

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS • COMMENTS • EDITORIAL

Budgeting and taxes

Morrow County voters have been good to taxing districts so far this year, passing an increased road levy, a \$4.8 million school building bond and now the special levy for schools here.

What remains for voters are at least two more important issues. Both the city and the county are currently working on budgets and it is almost certain that both will have to go beyond the six per cent limitation, that is, they will have to ask voter approval of a portion of their budgets.

The city held its first budget meeting last Thursday with another scheduled for tonight. The county will hold its first budget meeting on May 11. Indications are that committees working on both budgets will strive to pare the budgets to bare minimums and yet, both governments will probably need more money than tax bases allow.

Taxing districts—such as the city and the county—receive most of their money from an established tax base and each year they can tax up to an additional six per cent of that base amount without going to the people. When the taxing district needs more than the additional six per cent to operate, it must ask the people to approve any amount above and beyond the six per cent increase.

While this is an over-simplification of the process, it explains the basic procedure.

Inflation alone takes most of, or more than, the six per cent increase allows so before really starting the budget-making process the city and county are behind.

And there are some problems besides inflation that are affecting the budget-making process in the city and the county—not the least of which is an inadequate tax base.

We feel both the city and county should go outside the six per cent limitation this year because it's needed to just maintain the status quo. Moreover, both the city and county need to bring their employees' wages into line with the private sector in order to hire and keep competent people.

In step with a reasonable budget proposal, we feel that both governments should ask the people for a new tax base in the November general election.

With the proper explanation and education of the people concerning the budget-making process, we feel the facts stand by their own, making it realistic to go beyond the six per cent limitation and ask for a new tax base in the same year.

Residents of Morrow County will have confidence in their elected officials if those elected officials display confidence themselves with positive action.

Where to write Federal

Following is a list of Oregon and Eastern Oregon public officials for the information of readers who want to communicate with them:

U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Member of Appropriations Committee, Interior Committee, Rules Committee and Indian Policy Review Commission. Portland office, Pioneer Courthouse, Rm. 107, 520 SW Morrison, Portland, Ore. 97204, phone 221-3386.

U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Member of Finance Committee and Commerce Committee. Portland office, 1002 NE Halladay, Rm. 700, (P.O. Box 3621), Portland, Ore. 97208, phone 233-4471.

U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, of the Second District, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Member of Ways and Means Committee. Salem office, 150 N. Church, Rm. 219 (P.O. Box 247), Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 399-5724.

State

Gov. Robert Straub, State Capitol, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-3100.

State Sen. Ken Jernstedt (Morrow, Gilliam and other counties), 311 Pine St., Hood River, 386-1393.

State Rep. Jack Sumner (Morrow, Gilliam and other counties), Route 1, Heppner, 676-5364.

Picture Credit

Kids will be kids. Day-old twins Bobby and Billy Anhorn investigated their brand-new spring world with much gamboling and energy last week. Bobby exchanges sniffs with his new pal Fat Cat while Billy checks out the toolshed in this scrapbook-bound baby picture. The pigmy twin goats, born at home on Monday, March 28, live with parents Wimpy and Betsy and Grandma Irene Anhorn in Heppner.



Saturday afternoon activities in Boardman to benefit X-Ray Fund

An afternoon of entertainment this Saturday, April 8, at Riverside High School will include a noon meal, prize drawing, auction, and bingo, with all proceeds earmarked for the X-Ray Fund to buy needed equipment for the Boardman Clinic.

The meal, to be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., includes barbecue beef or fried chicken, potato salad, rolls and beverages, at a cost of \$2.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children 12 and under, or \$10 per family.

Early diners will be able to participate in a bingo game, set up by the Boardman Eagles, before the auction starts at 1:30 p.m. The game will continue throughout the day.

A large variety of items and services have been donated to the auction by businesses and individuals throughout Morrow County with donations still being received.

Items to be sold to the highest bidder on Saturday include a Polaroid One-Step camera, a used 30-inch electric range, five yards of concrete, two tons of straw, a

chain saw, two loads of gravel, oil change-lube jobs for automobiles, two chicken dinners for two, a large decorator doll, a haircut for man or woman, two sets of printed stationery, jewelry, a hand-made comforter, a decorated cake, two pizza dinners for two, gift certificates from several stores, a hand knit sweater, and much more.

Winners of the prize drawing will be announced during the auction. Prizes to be given away are a half of beef, cut and wrapped, donated by Kroll's Department Store; a television video pinball game donated by Cal-Am-Fuhrman Co.; and four hams donated by Hill Meat Co.

Tickets for the prizes are available for \$2 from mem-

bers of the Lions Club in Boardman and Irrigon, the Greenfield Grange, the Boardman Eagles, Mrs. Joe Bartlett, D.O. Nelson and the Gazette-Times.

Contributions received during the last week have raised the X-Ray Fund to over \$3,600 towards the \$14,000 still needed to buy Boardman Clinic's X-Ray equipment.

Lumberjack Show to award top county contestant April 15

A trophy for the top Morrow County contestant will be awarded at the First Annual Heppner Spring Lumberjack Show, scheduled at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, Gary Grieb, chairman of the Fair Committee sponsored event, announced this week. He urges all local persons wanting to enter one of the eight contests in the show to get their entry forms to Monte Stookey by deadline day

tomorrow, Friday, April 7. More than 30 contestants, including world champions, have entered the Heppner contest so far, Grieb said. It is the first North West Logging Association sanctioned lumberjack competition scheduled this spring and has attracted competitors from all over the Northwest.

After the afternoon show at the fairgrounds, a concert of fiddle music will be provided

by members of the Blue Mountain Fiddlers Association. The music will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a dance to the old-time fiddlers beginning at 9 p.m.

Admission to the evening's entertainment will be \$2, with senior citizens admitted for \$1.

Heppner City Council adopts draft plan map

The City of Heppner advanced another notch towards gaining a new Comprehensive Plan when the City Council Monday adopted a draft plan map outlining the proposed Urban Growth Boundary and Expansion Boundary.

The map, still a draft and subject to revision, includes several changes recommended by the Planning Commission after a review session last month. ECOAC Planner Marie Hall said the map will give county planners something a little more concrete to work

with in the Comprehensive Plan revision process.

Included among the changes from the map mailed to Heppner residents earlier in the year are five additions to the Urban Growth Boundary, which provides room for future expansion outside the present city limits.

Added to the UGB are: 57.2 acres located behind Pioneer Memorial Hospital and curving east along the Hinton Creek canyon; 21 acres partially platted and located near the northwest entrance to town;

five acres southeast of town near the confluence of Willow Creek and Balm Fork; a small .07 acre parcel adjacent to the above parcel; and an area near the high school running due west from the water tank to Fuller Canyon Road.

The adoption of the draft map was a required step in the planning process before an April 17 meeting in which city representatives will meet with county planners to review the drafts. Information from the 8 p.m. meeting in the courthouse will be forwarded to the County Planning Commission before eventually reaching the County Court for action.

The draft plan will again be subject to review by both the Heppner Planning Commission and City Council, probably in June.

Community BILLBOARD

Thursday

FFA Slave Auction, 7:30 p.m. HHS Cafeteria
Heppner Budget Committee, 8 p.m., City Hall

Friday

Chamber Merchants' Committee, noon, Wagon Wheel
Meet Vic Atiyeh dinner, 7:15 p.m. W. of W., Heppner

Saturday

Vic Atiyeh, 7:15 a.m., Beecher's, Lone
X-Ray Fund dinner and auction, 11:30 a.m., Riverside High School
Vic Atiyeh, noon, Nomad Restaurant, Boardman

Sunday

Wranglers potluck, noon; games, 1 p.m., Wranglers grounds, Heppner

Monday

Chamber of Commerce, noon, every Monday, W. of W.

Tuesday

County Budget Committee, 9 a.m., Court House
VFW, 8 p.m., Wagon Wheel

Wednesday

Cowbelle's Pizza Party, 7 p.m. W. of W.
VFW Auxiliary, 8 p.m., Columbia Basin

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Sifting through the TIMES

Both a special \$1,250,000 bond issue for BMCC's third building and the college's operating levy were passed by a more than 2 to 1 margin in Umatilla and Morrow Counties this week in 1968. The Gazette-Times reported that, as in the past, Morrow County had given the college a much more substantial 'yes' margin than it had received district-wide.

Drought conditions ten years ago were causing concern to the City of Heppner about its water supply. City Supt. Vic Groshens told the city council that, combined with 15 new wells in town which reduced the ground water supply available, the drought "may hurt us." He added, "We may have to make a choice between furnishing water to horse pastures and residences."

The top two graduating seniors were selected by Heppner High School this week in 1968. Joann Brosnan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brosnan of Butter Creek, was chosen valedictorian for her class, while Tom Currin, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Currin of the Lena community, was named to give the salutatorian speech that year.

Complaints of inadequacy laid at the door of the U.S. Postal Service is no new thing, as can be seen by this editorial printed in the Times 20 years ago:

"What is probably one of the worst recent examples of a department of government trying to get bigger than the people whom it is supposed to serve and who are its boss, supposedly, came to light Tuesday when the post office department made an offer to Congress that if the 5 cent first class postage bill is passed, the department will build several new post offices around the country. As a threat, it said if only a 4 per cent rate were approved, only half that many new buildings could be constructed.

"The number of post offices or their age has never had any connection with the amount of the postal departments operating deficit...nor would it make any difference regardless of whether any rate increase was approved...Neither does such money come out of the post office's budget. The attempt to win approval of new post office construction money by the department was strictly a left-handed political trick—one that could well be called 'dirty pool'.

"...If that is the way the department operates, Congress would be completely justified in refusing any rate increase until some definite proof is shown that sincere effort is being made to bring the post office operation as a whole up to modern standards of efficiency, or at least bring the service back up to what it was...even ten years ago."

Today it is doubtful if anyone would complain too loud if the Post Office was trying to get a five cent first class postage rate approved for 1968 standards of efficiency.

Heppner was contemplating a new major facility for the city this week 30 years ago: "Mayor Conley Lanham and members of the city council are confronted with a task in providing a sewage disposal system that is causing the figurative town brow to wrinkle...Estimated cost of the project is \$227,000 plus, of which amount the city can account for approximately \$50,000 on hand. A bond issue will be necessary to cover the balance...It was stated at the meeting Monday evening that the city has no alternative—either set about to build the system or have the state do it at local expense."

Perhaps some reader would care to respond to this classified printing in the Times this week in 1938: "80 acres level wheat land to trade for good car. Inquire E.C. Miller, 155 S. 19th, Salem, Ore."

This advertisement for a movie showing at the Star Theatre this week in 1928 was bound to have created at least a little curiosity. "The Sensational Sex Exposure Film—'Is Your Daughter Safe?' Humanity pause for a moment—The lesson of a lifetime!—The most delicately handled, yet daring picture on the screen. An Educational Shock! Fathers Mothers, Can You Honestly Answer the Question? Astounding! Sensational! No children under 16 admitted. Ladies only in the afternoon at 2:30. Men only at night at 8:00. Admission 40 cents." A person can't help but wonder how this film compares with today's GP rated movies much less those rated R or X.

Patriotism was at a high pitch here in 1918 as the Times reports in an article about the formation of a local Home Guard: "Heppner is preparing for home defense. In the words of the Morrow County chairman of the council of defense (S.E. Van Vactor), 'all those IWW, pro-Germans and traitors in our midst had better begin to hunt their hole cards'. A large crowd of representative citizens gathered at the council chambers Tuesday evening...practically every man in the building signed a statement of his desire to become a member of a permanent home guard organization." A day later 75 raw recruits were awkwardly drilled by those men with military experience, including M.L. Case, T.E. Chidsey, Dr. H.T. Allison and Loy M. Turner.

OBITUARIES

Delvin O. Matteson

Delvin O. Matteson, 66, Heppner, died Thursday, March 30, in Pendleton.

A lifetime resident of the area, he was born Sept. 20, 1911, the son of Eugene and Sarah McFerrin Matteson. A

retired log scaler and woodsman and an ardent fisherman, he was a member of American Legion Post No. 87, Heppner, and the Pendleton Eagles Lodge.

Funeral services were Saturday, April 1, at 2 p.m. at the Heppner Christian Church with the Rev. Steve Tollefson officiating. Carl and Betty Marquardt sang "Goodnight and Good Morning" and "God Will Take Care of You".

Casket bearers were David Hanna, Verne Evans, Robert Steagall, Larry Gentry, Jack Ployhar and Matt Hughes. Concluding services and vault interment were at Heppner Masonic Cemetery with Sweeney Mortuary in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Matteson is survived by a brother, Lyle Matteson, Heppner; four nieces, Dorothy Scott and Kathleen, both of Heppner; Juanita Smith, Pendleton and Wanda Parks, Colfax, Wash.; two nephews, Bob Bennett, Portland, and Don Bennett, Pensacola, Fla.; and a sister-in-law, Celia Matteson, Heppner.

Contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

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