

Voters to the polls Tuesday in bevy of elections

Roads, inflation boost County budget

Morrow County voters are asked to approve a \$494,410 tax levy outside the 6 percent limitation imposed by the State Constitution in next Tuesday's budget election.

Both County Judge D.O. Nelson and Warren McCoy are concerned that voters are hard-pressed by reappraisal in the northern part of the county, specifically Irrigon, may vote their pocketbooks.

McCoy, Irrigon, says "People are upset about their taxes. I was upset by my own."

And he blamed the federal and state government for the cause of the inflation which is adding a financial burden to local government.

"All the demands have been put on us by the state and

federal government. Inflation is killing us."

Nelson referred to the reappraisal situation in the Irrigon area as a possible source of voter dissatisfaction during a speech to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. But he strongly defended this year's budget.

"We think we have a good budget. To keep the roads up, we need the \$100,000."

The County Judge said the county court could have asked for millions of dollars for road repairs but added, "there's a limit to how much we can afford."

The proposed budget is \$247,406 higher than last year's budget figure attributed to the loss of \$35,996 in federal CETA employment

funds, a \$47,000 reduction in federal in lieu of taxes because of a decline in federal forest receipts, a phase-cut in anti-recession funds amounting to \$24,000 and a seven and a half percent increase in road dept. salaries totalling \$64,260.

To pass, the budget requires a simple majority vote. The first year a proposal was submitted outside the six

percent limitation; it drew a tie vote and was resubmitted with a resulting majority.

Nelson and McCoy have made several appearances before organizations in both the North and South ends of the county, stressing the individual features of the budget. Their audiences have

been small, Nelson said.

The judge said last year's road budget was \$648,387; this year's figure is \$809,000. That includes a serial levy passed by the voters for \$195,000 which is a carryover fund for three years.

The county budget will meet a voter test with a separate ballot measure on authorization to the county to levy taxes in the amount of \$598,587 outside the six percent limitation. This is the second year in which the two measures have been divided.

Commissioner Warren McCoy favors the separation.

"You can give the people a choice instead of throwing it all in one."

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Increased PMH levy is explained

"The 1979-80 Pioneer Memorial Hospital Budget is more than just a minimal operating budget," Administrator Bob Byrnes told Chamber of Commerce members Monday. "It is a planning and goal-oriented budget to accomplish those things which are the expectations of the people in the health care service area."

When voters go to the polls next Tuesday they will be asked to approve a special levy in the amount of \$544,122 to improve and operate PMH for the next year. The total budget for the ensuing year tops out at \$1.7 million, up \$650,750 from this year.

Byrnes points out that several items new to the PMH budget account for a substantial portion of the increase.

Included is \$157,000 for the North Morrow Medical Clinic in Boardman; \$139,588 for physicians services in southern Morrow County; \$50,000 for management, consulting and planning; a \$50,000 increase in the contingency fund; and \$30,000 for capital improvements and replacement of equipment.

Included in those figures is \$100,000 that will be used to guarantee a minimum \$50,000 annual salary for two doctors, one for Boardman and one for Heppner. Voters should understand the average physician generates well in excess of \$50,000 a year income, in which case the tax dollars would never be spent. The board anticipates it will take a \$20,000 to attract the doctors to

Morrow County in the first place.

Board member Ed Dick, referring to the salary guarantee and capital improvements planned, said, "I'm sure the actual cost to taxpayers will be less when the full potential of patient use of the hospital is realized, but for that to happen we need doctors located here."

In recent months the hospital board has been reviewing a number of management proposals from various health care firms and last month decided that short and long range plans for the hospital must be developed before hiring one of the firms to manage the hospital. The board plans to move ahead quickly in this area and has

requested \$50,000 to use in planning and possibly—for use in hiring a management firm. Again, monies not spent for their budgeted purpose would be returned to the taxpayer.

A federal grant in the amount of \$205,000 is expected to be approved in the weeks ahead and a local contribution of about \$60,000 is needed to supplement the grant. "We have received word that the \$60,000 will be returned to us, but at this time we need to budget the money to complete the expansion project covered under the grant," said Byrnes.

The capital improvements and replacement fund reflects a phased plan of replacement for updating equipment with much emphasis on emergency

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The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES Morrow County's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

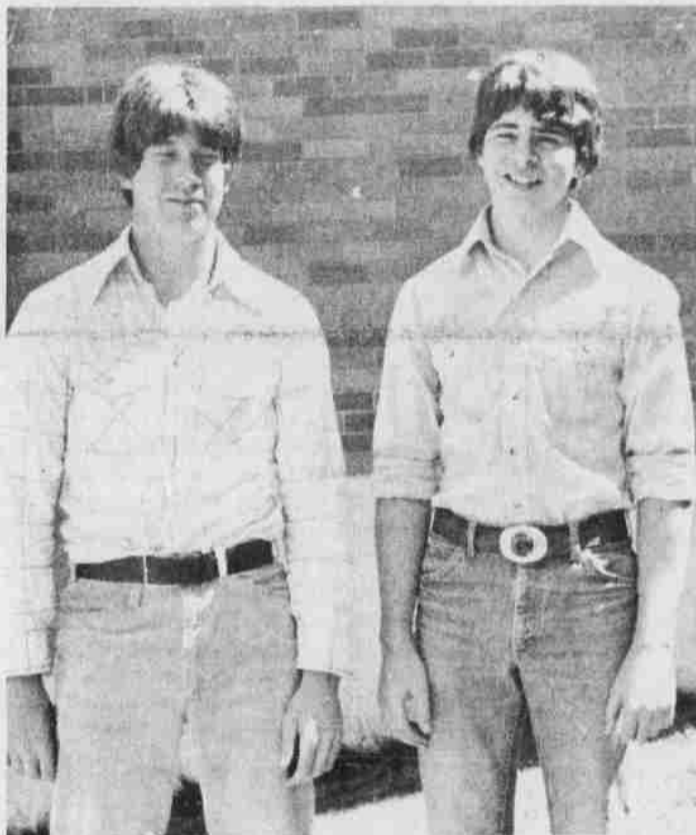
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20 cents



Bill Kenny (right) has been selected as Valedictorian for the Heppner High School Class of 1979 and Scott McEwen (left) named Salutatorian. The pair are the top students scholastically in this year's graduating class.



Arletta Aldrich (left) and Michelle McElligott (right) have been named Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively for Ione High School's graduating class. Arletta is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Aldrich and Michelle, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don McElligott.

Top honors go to pair

Bill Kenny and Scott McEwen have been named valedictorian and salutatorian of the Heppner High School class of 1979 as the seniors with the highest scholastic average in four years. As the class valedictorian, Bill Kenny compiled a 3.98 grade point average and except for a B plus in freshman algebra, received A's for every course taken. Salutatorian Scott McEwen's average is 3.85.

Six in the graduating class including Kenny and McEwen will receive honor plaques for their scholastic achievements. Also receiving the honor are

Maureen Healy, Michelle Cutsforth, Julie Grieb and Jackie Mollahan.

Both Kenny and McEwen plan to attend Oregon State University; Bill will major in music education, Scott in pre-medicine. Kenny is active in the school's drama club, and band president of the National Honor Society while Scott is a member of the NHS, played varsity football and baseball.

Bill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kenny and Scott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don McEwen.

Ione names top students

The valedictorian for Ione High School Class of 1979 is Arletta Aldrich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Aldrich with a 3.42 g.p.a. Michelle McElligott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don McElligott has been selected as salutatorian with a 3.3 grade point average.

Arletta has been active as editor of the high school annual and a member of the National Honor Society and the Girls Letter Club. She plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College and major in accounting.

Michelle is president of the Girls Letter Club, vice presi-

dent of the senior class, secretary-treasurer of the student body, a member of NHS and active at volleyball, basketball and tennis.

Dr. Pagel on call weekend

Persons needing medical attention this coming weekend, May 19-20, should be informed that Dr. Joan Pagel of Portland will be at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in the absence of a resident physician in town.

Dr. Pagel will be on call 24-hours a day at the hospital and will regularly see patients there between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., by appointment. She will arrive at the hospital Friday and remain on call through early Monday morning.

Hospital Administrator Bob Byrnes also noted that Dr. Wallace H. Wolff has resumed practice, although this is not his regular weekend for being on call.

Byrnes said the community's response to Dr. Pagel has been "very good" with the doctor being kept busy with patients during the daytime hours.

Area high schools prepare for commencement exercises

Area high schools are gearing up for baccalaureate and commencement exercises for graduating seniors with dates already set and even one high school preparing for its senior sneak.

Heppner High School has scheduled its Baccalaureate for May 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Church with Dick Bigelow of the Baptist Church officiating. The invocation and benediction will be given by

two seniors, Barb Devine and Phil Marquardt.

Graduation exercises are set for Saturday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school gym. The senior class motto is "Life's Been Good" and according to Michele Portman, student counselor, the school's band director and a student are composing a graduating song to the chosen theme. Bill Kenny has been named valedictorian and Scott

McEwen, salutatorian.

Heppner seniors will attend a special graduation celebration May 23 with a trip to Ritter Hot Springs.

Ione High School has slated baccalaureate for this Sunday at the United Church of Christ at 7:30 p.m. Graduation exercises are Friday, May 25 at 8 p.m.

Riverside High School in Boardman has set baccalaureate for Sunday in the school

auditorium and commencement exercises for May 24 at 8 p.m. in the high school

gymnasium. Sunday's ceremony is sponsored by the ministerial association of Boardman. Rev. David Piper will present the program's

sermon; Rev. Neal King, invocation; Rev. Al Gordanier, benediction; and bible presented to graduating seniors by Rev. Carl Wright.

Six candidates bid for County Commissioner post

Six candidates tossed their political hats in the ring Monday night in a bid for the County Commissioner's seat held by the late Homer Hughes of Lexington.

Applying for the job at the special Republican Central Committee meeting at the Circuit Courtroom of the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner were Merle Cantin, Ralph Crumb, Don Peterson, Dorothy Krebs, June Lindstrom and Dick Wilkinson, all from Heppner-Lexington and Ione.

Following a two hour session of five minute speeches by the candidates and a question and answer period, the County GOP extended the deadline for announcement of candidacy to noon, Monday, May 21 with a decision to be reached in a closed caucus, Wednesday, May 23 at the Courthouse.

Central Committee Chairman Steve Peck said Monday night's meeting was not an "official" meeting because it was required to give possible candidates a six day notice of formal sessions. The committee hopes to attract other candidates to apply for the job which pays \$9,000 a year.

By law, the central committee must make a recommendation to the Morrow County Court for the Republican to fill the post. The County Court can either accept or deny the recommendation but must appoint a Republican.

To ensure a fair decision,

Peck appointed Heppner City Councilman Clifford Green, also a Central Committee member, to chair a rules committee for the May 23rd meeting and it was the consensus of the board to close the final decision-making to the public. Chairman Steve Peck was cautious in closing the session, emphasizing the goal of the party to make its political processes as open as possible.

Initially there were eight potential candidates. Dorris Graves, Hardman, said she was asked to apply by friends and neighbors but said she wouldn't want to run for election a year from this November.

Clifford Green asked her whether her family operations outside the county might handicap her position as commissioner; she replied that she would be able to devote Sunday to Wednesday to the job and be helping with the family's business in Walla the remainder of the week.

She emphasized her enjoyment of analyzing and organizing matters and felt her experience with research an important ingredient for a commissioner's role.

June Lindstrom, Ione said she was 40 years old, had her children almost raised and has time and energy to devote to the job. She says she doesn't have all the answers to county problems but will work towards solving them.

Don Peterson was the only member of the Central Committee to toss his hat into the ring and praised the candidates' interest in county government. He told the committee his political interest in farm organization, both at the state and national level; he has done political lobbying, served as county president of the Wheat League and as one of the workers on Governor Atiyeh's campaign. "I'm concerned about county problems and I'm a good listener. The people of Oregon are going to have to put up money for these roads. I like this county and want to be more of an intimate part of it."

Peterson is the son of former County Judge Paul Peterson who attended the opening session.

A friend of Dick Wilkinson, Randall Peterson spoke on his behalf because as explained by Peterson, he was unable to attend because of his recovery from a heart condition. Peterson said Wilkinson is getting along fine and since he will be semi-retired from his farm will be available for the position. Wilkinson, an OSU graduate, has served on several boards including the Columbia Basin Electrical Co-op and is a life-long resident of the area. Gene Rietmann, Ione, withdrew his candidacy after speaking at length on county issues, saying the central committee had an adequate number of good candidates to draw from.

The Central Committee asked each candidate to present a five minute speech regarding his abilities and qualifications for the position, then quizzed the six on county roads, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, how to obtain more money for Morrow County, the political division between the north and south ends of the county and whether they would run for election in 1980.

Merle Cantin, a telephone company retiree, said he had attended County Court meetings for over a year and felt that a communications gap exists between the board and the public. He called for more public input, and said if appointed, would close the budgetary situation of Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Ralph Crum, a farmer in the Ione area, who said he first came to north Morrow County in 1946 after eight years in Caterpillar sales, insisted upon getting the most for the taxpayer's dollar.

Dorothy Krebs said she was born in Pelican City, Oregon near Klamath Falls, was 53 years old like Great Britain's new prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, had four children and is married to Henry, a sheep rancher. She stressed her educational background, experience and ability to research solutions to county problems, citing her B.A. degree in General Chemistry from O.S.U., a Master of

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Gazette deadlines revised

New and advertising deadlines at the Heppner Gazette-Times are being revised effective immediately. Terry M. Hager, managing editor announced this week.

Deadlines for all materials submitted for publication will be one day earlier to enable distribution of the newspaper on Wednesday afternoon. Hager said the move would give readers more notice for weekend events and would enable shoppers to read merchants' advertisements prior to the usual Thursday-through-Saturday sale period.

Deadlines for advertising will be: display advertising, Monday at 12-noon; classified advertisements, Monday at 4 p.m.; legal notice advertising, Monday at 4 p.m.

News deadlines are as follows: general news and society items, Friday at 5 p.m., except events which occur on the weekend, for which the deadline is Monday at 12-noon. The final news deadline will be Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Clubs and organizations wishing news release forms should call the Gazette-Times at 676-9228. News items may be called into the Gazette-Times office Monday through Friday from

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or may be deposited in the mail slot of the G-T office anytime.

Poppy sale Thursday

The Buddy Poppies which will be offered to you on the streets May 17-18 are sold by a volunteer. All proceeds will go to the relief and welfare of the needy veteran, his widow and orphans.