

Sweeney unopposed; Four v for three spots on common council



Jerry Sweeney



Cliff Green



Hubert Wilson



Avon Melby



Warren Plocharsky

While Mayor Jerry Sweeney, facing no opposition, is destined to become the mayor of Heppner for another two year term, a four person race has emerged for a two year council position.

Three men and one woman are running for three positions up on the council. Two are incumbents.

Avon Melby, the lone woman on the ballot, faces opposition from incumbents Warren Plocharsky and Cliff Green. Hubert Wilson, unavailable for comment this week, is the fourth person on the three way ticket.

Sweeney, a public servant for 10 years, is a little dismayed with the election because he is saddled with the responsibility of continuing as mayor.

Sweeney told the Gazette-Times this week that this would be his last two years, calling it "too time consuming."

"Nobody filed and I'd hate to walk away from it," Sweeney said. "I'm stuck anyway," he said, explaining that under the city charter, a city official must serve until a successor is elected.

Sweeney has lived in Heppner 14 years, operating a mortuary in town. He has been a member of the council for six years, president of the council for two years and mayor for four years.

Sweeney said he has been involved with the city's water and sewer system, which makes the community ready for 3,000 people. "Heppner is in good condition for any additional growth," Sweeney said.

He also cited street repair needs and said he would like to see that done, "if we ever get the money." Sweeney's city officials were strapped by a budget defeat this year and had to chop the budget down for voter passage.

Heppner council, two year term—Warren Plocharsky, Avon Melby, Cliff Green, Hubert Wilson.

Plocharsky had little to say on city issues. A member of the area for 11 years, Plocharsky said he had "nothing specific" in mind when asked of particular concerns or goals.

With "no axe to grind," Plocharsky said simply that he wanted to "serve the people."

Avon Melby isn't running on a feminist ticket, even though she advocates that the council is in need of a woman's ideas.

Melby's family have been residents of Morrow County since the 1850s. She moved to Heppner in 1959 and has been serving as East Oregonian correspondent since.

Melby said that being a correspondent for many papers, including the E.O. and two Portland papers, it has been "frustrating not to be able to take part."

She said she feels a woman should be on the council because a woman adds a "difference." She said that with the difference, the "council is a good place to be."

She said that she has been looking for two months to find someone to run for the council spot but that she could find no one interested enough. Melby told the Gazette-Times on Tuesday that she wanted to withdraw from the campaign but that law stopped her.

She advocated that being the continuous reporter since 1959, she is "aware of the problems." She said that on the last day of filing, after finding people that said running would

"hurt their business or they weren't interested," Melby filed. She said Tuesday that she is "not asking anyone to vote for me."

Melby said that if elected and if the council post interfered with her work, she would resign.

Melby said she would try to "get things out in the open" and find a "way of saving money in operation." She said Heppner has a "good council" and she hated to see either one of the incumbents beat.

Melby said that the two incumbents, (Plocharsky and Green) are "darn good" but "a woman should be on there."

Against the second water rate increase this summer, Melby advocated the public's approval of all city spending.

Green, a resident "this time" of the community for three and a half years, was born and raised in Heppner. He has served on the council for three months, accepting an appointment after the vacancy by Ernie Ceresa.

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Maureen Healy (14) spikes the volleyball toward Hermiston defenders in last weeks match. The undefeated Fillies are featured on page 14.

(G-T Photo)

lone road petition meets mixed reaction

A petition circulating in the area, calling for a new road to be constructed to tie the lone with the Carty Reservoir-Coal Fire Plant site, is being met with mixed reactions.

The petition, which does not define the road in length or direction, is reportedly to be designed to connect Reitmann Grade from Ella, north about three and a half miles,

meeting Tower Road, a road that runs east and west.

E.W. Ella runs east and west, parallel to Tower Road and perpendicular to Reitmann Grade. The Ella road runs along the border of the Boeing and Navy tract.

According to Paul Jones, Morrow County judge, the court has not taken a stand on the issue. He did say, how-

ever, at the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, that the idea had not been studied enough.

He also stated that unless Boeing gives the county the go ahead for a road, and, Jones said, he feels they have no intention of doing so, then there would not be a road.

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In six years

Local firm goes world wide

It's a modern day success story.

Six years ago, Lowell "Grib" Gribble jumped on an idea using sound waves. He inaugurated and originated a company in Heppner and this week received recognition from three companies that will stretch his business across the United States and into Saudi Arabia as well.

Gribble called it a "dream fulfilled" as his humble, yet optimistic start six years ago will go world wide.

Gribble is the resident and originator of Ultrasonic Predictable Maintenance, "industry's early warning system." The system works like this: all machinery operating under stress generates high frequency sound waves. These sounds start long before the equipment actually fails, but is a positive signal that trouble

is ahead. Although inaudible to the human ear, ultrasonic waves may be monitored and cause of the stress discovered through Gribble's creation, and through trained personnel in his company.

UPM is the first company to offer this service. They do not repair the trouble, they discover it.

So how did Grib go from a Heppner operation six years ago to world wide circulation and recognition today?

A company in California that already used the UPM system, decreased their down time from 6.7 per cent to 3.4 per cent. An impressive decrease, the vice president of this company, in charge of production, called from his Denver office to California to see what the secret was. The company credited Gribble's UPM service.

One thing led to another and before he knew it, Grib was on a plane heading for two national firms: one in Green Bay, WI; the other in Naheola, AL, to representa-

The performance record of UPM was the company's selling point. The service can locate leaks in pressure and vacuum systems, air, gas, steam or hydraulic lines,

and races; worn, loose or misaligned couplings, chains, sprockets, etc., broken or cracked motors or hot machinery or gear reduction boxes.



Lowell Gribble

"...I thank God for all that has happened to me and the company."

It virtually can detect any problem, minor or major, and by this, saves companies down time; time lost having to repair major problems.

Gribble, who has his main office in Heppner, with branch offices in five Oregon communities and one Washington town, plans to open a franchise in California. On top of the other good news, Gribble received word Tuesday that he is now authorized to sell stock and franchises in California.

He is developing programs for all three major companies for various parts of the United States and the mid-eastern country.

It was an optimistic guess six years ago by Gribble that the company would go this far. He said he knew the service was a good one.

The service cuts down time in plants, saves energy, prevents electrical outages, conserves steam and thereby, saves industries' money.

Gribble credits much of the success to God. "Since I have started supporting the Full Gospel Businessmen's Association," Gribble said, "my business has really prospered and I thank God for all that has happened to me and the company."

Gribble started the business six years ago and his two sons are employed in branch offices in Myrtle Creek, OR, and Centralia, WA.

KEEP FREEDOM
 ALIVE...



Area Precincts

- Boardman..... Greenfield Grange
- Hardman..... IOOF Hall
- Ione..... City Hall
- Irrigon..... Irrigon School
- Lexington..... City Hall
- NE Heppner..... Old Library Building
- NW Heppner..... Museum
- SE Heppner..... Courthouse
- SW Heppner..... Courthouse

Voting precincts for General Election-Nov. 3, 1976