



By ERNIE CERESA

Following the defeat of the budget levy for the City of Heppner, voters turned out Wednesday night for the council meeting. One of the reasons for the turnout was to see if the council would take a stand and close the library and swimming pool. Although Justine Weatherford asked the committee to close the library the committee refused. The committee also voted to open the swimming pool and in the same breath voted to cut a man from the street department. This means the city will have to operate with a two-man street crew starting July 1. The city receives \$12,000 per year in highway taxes for any necessary paving within the city limits. Last year it cost the city \$9,000 to get a contractor to do the required paving. If the city fails to do the necessary paving at the end of a two-year period the City will have to repay the state \$24,000. The city is currently operating on a day-to-day pay basis and if this continues it will not have sufficient funds to operate during the fiscal year. Although the budget goes into effect July 1, the city receives no tax monies until January 1977.

The city has no reserve funds for any of its services to the residents and loses money on the swimming pool each year. Yet the swimming pool is classified the same as motherhood and apple pie. Residents keep asking the same question, "What are the children going to do this summer?" The council doesn't have the answers, all they know is there is no money to operate anything, let alone the swimming pool.

After a discussion Wednesday night in which residents asked if water and sewer rates would be increased, the council refused any comment until another meeting by the budget committee. If water and sewer rates are raised as well as the rates for the swimming pool the city will still not have money to operate.

After this was repeatedly explained the same question was asked, "When is the swimming pool going to open?" This question will be resolved at the city council meeting June 7.

Another complaint regarding the levy was that residents didn't know the city was broke. All they knew was they would be taxed another \$8.08 per \$1,000 of true cash value if the levy passed.

Some members of the audience claimed they did not know where the city fathers spent the money. A budget has been at the City Hall for the past weeks, however, no one has taken the time to look at it. The same applies for council meetings. There is no citizen involvement in the community. While the city can operate the library on a voluntary basis it cannot operate the swimming pool on a volunteer basis, for insurance reasons. Regardless of who operates the pool, the city is still liable for any accident which might occur on the grounds.

On the lighter side of the news: Recently returning to Heppner from Umatilla County, a prominent citizen was rounding a curve, exceeding the speed limit, when he noticed a highway patrol officer. The officer clocked the speeder with his radar device and stopped our friend. As he approached the vehicle he noticed a CB antenna and asked the driver, "Didn't the truckers notify you that I was in the area?" Our red-faced friend could only reply, "Sorry, I didn't have the set turned on."

Last Friday approximately 35-40 jurors appeared at the courthouse to be selected for jury duty. After a lengthy wait by the jurors the roll was called to see if all the prospective jurors were present. Judge Kaye, Pendleton, was ready to assume his place on the bench; when he noticed that neither of the defendants or their lawyers had appeared in court. A hurried phone call to a Portland attorney asking why he failed to appear in court brought the following reply. A letter asking for postponement of the case had been sent to the county court, however, the letter was not received by Friday.

Judge Kaye apologized to all the jurors for the inconvenience and asked all jurors to be present this Friday at the courthouse for another trial. Hope someone besides the judge and the jurors show up this time.

Letters for publication should be addressed to the Editor, The Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, OR. 97836. All letters are subject to abridgement and must be signed and carry an address. Short letters, typed double spaced are preferred, but all letters will be considered. We do not publish third person letters or anonymous ones.



THE GAZETTE-TIMES

The official newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow.

G.M. Reed, Publisher
Delores Reed, Co-publisher
Ernie Ceresa, Editor

Published every Thursday and entered as a second-class matter at the post office at Heppner, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.



"Money...Money...Money..."

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

In recent years the condition of the state highways within Morrow County have shown a marked deterioration due to the lack of funding and planning for construction and maintenance.

If you feel that something should be done to correct this existing situation, you will have a chance to express your opinion.

The Oregon State Highway Division is holding 22 meetings throughout the state to present construction plans for the next six years. Construction priorities and timetables for many of the proposed projects are still flexible and the highway department plans could be modified as a result of comments at these meetings.

The meeting in this area will be held at the Pendleton City Hall, Wednesday, June 2, 8 p.m., at the Conference Room. It is extremely important that as many citizens from Morrow County as possible attend this meeting.

LARRY MILLS,
President, Heppner-Morrow County
Chamber of Commerce



Oregon's six per cent limitation has severely restricted the amount of revenue available to cities from property taxes when they have maintained their budget within that limitation.

As you know this is our first year for requesting a levy outside the six per cent limitation, and available cash has been budgeted out over the past years, eaten up by increased operational costs.

As taxpayers this should not be difficult for you to understand, as costs have soared in the past few years.

According to information received this past week from the League of Oregon Cities, consumer prices have increased almost 60 per cent according to the U.S. Department of Labor from 1967 to 1975. In that same period the cost of operating local governments has increased almost 80 per cent. This should clarify why our available cash is depleted or as a practical matter been exhausted.

One may ask why we haven't been budgeting an ending fund balance over the past years so a beginning fund balance would be available to operate from the beginning of the fiscal year in July until November or December when the tax money is made available to the City. This is a fair question, but the point is, it has not been done, and I can only say it is due to not having available cash to budget that way.

A fair question now, is, shouldn't we pass a levy with this in mind to start at least building up a small ending fund balance in each department until eventually we will have an appropriate beginning fund balance to operate on through these "tax waiting months"?

I'm sure some questions remain unanswered in budgeting as far as those of you who do not work with the planned program budget system and even some for those who do.

The Oregon Local Budget Law requires certain procedures that must be followed pertaining to formulation and publishing of the budget. The publishing procedure requires not less than 15 and not more than 25 days prior to the budget hearing followed by a notice of publication.

The first budget committee meeting must be published not less than 8 and not more than 14 days prior to a meeting. If

EDITOR:

My husband and I are subscribers of the Gazette-Times and have enjoyed Justine Weatherford's Bicentennial Forums, however, her article about the Brosnan family was very disappointing.

Mrs. Weatherford went into great detail about members of the Brosnan family, but made no mention of my husband, Joseph M. Brosnan, or his sister Margaret (Mrs. Donald B. Williams).

In the following week's edition of the Gazette-Times, she wrote an apology, which was equally as disappointing as the first article.

Joe is the second son and Margaret, the only daughter of John and Zetta and both were born and reared on the Brosnan Ranch. They now live in Little Rock, AR.

Joe has one son, Joe Jr., who lives in Homer, AK. He and his wife, Marianne, have four children. His second son, Gerard, and his daughter, Kathleen, live in Portland, OR. Gerard and wife, Mary Grace, have two children.

I feel sure this error was unintentional, but please publish this letter.

PAULINE E. BROSNAN
Little Rock, AR.

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The feller that runs the store was catching up on his book work Saturday night and he let the session run longer than usual. He got the fellers discussing ways of paying, and the talk took off in all directions from there.

The store feller carries some families by the week, some by the month, a few by the year and a few he has learned from sad experience not to carry at all. Each family has their own little book, and when settling up time comes around he just adds up everything on the book since the last pay time. That's about the extent of his bookkeeping, and usual he takes in enough to pay his bills with a little left over for his labors. Since he knows practical everybody he gives credit to, he ain't to concerned about what they pay him with, but he told the fellers that he has been reading in some of his trade journals where they're trying to replace checks that replaced cash.

The trouble is, the store feller said, there's too much paper involved in doing business. Banks want to cut down on the mountains of checks they process ever month, so now they've come up with somepun called interior fund transfers. This means bank computers will take your money and give it to somebody else, all you go to do is tell it to. All your regular payments can be handled with transfers, cutting down on your checks. The feller that runs the store said we've gone from cash to checks to credit cards to computers and where we'll go from here is anybody's guess. For his money, he said he could make do with anything he could use to balance his family books, and he wouldn't feel at all bad about taking fresh-made honey as pay for coffee as long as he could make interior transfers like the bank computers. He'll just use goods instead of figgers.

The paying with numbers reminded Ed Doolittle of the piece he saw about the way the comptroller of the currency spends old fashion money. The comptroller, James Smith, spent 124 days at meetings last year, and he spent \$54,000 traveling to em. He stayed in \$200 a day hotel rooms and he shelled out \$1,200 for a three-day board bill in Houston. Ed said this feller must figger the way to control currency is to keep it moving so fast it can't git in trouble. And the tax money he spent was helped by the trips on airplanes and in hotels owned by banks his office checks up on.

Speaking of numbers, Clem Webster said he's looking for the day when a man's name will be numbers. Right now, he said, your name is nothing without your driver's license, your Social Security number and your telephone number. We might as well shake em all together and come up with one number and forget word names, was Clem's idee.

Personal, Mister Editor, I'm fer cutting back numbers and keeping names. I've writ to my Congressman, giving him all my numbers, and I'll let you know which way he dodges on this one. Probable, he'll make a interior transfer.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

OSU Extension Service News

by

Morrow Extension Staff

COUNSELOR RETREAT

Involvement, responsibility, and planning the forthcoming 4-H Camp were the highlights of the recent counselor retreat held at Henderson Park near Fossil. Older 4-H members from Gilliam, Wheeler, Sherman and Morrow counties who will be serving as counselors at the 4-H Camp at Cutsforth Park July 6-10 attended the training session which was given by local Extension Agents.

Counselors attending from Morrow County were Erin Evans, Clint Carlson, Pam Cantin and Donald Richards. A number of other counselors from this county were unable to attend due to school involvements.

Plans for the camp were completed at the retreat, with each counselor accepting responsibility for a number of activities, according to Birdine Tullis and Mike Howell, Morrow Extension staff who attended and participated in the training events. Camp will be a four-county event this year, with both campers and counselors from the four counties spending the week at the Morrow County 4-H camp at Cutsforth Park.

REMINDER

The May 29 deadline is approaching fast for registration to attend the OSU Mini College. Forms are available at the Extension office, and "we'll send one out to you if you call," reported Birdine Tullis. An exciting variety of classes are offered during the week of June 21-25, as well as the opportunity to live and learn in the college atmosphere. All this for only \$50, which includes room, board, and registration. It is the best bargain available anywhere for a learning vacation.

HOMEMAKERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SELECTS LEADERS

Study group and related committees take a summer break from May to September, as many women involved in the Extension programs are very busy with other activities.

May is traditionally the month for election of officers who will assist and carry out the special events planned by women involved in the program. Elected as leaders of the Homemakers Advisory group was Vera Cooley, Irrigon, chairman; Claudia Hughes, Heppner, vice-chairman; Mildred Rhea, Lexington, secretary and Alice Harrison, Boardman, treasurer.

FIELD DAYS

Two field days of interest to Morrow County wheat growers are scheduled for June 15 and 16.

June 15 is the date for the Pendleton Station Field Day beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

June 16 is the Field Day at Sherman Station in Moro. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. and runs to 4:30 p.m.

Subjects which will be covered at Pendleton include: Feed grain varieties, grain quality, green bug, Turkish agriculture. The afternoon tour will include variety drill plots, selective control of cheatgrass in wheat, cereal diseases and control, and tillage and non-tillage studies in Winter Wheat.

The Sherman Station tour will include: stand establishment in dryland wheat, progress in feed grain research, small grain variety trials, minimum tillage in wheat fallow, seed sizing studies on dryland wheat, and winter and spring crossing program.

MARSHALL LOVGREN,
Budget Officer

