

VIEWPOINT EDITORIAL LETTERS COMMENT

The move was a long time coming. But towards the end of the current monster session, HB 2059 made its way through a tight floor vote in both chambers of the legislature and on to the desk of the governor.

Opponents clamored for a referral to committee but it had the support to clear the challenge.

Other challenges still loom. Because the vote was close and the bill involves a potential loss of state revenue, indications emanating from Salem point to a possible Straub veto.

Again HB 2059 is in need of support—this time directly from the Oregon voters.

The issue at question is the Oregon Inheritance Tax. As it stands, 2059 would phase out the tax over the next ten years.

EDITORIAL

The debate—both pro and con—has been intense.

Opponents of the measure see a loss of state tax dollars if the tax is discarded, along with another clear path for the wealthy to avoid taxes.

Sponsors of the bill claim the tax is unfair and can be easily avoided anyway through manipulation of tax advantages

already available to the wealthy. They claim the great burden of the tax is shouldered by the small family-sustained business—many of which are located here in Eastern Oregon—farms. Statistics of the Oregon Farm Bureau show

that 90 per cent of the revenue raised by the tax comes from very small estates.

One supporter of the bill in the House cited the fact that small family farms frequently have to be sold to pay inheritance taxes.

So now the bill sits on Straub's desk.

He hears input daily from the legislators and more than a few have said they will urge a veto. He rarely hears directly from the voter, the one who tries to continue a family enterprise in the face of the tax.

We feel the tax is detrimental to the established pattern of the family-owned business that has served as the backbone of this area—and the nation—whether oriented toward agriculture or commercial trade.

We urge all concerned citizens to contact the governor, directly by phone, and present your opinion on HB 2059 and the Inheritance Tax.

The decision will be made soon. The time to act is now.



Pow wow

Heppner attorney Mike Sweeny discusses a point with attorney Bill Schroder during groundwater hearings for Butter Creek and Ordance area farms. The hearings were held in Hermiston this week. Related story on Page One.

Sifting through the TIMES



Gracing the Times front page this week in 1967 was the Fair and Rodeo Court led by Queen Verine French and backed by Princesses Bernice Matthews, Maureen Doherty, Linda Tatone and Rubianne Fullerton.

And while the royalty posed, others in the county kept in action. Ron Daniels was chosen superintendent of the Morrow County School District after completing six years as principal of Riverside High and Boardman Elementary. Heppner got a new Police Chief in Glen Kolkhorst who came from Coos Bay while Dean Gilman took a break. Gov. Tom McCall appointed Henry Kaye to the Circuit Court Bench in the Sixth Judicial District.

A decade earlier, the Times main headline read... "Wilkinson Ranching Operations Win Grassman Award for 1957." Pictured on the front page were Heppner farmers Frank Wilkinson, his son-in-law George Rugg and son Dick after receiving the award sponsored by the Morrow County Farm Bureau.

According to this week's 1947 edition of the Times, there were to be some hot times in Lexington during the upcoming independence day celebration... "Lex all set for Eagle Scream."

"We may have to close up the town a few days to get everything done but come 10 o'clock in the morning July 4 the big celebration will be all set to go," said Mayor Alonzo Henderson.

"The little Wheat City is a beehive of activity as preparations are being made for the two days of fun and

excitement," read the accompanying story. An inside ad for the celebration touts a "Big Smoker—several fast bouts by boys who know their stuff and more of that swell music for you to dance to."

There wasn't much in this week's 1937 edition to top that kind of excitement—people were too busy watching the thermometer as it climbed into the upper 90's.

Digging back to the 1927 edition we find that Arthur Brisbane always seemed to come up with some pearls of wisdom for the front page... "Deeds of individual courage still arouse the world more than any other achievement. Lindbergh's welcome proves that men feel today, as they did about Grillon, Dugesolin or Perseus. The individual fighter, going it by himself is the man adored by the crowd."

Contemporary philosopher Jack Ramsey, along with the Portland street crew, might tend to disagree with that assessment.

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 HIS NEW NAME IS
BAHA 'U' LLAH
 INVESTIGATE HIS CLAIM
 JULY 5-10 NIGHTLY 7-9 p.m.
 4-H ANNEX
 MORROW COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Shannon Farley OSU graduate

Important Wrangler meet set

Shannon Farley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Farley of Heppner, graduated June 5 from Oregon State University with a B.S. in Psychology.

Attending the commencement exercises were the Farleys, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Halvorsen and family of Hermiston and Mark Miller of Lexington.

There will be an important meeting for all Wrangler members Thursday, June 30, 8 p.m., at the dorm building on the fairground. All Wranglers are urged to attend.

Hospital Notes

Activity at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital from June 21 through June 28 included the following patients discharged: Rose Pemberton, Spray; Wilbur Gourley, Lexington; Susan

Mael, Monument; Maxine Smith, Heppner and Bernard Lyle Cox, Lexington. Still hospitalized are: Nellie Mahon, Heppner and Wayne Mendenhall, Condon.

Lola Stillman dies

Mrs. Lola Irene Stillman of Milton-Freewater, and a former resident of Heppner, died Tuesday, June 28 in Walla Walla. Mrs. Stillman was 86.

She is survived by one son, George Stillman of Heppner; a sister, Hazel Jackson of Lucille Bay, California; four

grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Stillman was born Sept. 6, 1890 in Dexter, Kansas and moved to Elgin in 1916 where she lived for over 50 years. She was married to Sol Stillman in Hermiston on May 31, 1928. Mr. Stillman preceded her in death in 1952.

Mrs. Stillman moved to Heppner in the late 1960's to be closer to her son and has been living in Milton-Freewater for the past four years.

Funeral services will be held Friday, July 1 at 2 p.m. at the graveside in the Elgin Cemetery.

Munselle-Rhoades Funeral Home, Milton-Freewater, is in charge of arrangements.

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THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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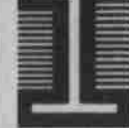
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