

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES**

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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Jerome F. Sheldon, Publisher  
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## Good Citizenship on Election Day

Voters will make their trek to the polling places next Tuesday.

For those who do go and cast their ballots, it will be an act of good citizenship. American elections traditionally draw a low turnout, particularly when issues seem cut and dried and there is no challenging contest between candidates.

One might amend the foregoing to the extent that when taxpayers feel a pinch they tend to vote negatively, whether the turnout is small or large.

The issues on next week's ballot reflect the budget requests of the school system and the City of Heppner, also Blue Mountain Community College which receives support from Morrow County. As presented, the budgets do reflect a studied appraisal of current needs. A good turnout, whether to say yea or nay, would indicate support for those serving on appointive budget committees and elective boards and councils.

What would be a good turnout? Hopefully, better than 40 percent of the registered voters.

## The National Bottle Bill

(Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon, ranking Republican on the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee, chaired a hearing in Portland recently on a national bill to require deposits on beverage containers. "Oregon was the first state to enact a beverage container deposit law back in 1972," Senator Packwood said. "We can learn much about the benefits and the problems of instituting a national bill from the Oregon experience." The following is a summary of the national bill.)

The National Beverage Container Deposit Bill (National Bottle Bill) was introduced by Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) in January, 1977, during the 95th Congress and again in January, 1979, during the 96th Congress as one way to deal with the enormous number of beverage containers. The bill had three days of hearings January 25-27, 1978, but received no further action until this time. The intent of the Portland hearing, and hearings yet to be scheduled in Washington, D.C., is to bring members of the Senate Commerce Committee the most up-to-date information of the legislation, including a report on the successful state bottle bill in Oregon.

Oregon, Main, Vermont, Michigan, Iowa and Connecticut now have some type of bottle bill, Oregon becoming the first in 1972, followed by Vermont in 1973. Delaware also passed a bottle bill but delayed implementation until neighboring Pennsylvania and Maryland passed similar laws. The motivating factor behind the existing state bottle bill was a desire to reduce litter, solid waste, energy consumption, resource use and, ultimately, cost to consumers.

According to figures released by the Oregon State Highway Division, beverage container litter was reduced 73 percent the first year after enactment of the bottle bill and 83 percent the second year. In addition, overall litter was reduced by 39 percent by piece count and 47 percent by volume within two years.

Figures supplied by the State of Vermont indicate a 76 percent decrease in container litter after the first year and a 35 percent decrease in total litter. A return rate of 85 percent the first year rose to 85 percent the second year.

Other states have taken different approaches to the beverage container problems. Some states without a comprehensive bottle bill (California, Minnesota, Virginia and Hawaii) prohibit sale of pull-tab cans. The industry responded to this ban by modifying the pull-tab to remain attached to the can instead of pulling off. Another approach to coping with beverage containers is a litter tax, such as the one enacted in Washington State.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a national bottle bill would have the advantage of allowing the industry to react to the law nationally instead of state-by-state by standardizing bottle design and centralizing bottle collection and cleansing operations. Other effects would be:

- reduction in roadside litter by 60 to 70 percent and by 20 to 40 percent total volume;
- reduction in annual municipal solid waste by 7 million tons (at least 5 percent of the total);
- reduction in total U.S. energy consumption of over 245 trillion BTU's annually (it takes at least 6 million gallons of gasoline everyday, more than two trillion gallons annually, to produce the approximately 56 billion beverage containers of all types produced in the U.S. every year);
- consumer savings of about 2.5 cents per 10-ounce beverage container;
- net increase in employment of 80,000 jobs.

## Salem Scene Steady turnover marks the Legislature

BY JACK ZIMMERMAN

Persons concerned about declining voter activity and rising interest in popular legislation via the initiative petition route might do well to examine an apparent steady metamorphosis of the Oregon Legislature.

That conclusion arises following the March 11 candidate filing deadline at the Statehouse in Salem by which time an unofficial total of only 211 individuals had expressed intentions to seek the 15 Senate and 60 House of Representatives seats to be filled next November.

In the recent past the number of candidates seeking all state offices has varied almost imperceptibly—ranging from 378 in 1974 to 376 this year. But the number of candidates seeking nomination for the Legislature in the May primary election has dropped steadily during the same period—from 247 in 1974 to 229 and 228 in 1976 and '78 and to the 211 mark this year.

Further evidence of declining interest in legislative service is the fact that of 62 incumbents seeking re-election, 46 face no opposition in the May primary election and 11 incumbent lawmakers—10 from the House—have simply declined to seek re-election.

The greatest number of incumbents in the drop-out column are Republicans and that party managed to field only 82 of the 211 total seeking nomination. This arithmetic, plus the fact the most hotly contested nominations will be among Democrat candidates filing for those vacated GOP seats, almost precludes any appreciable change in Democratic superiority in both houses.

Senate Democrats have held a numerical advantage over Republicans since 1964 and House Demos have enjoyed majority control since 1972. Only seven GOPs currently serve in the 30-member upper chamber and 26 from that party now occupy seats in the 60-member House.

And although much can happen to sway voters between now and November, many Salem-watchers believe Democrats will enhance their majority margins in both chambers before lawmakers convene in regular session again next January.

Another indication service in the Oregon Legislature is losing its luster is the general attrition rate at the Statehouse. Turnover in the House of Representatives averages more than 25 percent every two years. Senators, who are elected every four years, naturally serve longer. But Senate turnover is also significant.

Eighteen newcomers were elected to the House two years ago and there were six new faces in the Senate.

Another measurement of the tenuous tenure of lawmaking in this state is the relative absence of veterans willing to establish long-time careers in Salem. Typically in the last decade at least half of the House members were freshmen or sophomores and last session only 20 percent of the 90-member body had served 10 years or longer. And if you go back 20 years, only one current member of the Senate, Gresham Democrat Vern Cook, qualifies as a two-decade lawmaker. Longest House tenure belongs to House GOP Minority Leader, Paul Hanneman of Cloverdale, who was first elected in 1964.

It has been suggested the greatest twin deterrents to legislative service are time and money. And those factors arise at two stages of every lawmaker's term. The first is when a candidate considers both primary and general election contests.

Considerable money—generally \$10,000 or more—must be secured to mount meaningful campaigns. And even if a hopeful is successful in raising this type of money, success no longer hinges mainly on placing the most effective or greatest number of advertise-

ments in news media, on billboards and lawn signs. A candidate's time is all important—time spent knocking on doors, attending neighborhood coffees and distributing literature. There's a certain amount of red tape each candidate must comply with and that means taking time to create a support organization. Today's successful candidate doesn't achieve office by beaming on passersby from posters. The successful candidate takes the time to guarantee personal exposure to the greatest number of constituents.

Once success is achieved, time and money once more bedevil each member of the Oregon Legislature. The commitment to service from a time standpoint requires at least fulltime devotion to the job in Salem for a minimum of six months every two years. For more and more individuals that simple requirement is too great to bear. And when one considers the increasing amount of time required by expanding duties between sessions, the burden is overpowering to many more.

And time is money. Despite the fact Oregon lawmakers have seen significant increases in salaries, fringes, staff assistance and Capitol Building office space, service for the traditional lawmaking farmer, lawyer, self-employed business person and many wage-earners and salaried executives is performed only at considerable financial sacrifice.

Given all these considerations the complexion of the Oregon Legislature continues to change. It is peopled more and more by persons unhampered by time and money constraints and individuals willing to scale their living standards to those provided by legislative pay.

The type of legislation enacted reflects the concerns of those in office. As the legislative metamorphosis continues, so does the body of law it produces. Pragmatic concern with economic reality appears outweighed by implementation of social and emotional concerns.

And one needs only to scan the list of major issues confronting lawmakers in Salem each recent biennium to test the veracity of this contention.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'We do not unanimously approve city budget'

Editor:

For the third time in four years the voters of Heppner are asked to approve a city budget outside the 6 percent limitation. The proposed budget totals \$551,030, which is \$84,964 over the current year's budget of \$466,066 (an 18.2 percent increase).

What does this mean to you? If your house is valued at \$40,000, you paid \$335 in city taxes this year (you paid an additional \$525 in taxes for county services, BMCC, etc.). Next year you will pay an estimated \$445 in city taxes if the "A" ballot is approved (\$46,748) and an estimated \$591 if both the "A" and "B" ballots are approved (\$46,748 plus \$76,094 equals \$122,842). Water and sewer rates will also be increased substantially to finance the budget. Further increases in taxes and water rates will result if the water improvement bond is-

sue is approved in the May election.

This letter is written to tell the voters of Heppner that while we as city councilmen voted to submit the budget for a special election, we do not unanimously approve of it.

The budget committee did a good job of paring the various departments' budget requests to a level that would not reduce city services. We feel that substantial cuts can still be made. These cuts could result in a slight reduction of city services but such services would remain at a very acceptable level.

Shall we go along with inflation or shall we "tighten our belts" at the city level as we must all do at home?

Joe Miller  
Warren Plocharsky  
(The writers of the above letter are both members of the Heppner City Council.)

## 'A comparison shows that we are underpaid'

Editor:

Mrs. Schubothe's assumption in "Letters to the Editor" (March 13, 1980 issue) concerning our workloads clearly reveals that she has not taken into account how many deputy clerks, assessors, etc. that larger counties employ, making our workloads similar or even heavier if evaluated by an employee-resident per capita ratio.

Using her method of evaluation, I suspect her husband's classrooms are not as full as those in Hermiston or Portland, so many Morrow County teachers should be due for a salary cut. The reason we are asking for the big increases is that for the past several years, our salaries have not kept up with inflation. All we are asking for is a living wage that compares with what the school district employees get. It might be a real eye-opener for Morrow County residents to compare school and county salaries. I'm not saying that

teachers are overpaid; I'm only stressing that a comparison would show we are underpaid.

Our Health Department gave free direct services to 2,500 people last year with only 1½ employees. If these services had been purchased personally, it would have cost them \$60,000. I have the figures to back this statement up as I am forced to keep meticulous records to qualify for the \$14,000 in grant monies we receive each year from the State.

The ever increasing taxes of one form or another, plus the exceedingly cruel tax of inflation, have certainly hurt us all. But striking out at the local level will hurt no one but ourselves.

Yours truly,  
Pat Wright  
R.N., County Health Nurse  
Lexington

## 'Jacksonville School planning 125th birthday'

Editor:

Please run the enclosed in your "Letters to the Editor" column.

Jacksonville School's Birthday

Did you ever attend Jacksonville School between the years of 1854-1959? If you did, you might be interested to know that Jacksonville Elementary School in Jacksonville, Oregon is having its 125th Birthday Celebration April 7-11.

Lots of activities are being planned including historical displays of photos, yearbooks, trophies, etc.; a potluck for meeting new and renewing old

friends; scheduled tours of the old building; a historical program involving children, past principals and teachers and video tape and slides of alumni.

We need your help in gathering information and pictures about our school's history. We hope you can attend. Please call or write so that we may send you a schedule of activities.

Sincerely,  
Janie Brown, Teacher  
Jacksonville School  
P.O. Box 9  
Jacksonville, Or 97530  
(503) 899-1361

## Sifting through the TIMES

1930

Fifty years ago the Lions Club celebrated its charter day with a celebration at the Episcopal Church. The church was decorated as a jungle den for the occasion. A large gathering of 112 attended.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the Heppner Church of Christ staged the three-act comedy play "Apple Blossom Time." Bob Mathews played the unwilling visitor at the crossroads, Cal Pickens the village constable, Nancy Prescott a pretty neighbor, and Malvina Kurtz played a girl whose ambition was to have a beau.

Young men the age of 17 to 31 were enrolling in army camps. Four Heppner boys: Harlan J. Devin, Maurice Edmundson, Clarence W. Hayes and Earl W. Thomson, were chosen by a committee of Morrow County persons to attend a camp. There was no obligation to join the army after attending the camp.

Morrow County schools were having a spelling contest with a silver cup going to the school with the best speller.

The Hynd brothers of Cecil had a sheep that gave birth to an eight-legged lamb but it died. Several years before, the same brothers owned a six-legged lamb that lived for a few years. The lamb was two lambs joined together at the breast except that it only had one head. They sent it to a Portland taxidermist for mounting.

## Census takers needed

Full-time, temporary jobs as census takers in this area are still available. David Rasmussen, manager of the 1980 census office at Bend, said recently.

"We're counting on you if you can work a 40-hour week visiting households and interviewing the residents," the manager said, adding that some evening and Saturday work will be required.

Census takers will begin work soon as part of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. They will attend a training session for which they will be paid. Most census takers will be paid a piece rate for the number of household interviews completed. In a few instances, pay will be by the hour. For all workers, pay will average \$4 an hour or more.

Census takers must be able to follow printed instructions, do simple arithmetic, and read maps for which they will be tested before hiring. They should be able to walk a considerable amount, climb stairs, and ought to have good eyesight and hearing. They should have a home telephone and many will need a car, for which mileage will be paid when it is used in census work.

Contact: David S. Rasmussen, Census District Manager, at 745 N.W. Bond Street in Bend, OR 97701 or call 1-389-0170.

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