

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

**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Published every Thursday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.

Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9228.

Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

\$8.00 in Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler & Gilliam counties; \$10.00 elsewhere.

**David and April Hilton Sykes, Publishers**

**Yes, yes, reluctantly yes,**

Some controversial issues, critical to Morrow County not only economically, but in determining our county's future are facing county voters next Tuesday.

Drumming up the least controversy, and justifiably so, the Pioneer Memorial Hospital 1981-82 budget - a bare bones \$108,565 outside the six percent limitation.

PMH Admisitrator Lucky Felt provides needed services, runs a taut ship, lays all expenditures on the line and deserves a vote of confidence May 19. Vote yes on the hospital levy.

Generating a great deal more controversy with a staggering tax rate of \$4.93 per \$1,000 valuation, the three-year road serial levy proposes to assess \$8,568,000 (\$2,856,000 per year) to "reconstruct major arterials and heavily used secondary county roads."

At first glance this levy seems to be weighted against city dwelling tax payers for the benefit of farmers and ranchers.

But, Morrow County is wheat, is cattle, is sheep. Better roads for Morrow County is, in the long run, an economic benefit for all. It's got to be done and it's not going to get any cheaper.

Don't make this a city vs. country battle. Vote 'yes' on the three year serial levy.

However, what many voters don't realize is that the outcome of these two levies is dependent on passage of the county budget.

If either passes it would still fail if the county budget goes down.

Passage of 'B' levies, such as the hospital and road levies, are hinged on passage of an 'A' ballot, in this case a Morrow County \$1,927,583 levy outside the six percent limitation.

In addition to being a bit steep, with an estimated tax of \$4 per \$1,000 valuation this levy is manipulative - a clever maneuver on behalf of the county to take a ride on the coattails of more popular concerns.

In other words, if you want the hospital and the roads you'd better take the county too.

We feel the roads, the hospital and the county budgets should be able to pass or fail on their own merits.

So it is with reluctance we say - vote yes on the county budget.

Saving the best - or at least the most heatedly argued - for last we urge a yes vote on the Willow Creek Dam advisory question.

Again it is a question of long term economics - a dam will benefit downtown Heppner residents in terms of insurance costs and will enable building, renovation and 'urban renewal' to a much greater extent.

Although we empathize with the pain that those who are being forced off their land must feel, the dam is important to the vitality, perhaps even existence, of the downtown core.

Although only an advisory and not a binding vote, a 'yes' vote will mean a vote of confidence for our city.

Stand by the people who stand by you, the Heppner mayor and city council - vote yes on the Willow Creek Dam.

**Obituary**  
**Thelma Smethurst**

**THE DALLES** - Thelma Smethurst, 77, The Dalles, a former area resident, died at her home Monday, May 11, 1981.

She was born on Feb. 5, 1904, at Hamilton, Ore., the daughter of Nickolas and Daisy Franklin Hall.

In 1916, she moved with her family to Heppner, where she grew up and attended school.

She was married to William Smethurst in March, 1925. They farmed at Heppner and at Lexington until retirement, when they moved to Pendleton. They lived there until Mr. Smethurst's death in Dec. 1979.

Mrs. Smethurst then moved to The Dalles to be near her daughter and family, Betty and Herman Zeigler, and their children, Bill, Tom and Pam.

Mrs. Smethurst is survived by her daughter, Betty Ziegler, The Dalles; four sisters, Velma Phillips, Heppner; Charlotte Gordon, Portland; Pearl Stevens, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Opal Countryman, Gerber, Calif.; one brother, Guy Hall, Vallejo, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held today (Thursday) May 14, 1981 at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland.

Those who wish may contribute to the Heart Fund in memory of Thelma Smethurst.

**Hospital Notes**

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner reports the following patients admitted and dismissed over the past week:

- Annie Krebs, Arlington, admitted May 6, dismissed May 8.
- Charles O'Connor, Ione, admitted May 6, dismissed May 9.
- Patients still receiving care at the hospital are: Maxine Smith, Heppner, admitted May 4.
- John Haacke, Riverton, admitted May 7.
- Oren Brace, admitted May 9 and Ryan Thomas, admitted May 10.

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**MONUMENTS**

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**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department handled the following calls during the past week:

- May 7, James B. Hart reported the theft of fishing poles. A Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy responded to the call.
- May 8, Edward Shook, Boardman, reported theft of tools from his pickup. A Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy responded to the call.
- Also on May 8 Larry Douglas, Ione reported theft of shaft coupling collars. A Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy responded to the call.
- On May 10 a one vehicle accident was reported on Hwy. 74 in Lexington. Driver of the vehicle was Catherine McAuliffe. No injuries were reported.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following cases last week:

- Merna Maxine Campbell, P.O. Box 621 Condon. Exceeding maximum speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone) \$24 fine.
- Patricia Louise McMinn, P.O. Box 920, Heppner. Exceeding maximum speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone) \$6 suspended fine.
- Ray Steelman, P.O. Box 595, Arlington. No operators license. \$55 fine.
- Karen Lynn Palmer, 325 E. Matlock, Heppner. Exceeding maximum speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone) \$12 fine.
- Robin Don Scott, 675 Rock Street, Heppner. Offensive littering, \$12 fine and minors in possession of an alcoholic beverage. \$34 fine.
- Melanie Ann Seitz, Rt. 1 Box 3079, Heppner. Careless driving. \$29 fine.
- Patrick Ross Cutsforth, Rt. 1, Lexington. Exceeding maximum speed (72 mph in a 55 mph zone) \$29 fine.

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