

VIEWPOINT

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Ballot Measures, levy endorsed

The polls open at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8 and since the election is a special one, voter turnout is expected to be light.

EDITORIAL

That is unfortunate because the two statewide ballot measures—and for Heppner residents, the serial bond levy—are important issues.

We feel the ballot items are important enough to have explained them in detail in this issue of the Gazette-Times and here we take the opportunity to urge a "yes" vote on all three.

Heppner special levy

First, on the local front, The City of Heppner is asking voter approval of an \$18,000 special serial bond levy for the construction of a new Morgan Street Bridge.

The condition of the existing structure is evident to anyone taking the time to drive by it—narrow and sagging dangerously in the span. The bridge is already closed to bus and truck traffic and yet it provides the most direct access to our high school.

What makes the levy so attractive is the \$103,000 in federal and state grant funds. It means the citizenry of Heppner is getting a \$121,000 structure for less than one-sixth the price tag.

The age is past where citizens of an area—and the local governments representing them—can be so foolishly prideful as to pass up state and federal help "on principle".

With city coffers drained by last spring's budget defeat and spiralling costs, residents of Heppner should vote themselves some help in maintaining the town by voting "yes" on the special levy request.

Ballot Measure 1

The passage of Ballot Measure 1 next Tuesday could have more beneficial effect for Morrow County than any other single county in the State of Oregon.

The measure calls for the creation of a Water Development Loan Fund from which small, family farmers could borrow money at reasonable interest rates to improve their land through irrigation.

Here in Morrow County that would mean Columbia River waters could be put to use making unproductive lands grow economic crops; it could provide a measure of relief for farmers on some 30,000 acres of land in the county threatened by critical groundwater hearings that may put a permanent cap on their wells; it could help take away part of the economic sting dishd out by a drought; it could provide many more jobs and construction of food processing plants in Boardman; it could do many things to make Morrow County's economy stronger.

There is no cost to the taxpayer with such a program—it operates like the veterans home or farm loan programs that have proven so successful in Oregon.

Again, residents of our area can help themselves with a "yes" vote on Ballot Measure 1, with it coming assurance of a continued strong agricultural economy—the backbone of Morrow County.

Ballot Measure 2

Ballot Measure 2—another self-supporting development fund—provides for Oregon's continued support of non-nuclear energy sources.

Right here in Morrow County we are reaping the benefit of such development with the construction of a coal-fired generating plant by Portland General Electric. Industrial development on such a scale adds millions of dollars to our tax base, which in turn lowers the tax rate paid by the individual.

The Carty Cluster—the area where the coal-fired plant is being built—is ideal for future development of energy producing facilities.

Another opportunity for Oregonians to provide themselves with a security blanket at no cost to the taxpayer. We recommend a "yes" vote on Ballot Measure 2.



Letters to the Editor

BMCC expresses appreciation

Editor,

The Board of Directors for Blue Mountain Community College asked the assistance of the Heppner branch of the AAUW and the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce in selecting a Budget Committee member to represent Heppner. Both organizations responded promptly by suggesting names for the Board's consideration.

The Board considered the names of Phyllis Kröll, Lyle Lowe, and Ray Boyce and, as you probably know, Ray Boyce was named to represent Heppner on the BMCC Budget Committee.

The decision was difficult because all three people were interested in serving and were well qualified for the position. The determining factor in Ray's selection was the fact that he has had children attend BMCC and he has been in business in Heppner for a longer period of time.

The purpose of this letter is to express our thanks to both the AAUW and the Chamber of Commerce for their assistance in naming this replacement to the BMCC Budget committee.

We also want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Homer Hughes, who decided not to accept a new budget committee term. Homer has served on the BMCC Budget Committee for fifteen years and his contributions have been beneficial and his efforts over all of these years is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Ronald L. Daniels
President

Growth brings responsibilities

Dear City Planning Commission:

Heppner is indeed fortunate! In our tri-county area Heppner is the only town with a sufficiently broad-based economy to provide jobs for our young people, a hospital, doctors, dentists and a growing business district struggling to provide us with goods and services. Without a large concern such as Kinzua Corporation, we would find it increasingly difficult to maintain any one of these things.

Growth surely brings with it responsibilities. Housing, streets, water, bridges, etc., to name a few. The alternative to growth is to lose our hospital, business district and tax base to support our schools. When any of us feel that it isn't worth the effort to keep up, we might ask the towns around us how they like doing without those things.

My feeling is that any builder wishing to help us by providing the necessary housing should be WELCOMED, not restricted, and that we should also examine the possibility of providing low cost housing, too, for those that really need assistance, such as our elderly. They would like to be permitted to retire in their home community.

If we don't provide for growth we will still need bridges anyway—for people clamoring to get out of town....

Yours truly,
Margaret G. Murray

Oregon's fair share

Editor,

We think that the Legislature and Governor were very wise in offering the people of Oregon the opportunity to get their fair share of the Columbia River irrigation water before it is used elsewhere.

The State of Washington is programmed for 1,200,000 acres of irrigation from the mighty Columbia. Idaho will use all of the Snake River irrigation water and California is thirsty for imported water.

Oregon has 5,000 acres for cherries at The Dalles, 70,000 acres in Morrow County and around 20,000 acres in Umatilla County, being 95,000 acres. We think Oregon's share of the Columbia is 400,000 acres, before they turn off the spigot in a very few years.

The Bureau of Reclamation, who have built many fine irrigation projects, cannot, at this time, administer and construct projects unauthorized by Congress such as the Southside project in Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties in Oregon—being 400,000 acres.

Other methods of loans and financing must be developed. The use of moderate interest loans, substantiated by Oregon's bonds, would be very beneficial to Oregon's future in irrigation projects and jobs for our young people.

Sincerely,
Rupert Kennedy
Coordinator
Port of Morrow Commission

A Halloween thanks

Editor,

On Halloween night five teenagers and myself canvassed Ione for Lutheran World Relief. On behalf of the kids, myself and the Hope-Valby Lutheran Parish I extend a deeply felt thank you to all the Ionians (and a couple of Heppnerites) who showed themselves to be so generous. Thanks to you we're sending \$100 to help others who are victims of disaster.

Also, a special thanks to the five kids who went door to door—you're super!

John S. Maas
Pastor, Hope-Valby

Pictures spur concern

Editor,

Last week's Homecoming Special brought varied, passing thoughts to mind again. I could not help but realize how quickly time is passing. The senior football players pictured were only kids, it seems, just a few short days ago when I was still in high school. I remember them as the "grade schoolers" we taught as teachers' aides, brothers of some of my class mates, annoyances and pests, but terribly clever. If this passing of time came so vividly to me, I wonder what it must be like for the relatives, teachers and parents.

But all is not well. From your photographs in last week's issue—and previous issues—I sense a high school that is not as united as it once was, less proud, more unruly. I am sure that any unrest, discontent or tension felt during my high school years would seem sleek and mild compared to today. How many relatives, teachers and parents are noticing this?

Each time I return to Heppner, I am more aware of this changing attitude. I think Heppner, in many ways, looks tired and feels sluggish. Conversations with friends in the Heppner area during my brief return visits seem to support my views. I have heard of less cooperation within the school, sagging interest in activities, lack of maturity.

When I was in elementary school, being in high school was something to look forward to. We admired the upper-classmen and anxiously awaited "joining the team." There were plays to produce, dances, student government and the journalism department all to look forward to.

Unfortunately, it seems students in the elementary school today have little to look forward to.

Sincerely,
Greg Davidson
(Class of '74,
Heppner High School)

Sifting through the TIMES

Could it be that Heppner has mellowed out a bit from a decade ago when the Times featured a front page story on the upcoming Crazy Days?

"Merchants are to dress up in weird and crazy costumes Friday and the funniest-dressed woman and funniest-dressed man will each receive a \$5 prize from the Chamber of Commerce.

"Customers are invited to do the laughing at the foolish-looking merchants." For the following day, a Kids' Parade was planned with the high school band and one of the cities new fire trucks included in the lineup.

In the same week, the selection of Larry Lindsay as Livestockman of the Year was announced at the annual Farm-City banquet.

"A young man working towards his law degree at Georgetown University, Washington D.C., changed his plans abruptly in 1960 when his father, Alex Lindsay, of Lexington died unexpectedly.

"The son dedicated himself to the ranch operation, taking his father's place and now—seven years later—Larry Lindsay, still a young man, has been selected by a committee of ranchers as Morrow County's 1967 Livestock of the Year. He thus follows in the footsteps of his father, who attained the honor in Morrow County in 1958."

This week in 1957, a full truckload of 424 deer, elk and cow hides left on the first leg of a journey to a California tannery. They will be prepared and returned to Oregon Veterans' hospitals for use by veterans for physical therapy.

Also in the week, leaders representing commodity, youth, home economics and farm organizations met in the Courthouse to lay plans for Morrow County's upcoming Town and Country planning conference.

"Special problems listed for study included further action on noxious weed control, school district reorganization, further improvements of county roads, conservation of soil and water, a study of feasibility of increased irrigation in North Morrow County, need for a development or planning commission, industrial opportunities in the county and a study of participation in activities by youth."

Heppner's Star Theater was in the news this week in 1947. Theater management was seeking to poll the community on whether to screen the recently released "Forever Amber" at higher than usual prices.

"Do you want to see this Technicolor film based on the best selling novel at increased admission prices? The producer insists that the admission be \$1.20 for adults and 55 cents for children until 1949 when the normal prices return."

A major business transaction topped the news this week in 1937 when the Heppner Hotel changed hands in a \$20,000 deal. D.M. Ward purchased the hotel from The Dalles Hotel Co.

"Mr. Ward enters the local hotel business with a background of former business experience here, having clerked in local stores at the turn of the century, and for many years has followed wheat farming, more recently in the lone section. In his venture into the hotel business at this time, he expresses confidence in the business future of Heppner and announces that it will be his endeavor to conduct the hotel on a high standard.

"The Dalles Hotel Co. succeeded the late Pat Foley to ownership of Heppner Hotel. Foley took it over from the Heppner Hotel Association, composed of public spirited citizens who constructed the building by popular subscription in 1920 for \$65,000.

Picture credit

Indian Summer weather brought a lilac bush into full bloom recently at the Harold Peck residence shown here...but snow coming to the Blues this week warns that winter is just around the corner.

Spirit of the holiday?

Editor,

I am amazed at the intellect (or lack of) demonstrated by some of the Heppner youth Halloween night. It must require a lot of bravery to steal candy from second and third graders, to spray shaving cream in the face of elderly women who live alone, or to write obscenities on the front of the Central Market.

I don't know if the parents of these hooligans are aware of their children's activities, if they are and they don't care or can't do anything about it, the parents are as guilty as their children.

I am not writing about a little soap or wax on windows and other similar pranks. What I am writing about are the deeds that are far outside the spirit and object of Halloween, which make Heppner a little less enjoyable place to live, for all of us.

Robb Rush

Letters Policy

ALL LETTERS of general interest are welcomed, providing they are in good taste and not libelous. 250 WORDS IS about the maximum length we can accept, however, if you need more space, please use it.

ALL LETTERS MUST be signed to be considered. If you wish to have your name withheld—for good cause—we will do so after contacting you for an explanation.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS should be included. The number will only be used by the Gazette-Times to confirm it was you who wrote the letter.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES reserves the right to refuse any letter it deems unfit for publication. LETTERS SHOULD BE addressed to Editor, Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Ore., 97836.

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