Irrigon petition for primary ballot to seek election of mayor

By Frances Rose Wilson

A proposal that Irrigon's mayor be elected by the people is contained in a pending charter amendment that may be placed on the ballot in May.

A letter of intent directed to Irrigon residents was posted in business places and is being circulated by former mayor Chester Wilson, for the question to be placed before the voters in the primary election.

According to Wilson, the informational letter is designed to alert Irrigon residents that petitions will be circulated and placed in businesses for signatures to present to the council in the February meeting.

The charter change proposed is that the mayor be elected at the general election to serve in the office for a four-year term.

The charter presently provides that the counil elect a mayor in January each year for the following year from among its members.

It also provides that "he be elected by a majority vote of the entire council" which, according to Wilson has for the early years of charter rule been interpreted to mean that the entire council was required to be present at this mayoral election.

Wilson admitted the possibility of this mayoral election being delayed to a later month because of absenteeism, as actually has happened, but feels it has created no problem in that the mayor in office did not relinquish his authority until his successor was elected and qualified.

This policy has allowed each council member to know personally what has occurred and have his ballot counted toward the new mayor. It also has eliminated any possibility, he said, of an absentee member being railroaded into an office he neither wanted nor had sufficient time to adquately perform.

Wilson believes that a candidate selected by a public ballot for the office of mayor would have a greater interest in the dutues than a person chosen from the council membership. A mayor elected by the public would have a four-year span to institute an administrative program.

Having been a councilman during the formative years of the city, Wilson has served as mayor and feels that the charter was adequate—but that a change at this time will correct a situation that has become an annual dilemma for the council.

Also being considered for inclusion in the petition is the number required for a quorum. The number now is three and by increasing the governing body to seven (instead of six), it is proposed that the requirement for a quorum be changed to four.

Irrigon news

Francis Rose Wilson

922-3352

Tammy Rock of Irrigon was with a class of 20 geology students from Whitworth College, Spokane, who were touring Hawaii when the recent storm hit the Islands.

The students were touring in a van when the high winds and rain struck. At times they had to drive through two feet of water with trees falling all around them. When Tammy called her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Rock, she told them it was quite a frightening experience.

The class left Spokane Jan. 3 and will return Feb. 3.

The color film "The Galilean" will be shown at the Irrigon Assembly of God Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. The film was made in the Holy Land. Pastor Allen Gordanier extends a welcome to the community.

Justice Court

Cases handled by Morrow County Justice of the Peace Charlotte Gray's office for the week ending Jan. 18 include:

John David Strahm, Linden Way in Heppner—abandoned vehicle on a public road—$12 fine.

Doniel Lee Franklin, P.O. Box 115 in Ukiah—defective equipment—$12 fine.

Raphael Tony Raymond, Rt. 1 Box 444 in Helix—defective equipment—$24 bail forfeited.

Ronald Ray Goodwin, P.O. Box 371 in Ione—speeding—$29 bail forfeited.

Patricia Lynn Minardi, 105 Arcade in Lexington—failure to change adress on operator's license—$6 fine.

Martin Raymond Smith, P.O. Box 51 S. Main in Heppner—driving while under the influence of intoxicants—$207 fine.

Howard Joseph Huddleston, Rt. 2 Box 2180 in Heppner—unlawful possession of an operator's license—$29 fine.

Susan Elizabeth Johnston, Butter Creek in Echo—speeding—$12 fine.

Charles William Buchanan, P.O. Box 580 in Lexington—speeding—$6 fine.

Gerald Clayberg Ludlow, P.O. Box 346 in Kimberly—no trailer license—$6 fine.

Lloyd Archie Glenger, P.O. Box 311 in Mt. Vernon—axle overload—$39 fine.

Gilbert Lon Jones, 510 Cowan Box 125 in Heppner—speeding—$10 fine.

Larry Allen Scott, E. 8402 Mission in Spokane—speeding—$24 bail forfeited.

James Franklin Bothum, Rt. 2 Box 32 in Echo—no brake light—$7 fine.

Robert Wren Harris, 360 S. Chase P.O. Box 694 in Heppner—vehicle license expired—$6 suspended fine.

Jackie Laveta Papineau, P.O. Box 541 Blackhorse Road in Lexington—speeding—$6 suspended fine.

Ray Joe Miller, 370 Aiken St. P.O. Box 653 in Heppner—careless driving—$34 fine.

Dale Ann Arrington, 170 Quaid, P.O. Box 636 in Heppner—driving while under the influence of intoxicants—$207 fine.

Timothy Lee Jones, Main Street P.O. Box 383 in Lexington—careless driving ($34 fine) and speeding ($10 fine)—$44 total fine.

Safety precautions

The Morrow County Sheriff's office has many pamphlets on how residents and businesses can be secure and safe with a few safety precautions.

One pamphlet is a checklist of what a person should do when leaving the home for an extended period of time.

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