

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dam needed for Heppner's survival

To the Editor:
People of Heppner:

On May 19 you will again be asked for your opinion of the Willow Creek Dam in an advisory vote. I know that many of you have been barraged with information about this, ranging from truth to some outright fibs, and are understandably confused. It is my hope that your vote will be based on the true facts as we know them, and thus I present them to you as stated below:

1. Much of Heppner, including most of the commercial business district, sits on a flood plain. This is a physical fact which has nothing to do with the Corps of Engineers or any other government agency.

2. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) required the City of Heppner to adopt a Flood Plain Management Ordinance, which we have done, in order to be eligible for Federal Flood Insurance.

3. Flood insurance is necessary to be able to borrow money from any federally governed lending institution, including banks and veteran's loans. This means that without flood insurance, capital for building new homes or businesses or remodeling old ones would be practically non-existent.

4. The Flood Plain Management Ordinance places such severe restrictions on building and remodeling within the flood plain area as to preclude rebuilding, in most cases. This means that as buildings deteriorate from age or are destroyed by fire, vacant lots would be the result. This is particularly true of the business district. Although lost residential buildings could be replaced on the hills, bit by bit, it is not feasible to move the business district, either in part, or whole, as there is really no place to put it. I see this as spelling the end for

Heppner in the next 40 - 50 years.

5. The Willow Creek Dam will eliminate or substantially reduce the flood plain in the business district and most of the residential area upstream from the downtown area. Flood plain depths of 5' and 6' of water will be eliminated in some cases, and reduced to 1' or 2' in the rest of the above described area.

6. Replacement of old water transmission lines and other water system components required because of relocation requirements of the dam, will save this city many thousands of dollars as this work will not be done by the Army Corps of Engineers if the dam is stopped.

7. Two years ago, the people of this city voted to build the dam. Based on that vote, the city has committed \$430,000 of your money, which you voted to pay, for water improvements sorely needed. \$25,000 of this has already been spent for engineering work. This would be lost without the dam. Also, the remaining \$405,000 would not be enough to replace that part of the system now planned to be done by the Corps of Engineers.

In conclusion, let me say that officials of Heppner and Morrow County, as well as private individuals have sought construction of the Willow Creek Dam for many decades. Many locals have gone to Washington, D.C. to lobby for it. It is now in our grasp if we want it, but probably never will be again if we make a mistake now.

Obviously, I hope you will all vote for the dam on May 19. I think you will if you vote the facts.

Sincerely,
Cliff Green,
Mayor,
City of Heppner

Little to lose a lot to gain



To the Editor:

I can't see why so many people are apparently opposed to the Willow Creek Dam Project. Can't they see they have little to lose, and a lot to gain by its construction? A reserve of water for irrigation, a place to play and fish, a drawing card for our own citizens and our neighbors, and above all, a safeguard against loss of our lives and property, such as the many floods, little and big, that have struck the community in the past.

My wife and I are in a particularly vulnerable position, but only a little more than everybody else in the flood plain. It's going to get pretty tiresome, paying an increasing insurance bill every year - one which will finally become in total as great as the property cost in the first place.

Doesn't the scream of the flood warning strike terror in each citizen's heart when he hears the warning, and the water and hail begin to fall? Goodness knows, we have endured the fear many times, and each time wonder if our hearts will stand another crisis. It isn't just for ourselves - take a look at the pictures of the devastation wrought by the flood in Heppner. "Oh, it couldn't happen here," each one says. Does each one believe that? It has, many times, and will happen again. Why don't we want the

dam? It's practically free! And look at the benefits that go with it! A desperately needed addition and up-dating of the water system, especially.

It is true, the people in the flood plain have a lot to gain, but in the long run, nearly everybody has something to gain, and what do they have to lose? And the assets will far outweigh such small inconveniences that might go with it.

Let's not discard this multi-million dollar present we are to receive. We may never have a chance to get such a present again. If we can't make Heppner grow, let's at least make it a safer place to live in!

Born and raised in Heppner
(practically)
Harold and Ruby Becket

Vote 'yes' on college budget

To the Editor:

On May 19, I would encourage everyone to go out and vote "yes" for the BMCC budget. The future of our total institution is relying on the wholehearted support of our fine community and its loyal citizens. Everyone should try to make sure this budget, rather than fail by a few votes, should pass overwhelmingly in order to ensure the quality of higher education for our community.

Thanks,
Ron H. Currin

Think before you speak

To the Editor:

To Whom It May Concern: It has taken some time to write this, but I think this should be aired.

While the senior meals were still being served, my mother attended from time to time. She has had to use a walker recently and was reluctant to go out in public because of it. After much persuasion she attended one of the last meals at the Neighborhood Center. Mrs. Brindle moved the walker out of the way, but someone rude, and unthinking called my mother the next day complaining about the walker and suggested she stay home in the future.

Yes, trays can be brought to homes of those unable to get out, but the meals were begun so the seniors could, if they wanted to get out, enjoy company, and be assured of a well cooked and balanced meal go.

A person alone never really eats as well as someone who is in the company of good friends and companions.

Maybe this person who called wasn't thinking of the damage he caused, but if he was, I hope he gets his thinking cap on straight before the meals begin again, and perhaps ruins them for someone else, what could be an enjoyable time.

Think about what it would be like if you weren't welcomed as well. Put yourself in my mother's place, whoever you are.

Sincerely,
Naomi Matthews

Vote yes on college budget

To the Editor:

For the last four years I have represented South Morrow County as a member of the Blue Mountain Community College Budget Committee. This year the budget committee spent a considerable amount of time reviewing budget requests, taking into account college services that were needed, but, also, attempting to hold costs down so that we would be asking for only the amount of property taxes we felt were absolutely necessary.

With all levels of government being asked to reduce expenditures, the Budget Committee was even more

critical as next year's proposed budget was being considered. Prior to the March 31 election, the committee rejected budget requests of over \$325,000. Following the budget defeat of March 31, the committee met again and reviewed the budget.

Because of the earlier reductions, the committee did not feel that much could be done to reduce the levy without eliminating existing programs or limiting enrollments. However, another \$35,750 was cut from the budget. There is, of course, a strong possibility that the college will lose from \$80,000 to \$100,000 in projected state

funds. If this happens, the budget committee will meet again to consider where those cuts can be made.

Because of the circumstances I have described, it is critical that the college budget receive voter approval at the May 19 Election. The College has provided a variety of educational services to South Morrow County and the entire college District.

Many students Morrow County have taken advantage of the college's services and many more will do so in the future. The college budget is a good responsible budget and deserves our support.

Please join me in voting "yes" on the college budget on May 19.

Sincerely yours,
Ray Boyce

Vote 'No' on May 19

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, May 19, voters who reside in the Heppner Water Control District will have the opportunity to vote on the advisory question, "Do you favor construction of the Willow Creek Dam?" I urge you to vote "no". This vote could decide the future of the Willow Creek Dam. The Morrow County Court, Representative Denny Smith and Governor Vic Atiyeh have all agreed to support the decision of the voters. Contrary to information supplied by the Corps of Engineers, money for the dam has not been funded by Congress. Senator Mark Hatfield, the primary supporter of the dam, will need the support

of local and state elected officials in order to appropriate the necessary funds. It is doubtful that any elected official would continue to force the dam on an unwilling constituency.

Most people are aware of the pros and cons regarding the dam and recent information released by the corps has helped to clarify any remaining questions. It should be noted that the Corps of Engineers in testimony before Congress opposed construction of the dam because it was not economically justified. However, Congress acting on the erroneous assumption that the project would have a

favorable benefit to cost ratio directed in the city limits which are in the flood plain, only 56 acres will be eliminated by the dam at a cost of over \$800,000 per acre. Most of the area downstream from the Courthouse to the city limits will remain either in the flood plain or the floodway and a strict flood-plain ordinance will be enforced in this area.

The Willow Creek Dam with its many deficiencies does not merit an expenditure of \$42-45 million and your "No" vote could help eliminate this inflationary project.

Sincerely yours,
Terry Thompson, Heppner

Hospital to host open house Fri.

The week of May 10 is National Hospital Week. Pioneer Memorial Hospital will participate by holding an open

house, Friday, May 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.

All are invited to enjoy refreshments hosted by the

hospital auxiliary. Look around, ask questions, and visit with the nursing home guests.

Pass BMCC budget levy

To the Editor:

The BMCC budget will be voted upon May 19. I would like to encourage each of you to support BMCC with your "yes" vote.

BMCC has meant a great deal to our family and to me in particular. Although I plan to finish my education at OIT in x-ray technology, I would not feel as secure about my decision if I had not had the wonderful education and counseling I was able to receive at BMCC.

I hope all our area kids will be as lucky as I am and have the opportunity to go to BMCC.

Please vote "yes" for BMCC on May 19.

Sincerely yours,
Jo Lynn Daly
BMCC Student

Take advantage of road levy program

To the Editor:

Next Tuesday, May 19, we go to the polls to vote on a three-year Road Improvement Levy.

Our roads can and will get worse if we maintain them at our present pace. Good roads cost less than the continual vehicle maintenance that bad roads cause. Let's take advantage of this program and support the levy to get our roads in good enough shape to be economically maintained in the future. Time is running out, vote May 19.

Wayne Evans,
President,
Morrow County
Cattlemans Assoc

Charlie Anderson
President,
Morrow County
Wheat Growers

KLIBAN

Pencil Holders
Knick Knacks Holders
Picture Frames Pitcher
Salt & Pepper

The Hottest
Cat In Town

There's Something
for Every Grad
HERE!

- Muppet Mugs & Banks
- Papermate Pen & Matching Pencil Sets
- Calculators Mugs Travel Kits
- Alarm Clocks Manicure Sets
- Times & Texas Instruments Watches
- Kinetic Sculpture Billfolds
- Jewelry Latch Hook Rug Kits
- Baskets Plaques & Posters
- Play Cards Supplies Albums Toiletries
- Stationery & Books

To be sure that your
graduation list is complete,
check with us and
choose from our
wide selection!

Murray's Drug

HEPPNER ARLINGTON CONDON

MAY SALE!!

STRAWBERRYS
Fresh
59¢ cup

CELERY
49¢ Ea.

LIVER Beef **59¢** LB

BOLOGNA
Hills **1.15** by the chunk
LB

SUGAR 3.49 10lb
Western Family

SHOUT
Soil & Stain Remover
22oz **1.69**

PINEAPPLE
Dole in juice
sliced, crushed, chunk
63¢ 20oz

LEMON PLEDGE
1.4oz **2.39**

SPARE RIBS
Pork **1.29** LB

7-Up
12oz cans
Reg. or Diet
1.99 plus dep.

MUSHROOMS
Shady Glen
Stems & Pieces 4oz
55¢

BANANAS
33¢ LB

Central Market
GROCERY MEAT
676-9614 676-9288

Prices Effective May 14, 15, 16, 1981