562
library aide (state regulation)	3,750
bus driver	1,900
cooks helpers (Heppner & Irrigon)	1,969
custodian	3,865
school bus	18,000
books, supplies, equipment & services	44,000
Total	\$149,253

The cost of this budget in terms of dollars per thousand to the taxpayer is dependent upon the valuation of property within the county.

Figures have not been released from the Assessor's office on increased valuation but this increased valuation could exceed \$30 million. Of this amount, almost \$20 million would be new valuation. Most of this new value will be in North Morrow County.

North Morrow County is also the area which will require the lions share of the money which has been added to the budget for growth.

Another factor in determining the cost to the taxpayer is the amount of money that will be received from other sources rather than local property taxes.

The largest single source of income is Basic School Support, which this year will be \$593,299. Of this amount \$51,000 is a grant for growth. We expect about \$60,000 in additional basic money for growth next year.

The total money to be received in receipts is \$1,002,342. The amount of the budget to be raised by local taxes is \$1,887,206. Of this amount \$466,157 is within the 6 per cent limitation. The remaining \$1,421,049 is the amount on the ballot to be voted upon.

The district currently levies a tax for two bond issues which adds an additional \$253,569. These two added together results in the proposed levy of \$2,140,775.

Based on last year's valuation of \$193,125,965, this would cost taxpayers of Morrow County \$11 per thousand. Based on a projected increase of thirty million dollars in valuation, this would cost taxpayers approximately \$9.60 per thousand.

Last year the tax for schools was \$9.10 per thousand. The new levy would increase taxes by 50 cents per thousand if the district value increases by thirty million dollars.

A \$30,000 property would pay \$15 in additional taxes. Next year Morrow County School District is in its first year of a new budget process called a program budget, which replaces our old system of line item budgeting. All school districts in the state are required to use this new budgeting system.

Because the new budget is a programmed budget, it is virtually impossible to place the new budget along side the old one in order to make direct comparisons of the two.

In developing this new budget all items are categorized as to function. The two major functions are Instruction and Support Services. All items that directly affect students such as teacher salaries, textbooks, etc., are classified as instruction. Services such as administration, custodial and bus driver salaries, buses, heat, lights, etc., are support services.

Other functions are Community Services, Interagency Fund Transactions and Debt Service. These occupy a small portion of the budget. Instruction occupies about 53 per cent of the budget, support services about 45 per cent and the other three functions make up the remaining 2 per cent.

Basically the budget is built in the following manner: throughout the previous year a file is kept of needs as they arise. This is done at the building levels, at the district office and at the bus shop.

Early in the Fall the District Transportation Committee meets and considers the projected transportation needs, and develops a recommendation to the board. At the same time the principals prepare their staff needs for the coming year. This recommendation also goes to the board, along with requests for new programs.

The board considers these items and determines which of them are to be included in the budget proposal. Also in the Fall, building principals develop, with the help of the staff, their needs for instruction and support services for the coming year.

These requests are brought by building principals to the advisory committees of each attendance area. The advisory committee considers justifications and makes cuts or adjustments in the request. The request then goes to the Superintendent for inclusion in the budget document. Prior to inclusion, the Superintendent once more reviews the requests and makes additional cuts and revisions. The items then go to the budget committee.

The budget committee spends from three to four sessions in reviewing the budget. A hearing is held on the budget at which time further revisions can be made. This year additional revenue was added to the budget in the form of



MATT DOHERTY

\$51,000 in growth money from Basic School Support. This increase will have the effect of reducing the tax rate.

The budget proposal, when presented to the committee, represented a considerable increase over last year's budget. After much study and work, the budget was reduced somewhat. However, as is frequently the case when faced with budget work, it just isn't easy to find places to cut.

The budget had already passed through the review by the local advisory boards and some adjustments had been made. In conclusion Doherty said, "This is a realistic budget and recommend its passage."

In other business to come before the Chamber of Commerce Judge Paul Jones notified the members that Congressman Al Ullman would be in Heppner Friday, April 16. A no host luncheon will be served at noon at the Elks Lodge with the public invited to attend.

Orville Cutsforth said, "Half statements and half-truths are appearing in various papers concerning the Corporate Farm Issue." The only difficulty we foresee will be in finances, as we feel sure we will be able to obtain the required number of signatures to place the issue on the November ballot.

The tentative program for next week will be presented by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and will be a film dealing with "How to Manage Money."

CONG. AND MRS. ULLMAN TO VISIT HEPPNER

Congressman and Mrs. Al Ullman will be in Heppner Friday. A no host luncheon will be held at the Elks Lodge at noon. The public is invited to attend the luncheon and visit with the guests.

COLUMBIA BASIN RANKS 16TH

The BPA 1975 calendar year sales summary has just been released.

Columbia Basin recorded the 16th highest usage level of the 52 electric coops BPA serves.

Only four electric coops paid a lower average rate for power than did Columbia Basin Electric. The local Coop owns most of its substations and has a good load factor. Columbia Basin paid 3.47 mills per kwh compared to the average of 3.93 mills per kwh paid by all electric coops served by BPA.

Electric Coops of the NW recorded a 16.8 per cent increase in use compared to 1974 and Columbia Basin was just above the average with a gain of 16.9 per cent.

Strangely enough, only 3 electric coops had a greater percentage increase than that of Columbia Basin Electric. The large increase of one electric coop brought the area average up.

The total power bill paid for the calendar year by the local coop was \$393,941.

Budget Committee

The budget committee for the City of Heppner met last Tuesday and tentatively approved a budget that will have to be submitted to the voters for their approval as the total levy outside the six per cent limitations totals \$93,866.

The total budget for the city including all funds totals \$379,541. Last year the budget for the city totaled \$331,031 because of the water bond issue. However, this year's levy totals \$66,656 more than last year's. This increase is primarily due to the lack of revenue sharing money which was approximately \$36,000 last year. This year the estimated amount of revenue sharing is only \$12,000.

Other increases are based on the increased cost of living and inflation.

Another budget meeting will be held in the future prior to submitting the proposed budget to the common council for acceptance.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League tryouts will be held Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m.

There will also be a workday for the dads this Saturday starting at 1 p.m. All dads are encouraged to attend and help with the necessary work.