



Rainy days...
John...
Curnutt... puddle
and reflect... first day
back at school after
the week...

'personal reasons'

Jones resigns Judgeship

By Tom Franks
County Judge Paul Jones announced this week that he intends to submit his resignation as county judge of Morrow County to become effective July 1, 1977, or as soon thereafter as a successor may be found.

Jones was expected to submit his formal resignation to the county court at press time, Wednesday, May 11.

Jones told the Gazette-Times that he was resigning for purely personal reasons. "I leave the position of County Judge with mixed emotions. The last twelve and one-half years in this position have been extremely rewarding and have emphasized my feeling of confidence in the people of our county," Jones said in his formal statement of resignation.

"In this period of time, I have seen the county grow from a strictly agricultural economy to one with a wide based economy—not only of agriculture, but of industrial and commercial base. When the P.G.E. plant is completed, Morrow County will have a

valuation in excess of \$5 million."

"This serves to emphasize the fact that we are no longer a small county, nor can we operate much longer on a tax base which has changed very

little in the last 15 years. We must have a new base and we must provide new services.

"These two terms I have served have been rewarding to me. I have been enriched by the experience, and if I have

contributed anything to Morrow County, then I have been amply rewarded.

"However, the time has come that I feel I must step down as county judge," his statement concluded.

Appointment of a successor for Jones may have some legal questions, but the current consensus and the opinion of the district attorney indicates that the appointment of a county judge will be in the hands of Gov. Robert Straub, based on the recommendation of the Democratic Central Committee.

Judge Jones is head of the Democratic Central Committee in Morrow County.

Judge Jones, 67, had previously planned to retire this year when his first wife was alive. He has since remarried.

His resignation announcement followed on the heels of budget committee sessions which again resulted in a county budget within the six per cent limitation. According to Jones, this was accom-

plished by accounting revenue sharing funds to the general fund in the amount of \$46,000.

Jones ran on a pledge to keep the county budget under the six per cent limitation. In recent years, that pledge has put strain on the county operation and Jones had been considering going to the voters next year with a proposal to change the taxable base in line with the growing valuation of Morrow County.

Reports from the budget committee indicate that both Jones and Sheriff L.D. Fetsch had requested salary increases for themselves, which were not considered favorably by the committee.

"No one on the county payroll is getting rich," noted one budget committee member.

The county budget has been put under additional strain by the costs of transportation and care of prisoners, a situation experienced across the United States following state and federal guidelines on standards for jail facilities which resulted in the closure of many rural jails.



Judge Paul Jones

Voters to polls next Tuesday

On Tuesday, May 17, Oregon voters will take part in a special election to consider three constitutional amendments. The first is the so-called school safety net proposal and the two other proposed amendments involve veterans' service programs.

In Morrow County, as elsewhere in the state, voting will be recorded by precinct. Heppner precincts 6, 7, 8 and 9 will vote at the old Heppner library building next to City Hall.

According to Sadie Parrish, Morrow County clerk, the

other polling places in the county are as follows:

In Boardman at the Greenfield Grange building; in Irrigon at the Morrow County office building; in Ione at Ione City Hall; in Lexington at Lexington City Hall and in Hardman at the Hardman Community Hall.

A sample ballot showing the proposed amendments exactly as they should appear on the regular ballot can be found in legal notices in this issue of the Gazette-Times.

Statewide, there has been little, if any, opposition noted

to the two proposed amendments which authorize additional veterans' fund uses and increase veterans' loan bonding authority. Both have been reported as self-sustaining measures and have no relation to state taxes.

The school operating levy measure has produced considerable debate. Basically, the amendment would allow school boards to authorize continued operation after two election defeats. The operation in the next year would be based on the levy of the past year plus six per cent.

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City finds elusive 11-grand; 'angel' for strained budget

By Tom Franks

There is good news and bad news on the city budget scene this week as the Heppner city budget committee prepares to go into session at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at City Hall.

The good news is that the city has found \$11,000 that wasn't on the books. The bad news is that they found \$11,000 that wasn't on the books.

According to Mayor Jerry Sweeney, the auditor for the city has given a reasonable explanation concerning the "lost" \$11,000. The amount on hand is in certificates of deposit.

Sweeney indicated that a special meeting of the city council will be called very

shortly after the budget committee meets Thursday night.

It would seem that there is very little for the budget committee to do Thursday night since they cut all but about \$16,000 from approximately \$45,000 over the six per cent limitation at an earlier meeting.

Those cuts include \$3,650 from the swimming pool, \$2,800 from revenue sharing for ordinance codification, \$2,000 for a proposed walkway on Gilmore Street, \$1,000 for paving oil, \$1,000 for fire truck reserve, \$1,000 for asphalt, \$5,169 for the library operation, \$500 for library books, \$1,000 for water utility improvements, \$6,000 for all street department paving,

\$800 for parking meter maintenance, \$320 from sanitation, \$1,000 for park maintenance, \$1,000 for legal services, \$1,000 for vacation and sick leave, and \$1,500 for engineering service.

By making a cut of about \$6,000 in the item called, taxes not to be collected, and adding the \$11,000 on hand, the cut can be accomplished without removal of a policeman from the city force.

A source on the Morrow County budget committee has indicated that the county has earmarked some funds for the library, which serves a large number of rural patrons, in their otherwise tight budget.

The city library committee is meeting this week to con-

sider means of keeping the library open despite the financial pinch. Every indication is that such an operation will depend for the most part on volunteer help, despite the county action and several hundred dollars which remain in the city budget for payment of utility services to the building.

The proposed city budget, totaling approximately \$163,000, went to Heppner voters twice. It was defeated the first time by seven votes and the second time by 20 votes.

Voters in southern Morrow County in recent elections voted down a requested increase by Blue Mountain Community College (the issue

was carried by Umatilla County and by a margin in northern Morrow County); voted down the first round on the school district budget (which goes back for a vote May 24 with \$127,917 in additional cuts); and twice voted down the Heppner budget proposal.

Voters will apparently not face the issue of a county budget as that budget, at least in committee, has been pared within the six per cent limitation.

The City of Heppner still has the option to return to the voters with another request.

The action doesn't appear likely, since the consensus of the majority of city officials is that the voters have spoken. In

addition, there is the concern of credibility with voters in the matter of the lost, but found, \$11,000.

Crash kills one

A one-vehicle accident four miles north of Lexington Thursday night, May 5, claimed the life of John Gesson Martin, 26, of 14550 S.E. Vista Lane, Milwaukie, Ore.

Martin was pronounced dead at the scene shortly after 11:05 p.m. The Martin vehicle, a 1974 Dodge flatbed truck, left Highway 207 after failing to negotiate a curve 4.4 miles north of Lexington.

State Trooper Vic Groshens

said he observed the vehicle upside down with its lights on at 11:09. On checking the vehicle, Martin was found inside. Groshens said no witnesses to the accident were found and there were no unusual road conditions. The trooper was apparently the first on the scene.

Authorities said that all indications point to the fact that Martin fell asleep at the wheel of his vehicle.

Martin was apparently killed outright by pipe on the rear of the truck, which came into the cab on impact.

The truck was registered to Martin Cattle Company of Heppner. Martin was living in a trailer house between Heppner and Lexington.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Milwaukie.

News Briefs

Public forum set

Residents of Morrow County will have an opportunity to express their views to directors and administrators of Blue Mountain Community College Tuesday, May 17.

The public meeting, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, will begin at 8 p.m. in the West of Willow meeting room in Heppner.

Anne Doherty, spokeswoman for AAUW, said, "This will be an input session for Morrow residents to help direct policy of the college."

"For the past two years, South Morrow County has voted down the college budget," she continued, "and this meeting is being held so voters can express their views and reasons for the vote."

Health Van here

A risk screening program for the prevention of heart and lung disease will be conducted in Heppner, Condon, Spray and Fossil next week, notes Rev. Lloyd Perrin, pastor of the area Seventh-day Adventist churches, sponsors of the program.

A medical health van will be in each area, providing free blood pressure checks, lung function tests, height and weight evaluations as well as other tests.

Dates and times for the van are: Spray, May 17 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Fossil, May 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Condon, May 18 between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Heppner, May 18, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and May 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ione Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate worship services for 1977 Ione graduates will be held Sunday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Ione.

Sponsoring churches include the United Church of Christ, St. William's Catholic Church and Valby Lutheran Church.

Rev. John O'Brien of St. William's will give the Baccalaureate address and special music will be provided by the United Church of Christ choir.

A reception honoring the graduating seniors will be held following the service. All members of the community are invited to attend.

School Board meets

The regular meeting of the Morrow County School Board will be held May 16 in Boardman at Riverside High School, beginning at 8 p.m.

The board will consider hiring classified employees and will award contracts for all extra duty assignments including coaching. Supt. Matt Doherty said the board will also take action on whether or not to require four years of English in high school.

Shane Fritz and Gordon Munk, Spanish teachers, will report to the board on a trip the two took to Mexico during spring vacation.

Some farmers get drought tax relief

Some Morrow County farmers have received a reduction in assessed valuation on dryland this year due to drought conditions, according to Everett Harshman, county assessor.

The reduction involves dryland grain land and the value has gone down approximately 25 per cent, according to Harshman.

Harshman said there has been no notice of the reduction, which is based on lower grain prices.

Flood irrigated alfalfa ground has gone up in assessed valuation due to the increase in the price of hay, he said.

According to law, the assessor is required to send out notices only to those who have experienced an increase amounting to \$400 or five per cent, whichever is greater. Because of this law, many

farmers are unaware that their values have decreased considerably, Harshman said.

The decrease does not apply to home sites where increases have been recognized with appropriate notice.

In general, the decrease on dryland grain acres should

result in a cash reduction in taxes. The final word will not be until late August or early September when the State of Oregon sets the mill rate.

In the meantime, the old adage holds true—"No news is good news."

HHS musicians to host concert

The concert will be informal and several groups of the music department are expected to participate.

The band will be selling cotton candy and popcorn. Donations will be accepted toward the band uniform fund.

In the event that the weather is bad, the picnic and concert will move indoors and be held in the high school gym.

The Heppner High School music department will present an outdoor band concert and public picnic in city park beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 15, according to Jim Ackley.

The picnic, featuring barbecued hot dogs, will get underway at 1:30 with the band concert beginning at 2 p.m. Cost will be \$1.00 per plate.

May rain is above normal

	High	Low	Precip.
Wed.,			
May 4	59	35	.16
Thurs.,			
May 5	55	33	.01
Fri.,			
May 6	54	30	
Sat.,			
May 7	56	33	.22
Sun.,			
May 8	64	35	
Mon.,			
May 9	68	37	
Tues.,			
May 10	66	45	.53

Rainfall thus far in May totals 1.61 hundredths of an inch. Normal for May is 1.34 hundredths. In May of 1976, the total for the month was 1.16.