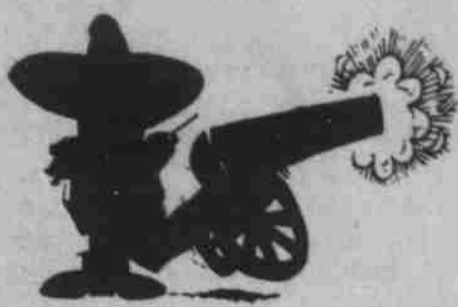


## FROM THE CORNER



By ERNIE CERESA

During last Tuesday's elections in Morrow County, an estimated 50-55 registered voters in the Heppner district did not have the opportunity to vote on the Blue Mountain Community College levy. The election board ran out of ballots. According to reports the ballots for the Heppner district were mis-sent to another location and when election officials noticed they were running short of ballots they sent to Lexington for more ballots for the voters. With the large turnout of voters at the polls, before the ballots could be delivered to the Heppner polls, between the hours of 7-7:30, the board did not have any ballots.

Although the levy passed by a majority of 392 votes in Morrow and Umatilla Counties, the vote in Morrow County ended in a tie vote. However, the final results of the voting is not the issue. The important issue is that registered voters were denied the right to vote.

Some of the people questioned regarding the lack of ballots reported they were not notified by election officials and after voting on the other issues went home, only to discover they had not voted on the BMCC levy. Some voters contend they were notified of the absence of the ballots and were asked to remain at the polls until the ballots arrived from Lexington and then vote on the levy.

This newspaper contacted the Secretary of State and talked with the Superintendent of Elections Dick Banton and notified him of the situation. Banton said, "One ballot should be prepared for each registered voter of the area." In some instances one precinct may run out of ballots. When this happens voters may cast their vote on sample ballots or other pieces of paper, but they must be allowed to vote.

He further stated that any voter in the county could file a petition with the circuit court questioning the validity of the election. To do this a lawyer must be engaged. The court would then decide if the violation had any impact upon the election. Should the court rule in favor of the petitioner, the petitioner would be reimbursed for the court cost and the entire election could be declared null and void.

Voting is one of the few privileges the American people can exercise and I feel the right to cast a ballot cannot be denied a single person.

Regardless of the reason for the shortage of ballots and the cost to the county to hold another election the only pertinent issue is 55 registered voters went to the polls and were not able to cast their ballots. Perhaps the cost of holding another election will tend to make election officers a little more wary of their duties and prevent this from happening in the future.

## Agri-business approved for EOSC

Beginning next fall, Eastern Oregon State College will offer a new degree in Agri-Business. The program, approved by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, has also been reviewed and approved by the Educational Coordinating Council. Development of the new major was coordinated with Oregon State University and the Eastern Oregon community colleges of Blue Mountain, Pendleton and Treasure Valley, Ontario.

The Agri-Business program, the needs for which were identified by EOSC's Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee, will offer students a broad background in business and economics, and agriculture to prepare them for careers in both agriculture and agriculturally-related businesses.

EOSC President Rodney Briggs says the new program, "is an attempt to meet a major need in eastern Oregon recognizing eastern Oregon's natural resource based economy. It's designed to provide the education and skills for a practitioner in Agri-business that can move into both wholesale and retail agriculturally related businesses in eastern Oregon, the intermountain area of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and I think could fill some oppor-

tunities for national employment as well."

EOSC will accept its first 4-year students in the program this Fall. However, through a cooperative arrangement with Blue Mountain and Treasure Valley Community Colleges, those community college students will be able to enroll in the program at the junior level this Fall. Students at other community colleges who wish to transfer to the Agri-Business Program should contact EOSC to determine the transferability of credits.

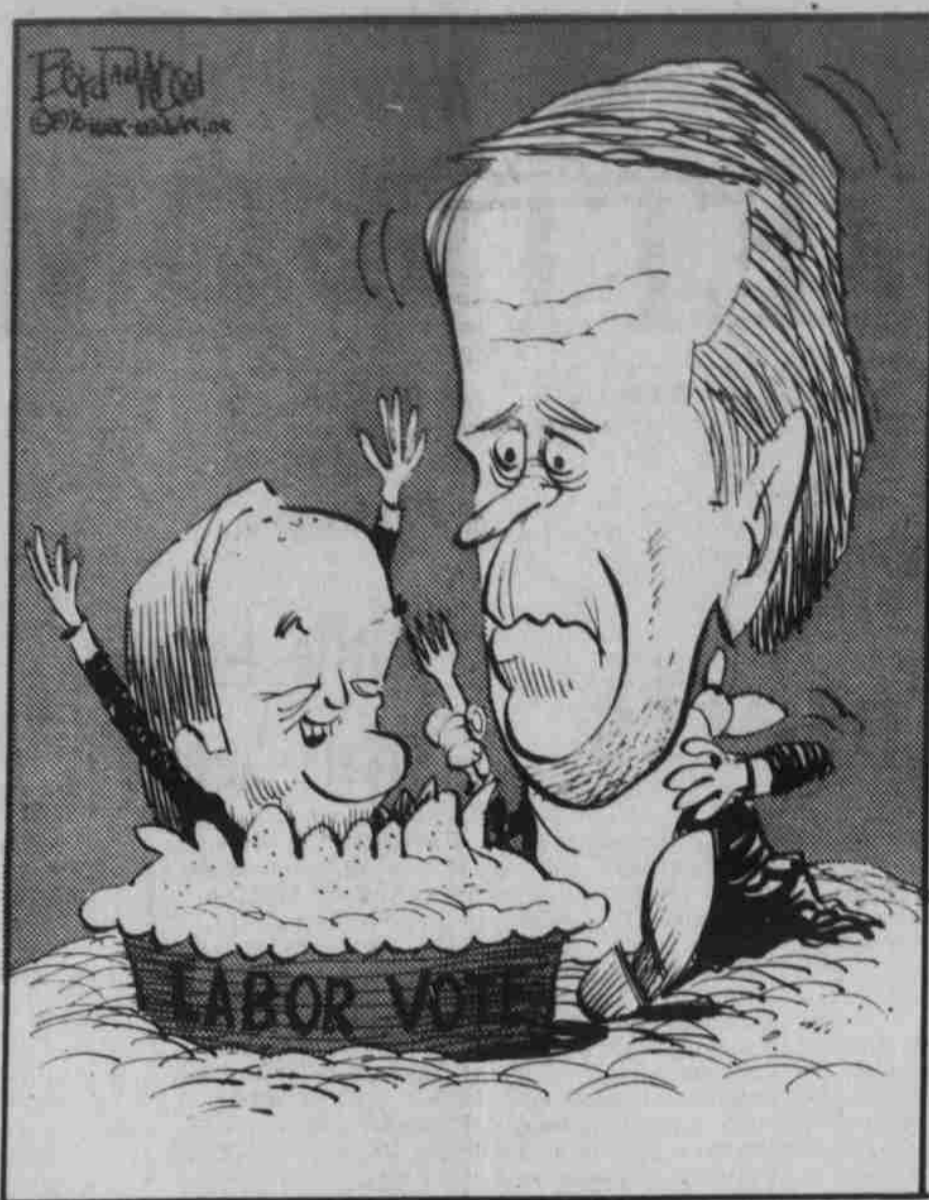
Located in the agricultural Jewish Grande Ronde Valley, EOSC is ideally situated to conduct an Agri-Business Program. Students will not only take course work at EOSC, but will work directly with farm and ranch operations, agriculturally-related businesses, and the agricultural experiment stations at Union and Pendleton. Oregon State University faculty at the experiment stations will assist with instruction in the technical applications of agriculture through a cooperative arrangement between OSU and EOSC.

Students interested in the new program should contact the Office of Student Development, Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande, OR.

"This newspaper is published, and rather successfully, too, without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, age, marital status, physogogue addiction, professional ability, religion, physical handicap, medical condition, pigmentation (hair and/or skin), political persuasion, literacy, previous condition of servitude, citizenship, criminal record, club membership, ancestry, incest, outcast, agnosy and (boo boy!) Sex."

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"...And When The Pie Was Opened..."

## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

It is now 1:30 a.m. I have just finished witnessing the dog that has been my children's pet for over three years die a hideous, convulsive death from poison.

I only wish the person who cares so little about others that he could poison a pet, would have to face my children tomorrow and tell them their dog is dead. How do you explain to a seven year old the inhumanity of others?

I am writing this letter in the hope that maybe next time when these people reach for the poison they will stop and think about the child who is going to lose his pet in such a violent manner. Perhaps he might even witness its horrible death.

A person who has so little maturity as to leave poison for an animal not knowing whether the animal or possibly a child will find it and eat it is a menace to our society. If an animal is causing damage to your property there are many recourses open to you.

You can attempt to find the owner or contact the authorities.

If these proper recourses fail and you feel compelled to protect your property there are certainly more humane ways to destroy an animal.

I feel we as a society are making a grave mistake by making lethal poison readily available to adults who have no conscience. If a child kept straying to your property making a pest of himself, would you poison him too?

JAN EVANS,  
Irrigon

EDITOR:

Our State Legislature gave to seven political appointees the power to control land use in Oregon. Thereby, peoples' historic right to enjoy their property has been taken without their consent.

A measure to repeal this tremendous power can be put to a vote of the people this November. Needed are 46,235 valid signatures on the Initiative Petitions which are distributed throughout the State.

Every registered voter can help in two or three ways. First, find and sign a petition (every Grange has some); second, get from us your own petition and complete it with 40 or more names; third and most importantly, please urge all petition carriers to complete and return their petitions as soon as possible to the:

Balanced Conservation & Development Committee  
care of Cliff Everett, Chairman  
Dexter, Oregon 97431.

EDITOR:

As you may have expected, I feel it is necessary to provide some answers to several questions raised in Pat Wright's letter which was carried in the April 15 issue of your paper. Several of the questions and comments contained in the letter are questions that have been raised by other residents of Morrow County and I hope this explanation will provide some rationale for the operation of Blue Mountain Community College District.

The point I have heard expressed most frequently regards the fact that it would be cheaper for Morrow County to withdraw from the college district than to pay the full costs of education for the students who attend from Morrow County. In answer to that question, my response is that when the formation of Blue Mountain Community College was being discussed, there were residents from both Umatilla and Morrow counties involved in the planning and formation of this district.

The state had established minimum population figures and minimum true cash value figures for the formation of a community college district. It was necessary for the two counties to combine to meet the necessary minimum figures to obtain state approval for a community college district. The voters of both Umatilla and Morrow counties eventually recognized the need for a community college in this area and the combined vote for formation of the district was better than five to one in favor of its formation. The vote was affirmative in both Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The need for the community college is evidenced by increased enrollments both in the day and evening division program and by the support it has been provided in budget elections over the years. In Pat Wright's letter, she states that she agrees with the community college concept and believes Blue Mountain Community College is doing a great job.

I think it is important to recognize that the Blue Mountain Community District boundaries are contiguous with those of Umatilla and Morrow counties. The point is that Morrow County is a part of the Blue Mountain Community College District. It is really one district and not two separate county

districts within the Blue Mountain area. Law requires that the tax levy throughout the total district be equal.

Pat Wright refers to the fact that the levy is \$1.93 in Umatilla County and \$1.91 in Morrow County. The reason for the two cents per \$1,000 discrepancy is that Morrow County has some tax offsets that reduce that levy by the two cents. By law and by our levy distribution the levy should be equal in both Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The college could not provide a lower tax rate in Morrow County even if they felt it were desirable.

In the very early years of the college operation, the board did recognize that it was much more expensive for students in the outlying areas to attend the college and the equalization payments were established in an effort to help offset those costs. It should be pointed out that at no time were equalization payments intended to fully relieve the additional costs to students in the outlying areas. It was rather an attempt to help reduce those discrepancies.

I should point out that there are three other community colleges in the state of Oregon that cover larger geographic areas than does Blue Mountain. However, Blue Mountain Community College is the only one that makes equalization payments to those students who reside more than ten miles from the campus. Two of the colleges provide a reduction in tuition costs for students who live long distances from the campus. However, the tuition reduction amounts to a maximum of \$25-35 per term, while our equalization payment in the Heppner area amounts to approximately \$140 per term. So, I submit to you that while Blue Mountain does not provide full equalization of costs, it does a much better job than any other community college in the state of Oregon.

This same point can be raised in most rural school districts and in the State System of Higher Education in the state of Oregon. As an example, people in the Heppner area pay exactly the same property tax dollars to support Oregon State University as do the residents of the Corvallis area. However, if you send a student to OSU, that student pays exactly the same tuition as a Corvallis resident, and in turn, they also must pay the full expenses for board, room, and other costs associated with living outside the Corvallis area.

To a lesser degree but in the same principle, the residents who live in the rural areas of Heppner are also faced with added costs if their youngsters participate in activities that preclude their riding the school bus and they are also faced with added costs when it comes to attending school functions. I am trying to point out that this is simply a problem that has existed since school districts were formed and will continue to be a problem in the future. There is no way that Blue Mountain Community College could be or could have been located within closer distances to all of the residents it serves.

Pat Wright does make a good point regarding the small increases in the equalization payment over the years. When the equalization payment was first created, it was based on two cents per mile, then two years ago it was increased to two and one-half cents per mile. I think, perhaps, the board should look at the two and one-half cents per mile payment and consider an increase in that figure. However, it should be emphasized that it is probable that the increase would not be sufficient to cover all the costs for students in the outlying areas.

The final point made in Pat Wright's letter was that access to college classes, other than those offered in the Heppner-Lexington area, were not accessible to her, nor was it possible for her to take advantage of the new athletic facility, plays, concerts, etc., that were offered on campus.

We recognize that this is a problem. However, we do not see that there is a solution to that problem because there is no way to provide some of the services in an area that does not have sufficient population to obtain an adequate enrollment for the classes. While we would be very happy to schedule some of our athletic activities and plays in the Heppner area, it is impractical for us from a financial standpoint to do that with any great frequency. We would, however, be happy to discuss this point with clubs and service organizations in the Heppner area.

Our board is very conscious of the fact that the residents in Morrow County do not have the same access to our services and facilities and they are continually looking for ways to improve in this area. Our board would be very happy to hold a public meeting in Heppner, Lexington, or lone to discuss the points raised in Pat Wright's letter and we would like to have an invitation for such a meeting and have it sponsored by a local organization so that we could be assured some attendance in that meeting. We scheduled a regular board meeting in the Heppner area this year, hoping for some citizen input to our operation. However, the only people to attend the meeting were Bob and Marian Abrams and Jim Bier.

If there is sufficient interest, we would be very happy to schedule a special meeting in Morrow County to discuss these issues.

RON DANIELS  
President, Blue Mountain Community College

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I was late getting to the country store Saturday night on account of my old lady's almanac. She had read where the signs were right for beans and wrong for vines, so natural she had me out there digging. That woman depends more on that book printed a year ago than she does on the weather reports give over the air ever hour on the hour. And it usual works out for her. Last year, for instance, she warned me to wait to plant potatoes (il the sign got in the foot. I planted em anyhow and I could of put in my hat the potatoes we got. But if we had baled the vines we could of fed the stock through the winter.

So, usual, Mister Editor, I pay attention to her and her signs. Like the old preacher said, it can't hurt and it might help. He was talking about listening to the word from the Good Book, and when my old lady reads from her almanac it amounts to the same kind of reliable source, as them column writers say. In both cases, I've learned not to argue with success.

When I got to the store late, Ed Doolittle must of gone through most of the agender. International and national items had been handled, and state and local government had been left to shift fer theirselves. The discussion had worked down to wimmen's feet, and Clem Webster had the floor. Clem reported that he had saw this piece where wimmen have bigger feet now. He said the feller that wrote the item claimed it was on account of all the open toed and open heeled shoes they wear, but the fellers was general disagreed. Zeke Grubb allowed that he could believe the average size shoe fer wimmen had gone from six to seven in the past 10 year, but that don't mean their feet is bigger. All it means is they're buying bigger shoes.

General speaking, declared Zeke, that's a good sign. Wimmen are waking up to the idee that being comfortable over the long haul is better than being in fashion fer a couple of months. Fer to long, went on Zeke, one woman would buy the shoes every one was buying, and they'd all buy em two sizes to small. Now that all of em is wearing pants where nobody pays much attention to their feet, they have look to buying what feels good, was Zeke's opinion. He said this was the first move he has seen in styles that has practical value to it, but fer his money he'd go back to skirts and cramped feet. When wimmen get practical they git ornery, was Clem's words, cause they want to shape up their men in the deal.

The fellers was agreed with Clem that a practical woman can be as aggravating as a reformed drunk when it comes to spoiling everybody's fun, but Clem said we need both like we do a spring tonic. Fer instance, Clem said his old lady says she likes to carry around just enuff problems to keep her happy. She claims the right kind of worrying keeps her wanting to do better, and her small burdens makes her thankful she ain't loaded down with big ones.

Yours truly,  
MAYOR ROY

## Church or Bed

By Rev. Edwin Cutting  
Heppner-Echo United Methodist Church

People who attend a Sunday worship service in a Christian "House of God" are of various ages and experiences, of differing levels of emotion and states of health. Some are there because they've had a tough week and seek renewal of strength. Some are there because things have been going great and they desire to praise God for the blessings He rendered. The chief reason to worship God is to give Him the recognition and the glory.

A TV program is looked at, or a ballgame is attended for its entertainment value—the viewer is the recipient of the actors or ball player's efforts, in Christian worship God is the recipient of the worshipper's efforts; whether the churchgoer gets much benefit from attending is a lesser issue. In worship, God is honored by our taking time to go to a church service, by our thinking about and praying to Him and listening for Him to speak through the preaching of the Word. If our cup gets refilled in the service bless God all the more!

It is recorded that Jesus "went to the synagogue (church), as his custom was, "to be in God's house. He undoubtedly knew, as did an old Biblical writer, that "a day in thy temple is better than a thousand spent elsewhere." Archeological evidence indicates worship services in Jesus' day were not very exciting. The procedures of Bible reading, praying or spiritual instruction did not determine regularity of his attendance. Jesus went in order that his spirit might commune with God's spirit, that he might honor God, that he might be fortified to face the coming week. He came because the house of God was viewed as man's spiritual fortress, a place to be close to ones' Creator and Sustainer. Probably the last thing to have entered Jesus' mind was to "sleep in" on the Sabbath Day.

Worship declares the worth of God, with a giving of all the praise and honor due His name. Not to attend church service is to show that one has nothing to remember about God's concern, or is not thankful for what God has done, or that one is not very interested in committing his life to the care of the Almighty. A person worships because relationship with God is vital. One worships, not because he or she is so very good or thinks oneself is, but because one knows that he is not as good as he ought to be. It is impossible to worship God without pleasing Him and being helped in some degree ourselves. God calls his people to be true worshippers and we are asked to respond instead of "sleeping in."

## Quarterly report for First National Bank

First National Bank of Oregon reported a decline in earnings for the first quarter ending March 31, 1976. Strong deposit growth and a small increase in loans were reported compared with a year ago, announced Robert F. Wallace, bank chairman.

Total deposits were \$2,274,913,000 on March 31, compared with \$2,124,027,000, representing a 7.1 per cent increase over the first quarter 1975. Total loans at First National offices were \$1,385,397,000, a gain of 0.2 per cent from the \$1,381,611,000 listed on the same date in 1975. Total resources were \$2,924,985,000, up from \$2,602,316,000 on March 31 last year.

Income before securities transactions for the first quarter amounted to \$4,366,990, or 86 cents per share, down 12.6 per cent from \$5,227,000, or 98 cents per

share recorded during the first quarter of 1975. Net income, after securities transactions was \$4,506,000, or 85 cents per share. This compares to \$5,240,000 or 99 cents per share last year.

The Heppner branch reported deposits of \$12,075,000 and loans of \$10,994,000 as of March 31. Comparable totals for the branch a year ago were \$9,976,000 in deposits and \$10,067,000 in loans.

### FRIENDSHIP CARD CLUB MEETS

The Friendship Card Club met Thursday evening at the home of Sharron Bell in Fossil. Mrs. Shirley Orr won high and Patsy McMinn won second high. Pinochles were won by Deena Reid and Glenda Homer. Others enjoying the evening play were Cisty Shaffer, Dinah Jackson and Edith Bell.