

VIEWPOINT

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Budgets require study by citizens

With the setting of a special election date this week for a 3-year serial road levy for Morrow County, residents can prepare themselves for a bevy of other elections for tax monies needed to support services we all use each day.

The School District will come forth with an election date for their \$4.8 million bond issue and voters will have to decide on operating budgets for their cities and county if those budgets show an increase of more than six per cent.

The City of Heppner will probably go beyond a six percent increase in budget, schools will undoubtedly require an increase of more than six per cent and perhaps the county—which has not gone outside the six per cent limitation in many years—will have to this year to provide needed services.

Budget committees are now working to come up with figures to present to the people—you—this spring.

The budget-making process is long and laborious and not much fun as committee members sift through proposals and requests, determining which services are necessary and beneficial to the community.

Morrow County—with the lowest tax rate in the State of Oregon—is getting hit with a double whammy. Because the county is experiencing growth and growth requires additional services, tax money is needed to provide those services. The growth will add to the assessed valuation of the area which results in lowering of taxes, but the services are needed before the new tax monies roll into governmental coffers. It's the old "Which-comes-first, the chicken-or-the-egg" story.

We hope residents of the area take a long, hard look at the budget proposals and special levy elections that will be forthcoming and not vote an arbitrary "no" simply because the proposal means more taxes. A responsibility lies therein that touches every voting citizen.

Willow Creek Dam

The announcement this week by an aide of Senator Mark Hatfield stating that if the people of Morrow County want the Willow Creek Dam project, it could be a reality, bears careful consideration.

The fact that this is an election year for Sen. Hatfield aside, the dam could mitigate a serious problem the cities of Heppner, Ione and Lexington face.

Regulations concerning flood plains in those cities are getting stiffer and as it stands right now construction in the commercial and residential area of those communities is a thing of the past. That is like signing a death sentence for those communities.

We haven't heard the complete proposal from the Senator and the residents of the area would have to know that information before making a decision, but, we feel local officials should make every effort to bring the matter before the people—once again.

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.

THE GAZETTE TIMES

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G.M. Reed, Publisher Dolores Reed, Co-publisher
Terry M. Hager, Managing Editor
Jim Summers, News Editor
Eileen Saling, Office Manager
Elane Blanchet, Reporter
Gayle Rush, Composing Chloë Pearson, Composing
Justine Weatherford Local Columnist



Picture Credit

This scene shows Heppner after the 1903 flood. The city's current flood plain is again a major issue in adoption of a comprehensive plan for Heppner. If accepted as is, further construction in the commercial area and some residential areas will be curtailed by law.

Daily Living....

'Cold shoulder' may help heavy drinkers

by Janice L. Green, Ph.D.
director of Mental Health Services for Morrow County

When our friends or relatives drink too much frequently and repeatedly, we tend to recognize that they have a "problem" and we try to treat them in an understanding way when they are inebriated.

Frequently people accept behavior from a friend who is "off the shelf" that would be considered entirely unacceptable if the person were sober. However, from what we know of societies where there is very little alcoholism we may be making a mistake with our friends and relatives which is costly to them. In societies where obvious tipsiness is frowned on, and drunkenness an unheard of social gaff, there is almost no alcoholism. It's quite possible that social disapproval actually prevents excessive drinking.

Hence, it may be that your friendliest response to a person who has had too much would be to turn your back on him (or her). Don't listen to him. Don't sympathize with him. Send him home. Tell him you would like to talk with him tomorrow. Save all your pleasantries, conversation, and sympathetic understanding for when he manages to be sober or drinking with restraint, and be sure at these quieter times that you actually do deliver the caring and sympathy that such a troubled person so obviously needs.

Listen faithfully to the man who is sober and disengage from the buttonholing drunk. If a person must ventilate it should be done when in the full possession of his faculties. Otherwise, you may be unwittingly encouraging the very behavior which is destroying the life of your friend or relative.

When the day comes that nobody will listen to a tipsy spell, perhaps a troubled person might be prompted to face his problems rationally, and in clear thinking find a solution.

It's your say....

LETTERS FROM READERS

Journalism questioned

Editor,

This is in regards to the story that appeared last week concerning men's city league basketball.

The story read "Matt Greenup won the — Week Award and a two-week suspension for throwing a senseless cheap shot in the game."

Whoever is responsible for writing that statement should be aware of the ethics of good journalism and the laws governing libelous statements.

Such "cheap senseless shots" can be termed libelous. Libel is defined "copy is libel if it tends to harm the reputation of any person by exposing him to public aversion, lowering him in the estimation of his fellows, or deterring third persons from dealing with him." Say it Safely, Legal Limitation of Journalism, Paul P. Ashley.

We are not advocating violence in sports especially recreational. However the Gazette-Times coverage should have been a comprehensive report on sports violence in an editorial instead of one writer's opinion in the sports section.

And furthermore, aren't there two sides to every incident?

Gary & Marcia Kemp

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer stands by his assessment of the incident. Any situation in which an assailant rushes through a crowd of people to deliver a punch that was never seen by the recipient, is, in the writer's estimation, a cheap shot. Secondly, any punch thrown in the course of a city league basketball game, regardless of the provocation, is senseless.

OBITUARIES

Cosner L. Adkins

Conser Lee Adkins, 74, Vancouver, Wash., died in Heppner Tuesday, Jan. 24. Mr. Adkins was born March 23, 1903 in Heppner, the son of Francis and Mattie Dennis Adkins.

On March 25, 1925, he was united in marriage to Retha Fay Owen at Walla Walla, Wash.

He was a former Heppner resident and a retired carpenter.

Graveside services will be held today, (Thursday), Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. at Heppner Masonic Cemetery with Rev. Edwin Sikes of the First Christian Church, Heppner, officiating. Sweeney Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Adkins is survived by his widow, Retha, Vancouver, Wash.; a son, Frank Adkins, Vancouver, Wash.; a daughter, Joanne Knudson, Portland; and three grandchildren.

Mollie E. Brown

A former Heppner resident, Mollie E. Brown, died in Redlands, Cal., on Thursday, Jan. 19, at the age of 96.

Mrs. Brown was born in this area and moved to Redlands 56 years ago.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Emma Haberman of Redlands, and Mrs. Clara Donald of Clearfield, Utah; and a nephew, Ed Brown, Redlands.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the F. Arthur Cortner Chapel in Redlands with arrangements handled by the chapel. Interment was at Hillside Memorial Park, Redlands.

Sam McDaniel

Sam McDaniel, 79, Heppner, formerly of Hardman, died Saturday, Jan. 21, in Heppner. He was born Feb. 5, 1898 in Hardman, the son of Samuel and Harriet Stowell McDaniel,

Morrow County pioneers, and was a lifetime resident of the area.

Mr. McDaniel worked for many years at Reids Mill, south of Hardman, and was a retired U.S. Forest Service employee.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church, Heppner, with the Rev. Edwin Sikes officiating. Carl and Betty Marquardt sang and played "Beyond the Sunset" and "Good Night and Good Morning".

Casket bearers were Evan McDaniel, Melvin McDaniel, Cecil McDaniel, Scott McDaniel, Delvin McDaniel and Dallas McDaniel.

Concluding services and interment were at Heppner Masonic Cemetery with Sweeney Mortuary in charge of arrangements.

Mr. McDaniel is survived by a daughter, Maxine Mahon, Elgin; two sisters, Alice Hastings, Heppner; and Ma-

bel Howell, Spray; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

His wife, Debbie, preceded him in death in 1976.

Lewis Ball

Lewis Ball, 75, a lifetime resident of the area, died in Heppner, Wednesday, Jan. 18. He was born April 17, 1902 in Ione, the son of Jay and Mary Johnson Ball.

He was united in marriage to Anna Petersen in Heppner on August 29, 1925.

Mr. Ball was a member of the Willows Grange, Ione.

Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Ione United Church of Christ with the Rev. William Graham officiating. Carl and Betty Marquardt were accompanied by Rikka Tews at the organ as they sang "In the Garden" and "Beyond the Sunset".

Active pallbearers were Gerald Bergstrom, Tom Raw-

Sifting through the TIMES

Morrow county experienced a brief preview of spring in January 10 years ago, with a 70 degree maximum temperature reported on Jan. 20 by weather observer Don Gilliam. The mark matched a record set for the month on New Years Day in 1918. The unseasonable weather didn't last, however. A peek in the next week's Times shows temperatures dropping back to the 20s and sub-teens.

The county had been plagued by a series of robberies ten years ago, including one reported this week in 1968 when Heppner Junior High was burglarized of typewriters and record players worth \$400. Previous burglaries included an \$800 theft from the safe at Riverside High School and break-ins and thefts from Del's Market in Lexington and Bristow's in Ione.

A compromise negotiated between the Morrow County School District and county teachers was announced this week in 1968, raising the base minimum pay for teachers from \$5,800 to \$6,000. In a separate story, Supt. Ron Daniels told the school board and the budget committee that the district faced the dismal prospect of starting the fiscal year with a deficit of \$15,385.

An editorial titled "Chamber Boosts County", written by editor of the Gazette-Times at the time and 1968 Chamber of Commerce President, Wes Sherman, praised the accomplishments of the group: "Lights at the rodeo ground were financed through a chamber project; the Port Commission was formed from the active work of the organization; it was behind the drive for a hospital with other community groups; it worked for the development of Bull Prairie; it pushed for the sale of BLM lands in the north end of the county; it has supported agriculture in many ways; it sponsors the Rodeo parade each year; it works closely in support of the fair and rodeo...If the county achieves significantly in this year of 1968 and if some of the major projects in view reach fulfillment or come closer to realization, one can be sure that the Chamber has helped."

Oscar Peterson, Ione rancher, was sworn in as Morrow County judge this week in 1958. Peterson was appointed by then governor Robert Holmes, to fill the unexpired term of resigning Garnet Barratt.

An editorial published this week in the Times forty years ago, expresses fear of the growing power of unions: "...Just last Saturday Oregon Wool Growers Association was notified by Harry Bridges, union organizer, that any sacks of wool not marked showing the wool to have been sheared by union shearers would not be handled by CIO longshoremans.

"What, we ask, if Mr. Bridges forces his point with wool growers, is to prevent similar action being taken against wheat growers? Is it not possible, if present union tactics are permitted, that very shortly Mr. Bridges and his ilk will be telling our wool and wheat growers how many men they may hire, what hours they shall work and how much wages be paid?"

"No, certainly, we have all believed that such a thing could not happen here. But if the course of union organizers may be taken as criterion, in the farming sections of the country may expect to see such attempts. They are probably foredoomed to failure for many reasons, but it is time for agriculture to wake up. Our farmers are lying with a strange bedfellow when they play into the hands of uncontrolled, unscrupulous labor organizers..."

A big booster issue of the Gazette-Times was in the works in 1928, the purpose being to stimulate outside interest in the county and to draw new settlers: "In creating a worthwhile advertisement for Morrow County, and owing to the universal interest displayed, that will well fill its intended function, we have succeeded beyond our fondest expectation. The Booster Edition will be all and more than we had originally planned. And above all, it will have the right outside distribution, the most important factor in the whole undertaking...The Heppner Gazette-Times office these days presents a real metropolitan daily appearance..."

One headline on the front page of the Times fifty years ago this week proclaimed "Basketballists Latest Scourge at Heppner": "Everybody's getting it, now that the new school gymnasium is becoming more thoroughly appreciated by the town of Heppner. Gay Anderson, "Red" Van Marter, Dave Wilson and some of the other boys who "used to be" are sporting a few sore muscles from the first work-out to the old heads...Even Albert Adkins, Bert Stone and Earl Hallock were throwing a mean basketball..."

There must have been some complaint about the price of gasoline even back in 1928: "The day may not be so far off, after all, when they will throw in an automobile or two when one buys a gallon, of gasoline."

CLASSIFIEDS

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