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City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

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Too Long a Ballot

Election boards in Morrow County will be sorting through a sheaf of ballots next Tuesday. As usual with a major primary election, the ballots are crowded with the names of national, state and local candidates, vying for public attention with a number of referendum measures and budget questions.

The long ballot—in some cases two or three ballots—imposes a burden on the public in weighing the qualifications of candidates and assessing the pros and cons of issues. It raises the question as to why the state and local elections should be held on the same date, and why local offices—such as those of county judge and commissioner, sheriff, treasurer and surveyor—should be filled on a partisan basis.

An obvious reason, one might suppose, for combining several elections on the same date is to insure a large turnout at the polls and to consolidate the costs of issuing and counting the ballots.

On the other hand, there is a burden imposed on local election boards in keeping an accurate tally of votes, and a drain on the human system as the counting process extends into the night after the polls close.

It would require legislative action, of course, but why not separate the state and local elections, and reserve the Republican and Democratic ballots for state and national candidates only? In thinly populated areas like Morrow County, people undoubtedly vote "for the man" (or woman) on the basis of personal acquaintance or reputation, regardless of party labels. In fact, in the current election, Republicans are offering no candidates for nomination as county judge but three for county commissioner (four-year term) and two for county commissioner (two-year term). The Democrats have three candidates competing for nomination as county judge but none in the commissioner's races. Here is a case where the two party ballots should be combined—on a nonpartisan basis.

If several persons chose to seek various county offices at the same election, there could be a run-off held if no one received a clear majority of votes.

Another question at this time concerns the almost six months' spread between the primary election in May and the general election in November.

Would not a six-week interval be adequate, not only for candidates to make themselves known but for the public to become informed on the issues? Most of the candidates running have concerns with making a living. As it is now, when they seek elective office, the campaign may consume a good part of a year. It means a sacrifice for them and the public's being surfeited with whatever issues are developed.

Oregon's spring primary may have been established by its link with the presidential preference voting. The presidential primary dates back to 1910—Oregon being the first state to adopt the preference primary, in which voters express their choice and convention delegates are required to support the primary winner. This year there are presidential primary laws in 33 states and the District of Columbia, plus party primaries in two other states and Puerto Rico. Many of these are held much earlier than Oregon's primary.

The national impact of the Oregon election has been somewhat dissipated, and the candidates were represented by surrogates this year.

This isn't to suggest dropping the presidential primary but separating the local elections from those of state and national interest. We advocate nonpartisan county elections and a shorter period separating state primary and general elections.

(As an addendum to the above, George Bush and Ronald Reagan, seeking the Republican nomination for President, and Sen. Ted Kennedy, the Democratic, were expected to be in Oregon this week—but not eastern Oregon.)

Salem Scene Candidates seek name familiarity

BY JACK ZIMMERMAN

It was William Shakespeare who claimed a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.

And by virtue of that line from Romeo and Juliet, it becomes obvious the 16th century bard would never have made it as a campaign strategist in the 20th century politics.

High on the list of every candidate for political office these days is name familiarity. And as Oregon nears its May 20 primary election, it is interesting to examine the familiarity quotient of names of the 335 individuals who have filed to appear on the ballot.

It certainly isn't polite to poke fun at anyone's name. And that's not the purpose of this exercise.

Let's just assume some names appear more familiar than others and in spite of Shakespeare's conclusion, the word rose does conjure a more pleasant and instant association than its family handle, rosaceae.

For example, candidates named Smith appear more familiar than those with names such as Olexa or Romoser. A case in point may be the fact Smiths now serve in each chamber of the Legislature and three more aspire to positions in that deliberative body. Altogether, 10 Smiths will appear on various primary ballots and an eleventh was disqualified.

Most of us are pretty well conditioned to accept Smiths as people at least. The name

Jones falls in the same category. But only two candidates with that familiar surname have filed for election and maybe this supposition isn't all that valid after all.

If a person could pick a name for a candidate, one would presume the name should be short enough to avoid crowding on campaign literature. If descriptive, it should describe something pleasant, perhaps. It could be the same as that of someone who has already achieved acclaim or is receiving nationwide publicity. Conversely, those with the same name as some notorious criminal might consider a name change.

A candidate's name should be easy to pronounce, maybe. But at the same time it might well serve an aspiring officeholder if his or her name were distinctive, different and not exactly the same as someone else's.

With these criteria in mind, let's take a look at the official list of candidates.

There are a number of three-letter names on that list. They're certainly short. There's Boe, for instance. In addition to being short, it sounds romantic (beau). After all, only a few of us oldtimers understand the word hobo, let alone the fact its moniker was bo.

Tri is also on the candidate list. Another shorty. And we certainly need officeholders who will try on our behalf.

We can all associate with the name Byers—even if we're so broke we can't buy much of anything these days.

Cease falls in the same category. There are growing numbers of voters who would prefer government cease just about everything it has assumed as its prerogative recently.

Given a choice between Priesley and Savage, which would you pick?

In this melting pot society of ours, ethnic names shouldn't be a disadvantage. But some names on the current list fail the pronunciation test.

Rijken, for instance. Then there's Nakkela. Mayea, Lopuszynski, Khormooji, Hosticka, Brogotti, Arniello and Toedemeier. On the other hand they're all distinctive, even if difficult to pronounce.

Female candidates probably have the most trouble with names, especially those who are or have been married. Some might prefer to run under their maiden names. Zajonc, Pisha, or Yih, perhaps. From the list it appears one candidate prefers both maiden and married names and uses the hyphenated Young-Rifai. Then again there are female candidates who prefer married names because they are or were wed to successful politicians. Examples are Roberts, Fadeley and Kafoury. Still another is Whitehead.

Some names, when combined with others, appear

amusing—or would be more appropriate on the door of a law firm. Hooley, Dooley and Dingler are examples.

Huckleberry is a pleasant name, if you relish them. But as with Merryman, it doesn't sound serious enough. Good descriptive names are those such as Marshall, Farmer, Field, Loving, Knight and Forester.

But it's terribly difficult to classify a Bugas, Gerlt, Gofena or Oas.

One assumes few candidates are defeated at the polls simply because of their names. But would you be more comfortable seeking votes with a name such as Braverman than Gangle? And consider the plight of voters in House District 34 who have both a School and a School seeking the same office.

Shakespeare—discounting the fact he has piled up quite a bit of name familiarity over the centuries—might have had difficulty with his name in his own time. Indeed, some scholars today tend to confuse it with Bacon. And neither sound exactly political.

Still one has to argue with the Elizabethan playwright's declaration about roses and any other name. A Plinski by the name of Potts and a Ripper by the name of Ruonala certainly don't smell the same.

And all of this really doesn't mean much to anyone. But what do you expect from a writer whose name spelled backward is Namremmiz?

'Passage of budget necessary to schools'

Editor: We all know that Morrow County School District cannot operate without passage of a school budget.

The district's tax base is only sufficient to run our schools for a short period of time.

The district lost its first budget election in March. The budget will be voted on again on May 20.

The school board has given careful consideration to reducing the proposed levy. Cuts of a little over \$73,000 were made. The board made every effort to make these cuts in such a way that the program for students would not suffer.

The proposed budget appears to be very realistic and worthy of support.

Morrow County tax rate for schools is quite low when compared with other school districts. The proposed levy is estimated to result in a 35¢ per

thousand increase over last year's tax rate. This seems quite reasonable in these inflated times.

Repeated defeats of a school budget have a damaging effect on the schools as well as on the community. New businesses and professional people who seek to locate in a community consider good schools and the way they are supported as one of the indications of a good community.

A yes vote on the school levy is good for our children as well as being good for our community.

Sincerely,
Bob Abrams
Heppner

'Vote yes on budget'

Editor: One of the very important issues before the voters on (Continued on Page 5)

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Heppner Auto Parts
234 N. Main Heppner 676-9123

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Concerned over Willow Creek logging'

Editor:

I am very concerned about the proposal to log the Willow Creek watershed. I would like all the people concerned with this to know what is proposed. The Forest Service is planning to log this area very soon. By 1985 all the virgin timber will be sold in the Heppner Ranger District. I feel that the north slopes should never be logged, because it will ruin the Willow Creek Valley as it did the Rock Creek area (which used to have more water flow than Willow Creek, until the headwaters were logged).

There is a plan for more than 15 miles of roads in this area. Most of the timber is old growth (rotting) white fir,

which will only be good for salvage.

I feel that this area should be saved. It includes the headwaters of Shaw Creek, Heron Creek and Willow Creek as well as Park Creek, which supplies the water for the Cutsforth Park and all the cabins on the west of the pond. I'm sure the farmers in the valley will lose most of their irrigation water.

It could also hurt the shallow wells. It could hurt the businesses in our area as well, because this area is the main calving and breeding grounds for our elk and deer, and if this resource is gone it will hurt the hunters who bring much business to the area.

This area is also the home of

other wildlife, including the cougar, bear, coyote, bobcat, pine marten and flying squirrel, besides the ruffed grouse, blue grouse, turkey and the great gray owl and pileated woodpecker, which depend on the old growth timber for survival. Also, this area is very popular with recreationists, back-packers, picknickers and hikers and big game hunters. There are many hiking and horseback trails within this area. Other uses include berry-picking, photography, mushrooming, nature study, fossil collecting and winter sports. Organizations, such as Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs and church organizations, have become very

enthusiastic users of Cutsforth Park and this area.

I have talked to the Judge at the County Court, the Heppner City Council and the Lexington City Council about this. Now I would like for all concerned people to help us save this area. The people can have a voice now, before it is too late. Please write to your City Councils and County Court and tell them you want the watershed of Willow Creek saved. The first sale is scheduled for 1982 on Shaw Creek, so we don't have much time to save our watershed. Please write today.

Thank you,
Charlene Papineau,
Box 461,
Lexington, Ore. 97539

Sifting through the TIMES

1930

Fifty years ago, farmers destroyed morning glory, Russian knap weed and Canadian thistle with calcium and soda chlorates in an experiment and had good results. A report was made that 90 percent of the weeds were killed by farmers in the county using the spray.

County agent Charles W. Smith explained the 4-H program in the county grew from 189 to 240 in one year thanks to the addition of some clubs making the total 29. Irrigon had the only 4-H band in the nation. To form a club, only five persons needed to join. No clubs had been formed in Heppner at that time.

The winning team of the crew and magpie shooting contest held by the Heppner Lions was afraid that the losing team was not going to live up to its agreement of taking the winners out to dinner. Losing captain C.L. Sweek said because of the social schedule, it might be next fall before they would be able to sponsor a dinner.

More than 100 persons gathered at the Heppner school auditorium to listen to the piano recital of Mrs. William R. Poulson.

1955

The county school budget passed with the largest mar-

'Schools put sports ahead of studies'

Editor:

I would like to commend Stephen Brownfield for his letter of May 8, 1980.

As a former student of both Heppner and Ione Schools and the parent of graduates of Heppner High School, the emphasis that the Morrow County School System has always put on athletic academics was and still is a bone of contention with me. In past years I argued this point with both my kids and with the teachers and principals. Students with below average and failing grades always somehow are eligible to participate in sport activities.

To my knowledge, the Morrow County School District has not had many, if any, students who have made a profession in athletics.

Scholastics should be first and foremost in all school districts.

Scholastic field trips such as for biology, geology, etc., are very educational and beneficial to students if properly planned and supervised.

If such items are to be cut from the budget it only seems that there are other issues that should be looked into first.

In a recent article it is noted that the School District just hired a tennis coach. Undoubtedly the salary being

paid for another teacher could be put to better use.

Each and every day large school buses bring students to and from school, these buses with capacities of approximately 48 go up and down the highway carrying 15 to 20 students. If all the buses are run like this, cuts could be made there.

Perhaps the school administration should do some thinking and reorganization.

Joan Hughes
Rt 1 Box 3047
Heppner, Ore.

Mary Martin wins support for treasurer

Editor:

Mary Martin has earned my support for the Republican nomination for county treasurer for Morrow County by her past efforts. She has worked with the Morrow County CowBelles, school affairs and other community activities. I believe she is deserving of my vote and yours.

Carleen West
Ione, Ore. 97543