

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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David and April Hilton Sykes, Publishers

One small step

The Morrow County Court has taken a step in the right direction in labeling 'A' and 'B' levies on the upcoming Morrow County election ballots.

But we doubt that the step is big enough. Many voters may not realize that passage of a 'B' levy depends on passage of an 'A' levy. And those that do - and feel strongly about a 'B' levy issue - may be pressured into voting for (or against) the 'A' levy to insure passage (or failure) of that 'B' levy.

We still maintain separate issues should be able to pass or fail on their own merits.

Aside from this major objection the county budget levy of \$1,927,583 outside the six percent limitation with an estimated tax rate of \$3.32 per \$1,000 assessed value is not that unreasonable - YES on the 'A' ballot tax levy.

Likewise on the hospital budget levy of \$108,565 outside the six percent limitation with an estimated tax rate of \$.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value - YES on the 'B' hospital levy.

The three year road serial levy has been reduced since the May election. At \$4,966,653 outside the six percent limitation with an estimated \$2.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value the levy is a little easier to swallow - YES on the three-year road serial levy.

Not included on a 'B' ballot in May but included in the budget is authorization of funds for employment of a building inspector, a sheriff's transport deputy and purchase of a sheriff's vehicle. The county's rapid growth (in crime, as well as in building) indicates a vote of - YES on the 'B' ballot additional services levy. This levy of \$40,778 outside the six percent limitation calls for an estimated tax rate of 7 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

HOSPITAL NOTES

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner released the following patients during the past week:

Claytha Rene Devin, admitted June 14, discharged June 18.

Lena Kelly, Heppner, admitted June 15, discharged June 22.

Edgar Olson, Heppner, admitted June 16, discharged June 18.

Sadie Parrish, Heppner, admitted June 9, discharged June 17, and

Lois Mae Johnson, Heppner, admitted June 20, discharged June 22.

by the Umatilla Police Dept. on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for alleged delivery of a controlled substance and alleged possession of a controlled substance. The subject was lodged at the Umatilla City Jail.

In another June 19 incident, a range fire was reported at the Bombing Range, Boardman. The Navy requested assistance to extinguish the fire and the Boardman Fire Dept. responded.

On June 18, Benny Ramariez, Irrigon, reported the theft of a fuel tank and pipes. A Morrow County Sheriff's deputy responded to the call.

On June 17, Edward J. Marick, Boardman, was arrested by a Morrow County Sheriff's deputy on a Morrow County 6th Justice Court warrant for allegedly negotiating a bad check.

On June 15, a grass fire was reported on the Tower Road exit 184 in Boardman. The Boardman Fire Dept. responded to the call.

Harshman was also arrested

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

See you at the poles

To the Editor:

First of all there is one important ingredient in the upcoming election, you the voter.

It's your money the County Court is spending. Your vote is the purse string controller.

So let's all get out and vote. First item to think about is the 'A' ballot - no changes at all according to the paper. How come your budget committee and the County Court can't make headlines that would read "Morrow County cuts budget", like other municipalities and counties do? They only add 'B' ballots.

The 'B' ballot for roads failed. Again look at the list of members on the road committee and you still find the biggest percentage live on paved roads, and you can bet your bottom dollar they are only after one thing, you guessed it.

A new 'B' ballot which includes a constructional inspector and parttime sheriff help, etc., to cost \$40,000 has been added. The inspector must be certified to a certain level (structural, mobile home, 'B' level mechanic). A man doing this kind of work for the State of Oregon in Morrow County for the last year brought in fees of only \$21,630.32. Hardly his upkeep. The State of Oregon has to still do the 'A' level inspections. State of Oregon inspector's would still do the electrical and plumbing.

The other 'B' ballot was for the hospital. It passed. The appointed hospital board and the court, if they don't already know about this one, here goes.

Sometime patients must be moved outside our local area to Portland, Tri-Cities, etc. for treatment by ambulance.

At the helm of such ambulance you may see the driver, the administrator of Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Salary paid \$24,420 to do his administration job and asking \$27,594 in this budget. The

Road system will help all

To the Editor:

I am taking this means to ask the people of Morrow County to vote in favor of the County Budget and the Road Levy, June 30.

While it is true that I do not own any real property in Morrow County, I have made quite a commitment and investment in this area and anything I can do to help get the farming and ranching trade to stay in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione areas for their shopping will help us all.

I believe that improving the road system is one way to accomplish this.

Yours truly,
Ron McDonald Chevrolet, Inc.
Ron McDonald, President

Cub Scout Day Camp planned

Cub Scouts interested in attending day camp must fill out a day camp application and health form and return it to his den leader or to P.O. Box 1105, Umatilla, Ore. 97882 by Tuesday, June 30.

Oregon Trail District will have two day camps, at McNary Wildlife Park July 28 - 31 and at Morrow County Fairgrounds August 4 - 7. The cost for the camp is \$20 per boy, but money making projects are being planned to lower the cost per participant, said a spokesperson. The \$20 fee includes a drink at lunch, a camp T-shirt, insurance, awards and a camp patch.

Boys ages eight to 10 not currently registered with the Boy Scouts may attend Cub Scout day camp if they send in a camp application and money in advance.

For more information call 676-9235 or 676-5533.

hospital we need, but there must be some local person who would volunteer their time and not the taxpayers' money to do the job.

These are only a few of the things the voter is not told about. When it comes right down to it, your vote was cast once, cast it again to let your feelings be known.

One thing vital to all the people of the county is this. "South Morrow County Seniors, threatened species."

Let me explain: TV tells of the threatened species. Senior Citizens, not being called animals, are being threatened in South Morrow County. The senior citizen center, (also known as the Neighborhood Center) is centrally located in downtown Heppner, used or available to the seniors everyday of the week (providing all but legal service) has been closed for meals since March 4, 1981.

As life passes by (more swiftly as seniors) it is not totally the meals that bring people together, but the loss of loved ones, spouses, and friends and need of companionship in one form or another. The center meant to many a friendly chat, a place to drop in for a cup of coffee and to be among friends.

The senior meals have been moved to the Morrow County Fair Grounds. As of today, no meals have been served since March 4, 1981.

Someone has been hired to the tune of \$7000 out of the revenue sharing funds to take over the job.

The job well done by Pat and totally appreciated by most seniors had cost the taxpayer \$83 a month or less than \$1000 a year. This job now has become a \$7,000 administration item plus the inconvenience to the senior citizens.

Thanks again Pat Brindle and to her faithful staff at the Neighborhood Center.

See you at the poles.

For a county building inspector

To the Editor:

The addition of a Morrow County building inspector is a good plan.

Many people are naturally resistant to this idea because they don't want more rules and regulations. They feel that the addition of an inspector means adding one more office to burden us with regulations. It is important to realize that we already have the requirements for building inspection in Morrow County by law.

Generally these inspections and permits are handled by the regional office of the Department of Commerce or the state office of that department. All funds collected within the county go to the Department of Commerce. This is a considerable amount of money, much of which would stay in the county if the county had its own building inspector and could be used to fund the building inspector program.

Estimates show that after the first year a county building inspector would probably be self supporting. Not to mention the convenience to those people involved in the building business. Under the present plan, permits and plans reviews are carried out in the Pendleton or Salem office. Delays are common, not to mention the inconvenience of traveling to the state or regional office to unravel a complex problem.

My own experience with the construction of public buildings as well as personal building projects has revealed how complex it is to acquire permits and to get approval of plan reviews. Delays are frequent and frustrating. A local building inspector can assist both the experienced and inexperienced builder in smoothing out this process.

If we can have the conven-

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

County governments can increase the tax base by 6 percent each year without a vote: the so-called 6 percent limitation. However, at \$380,069, Morrow County's tax base is a dinosaur, a relic of the past. The 6 percent limitation has not kept up with inflation rates of 10 - 15 percent nor rapid increases in population and industrial growth. According to a 1980 report by the State of Oregon Department of Human Resources, the population growth rate in Morrow County over the last ten years has been one of the highest in the U.S. and, from an industrial standpoint, Morrow County is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing counties in the state.

Funds over the 6 percent limitation must be submitted to voters on 'A' and 'B' ballots. Morrow County taxpayers will be asked to vote on an 'A' ballot and three 'B' ballots on June 30. The 'A' ballot must pass before any of the 'B' ballots can pass. If the 'A' ballot passes, then any of the 'B' ballots that receive a majority of "yes" votes will also pass.

The 'A' ballot is for county general operating funds, general school funds, and road maintenance. The dollar amount on the 'A' ballot was not reduced from the May 19 proposal; however, this is to the taxpayers' advantage. The state sets a ceiling on the dollar amount of the 'A' ballot for each county because the state gives homeowners a 30 percent tax rebate on all taxes collected under the 'A' ballot. If a county needs funds beyond the state's ceiling on the 'A' ballot they must be submitted on 'B' ballots where tax credits are not available.

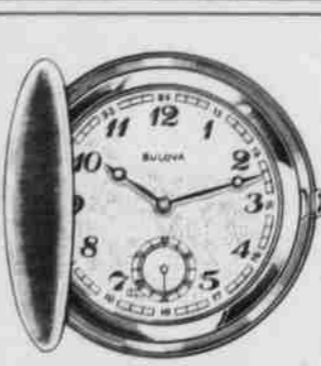
The 'B' ballot for the three-year road serial levy was cut more than 40 percent from the May 19 proposal. Of all road funds collected, 5.93 percent goes to the cities. The road maintenance funds contained in the 'A' ballot would allow for minimal maintenance of county roads; however, without additional funds.

ence of a local inspector using some of the money that would normally leave the county to go to Salem, it makes sense that we should take advantage of the situation by approving the 'B' levy request for a building inspector.

Very truly yours,
Matt Doherty
Rt. 2
Irrigon, OR 97844

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IT'S BULOVA WATCH TIME

The roads will continue to deteriorate over the long run. The funds provided in the road serial levy 'B' ballot would allow for some badly needed up-grading and improvement. Good roads are critical, not just for farmers, but for shopping and trading in Morrow County business centers as well.

The hospital levy on a 'B' ballot will provide funds for Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Nursing Home and the North Morrow County Clinic Services. This measure is unchanged from the May 19 proposal.

On the third 'B' ballot is a proposal to provide a transport deputy to move prisoners to and from the jail in Pendleton, to serve processes, and to fill in as a relief deputy. This new position will allow the Sheriff's staff to concentrate on other law enforcement activities. On the same ballot is a proposal for funds to hire a building inspector. This measure will increase local services through the Planning Department and fees, which are now going to the state, should make this service self sufficient.

If a taxpayer had a house with a true cash value of \$40,000, the assessed value would be 81.6 percent of that value or \$32,640. The 1981-1982 tax on this house for the County General Fund at the level provided by the 'A' ballot would be \$130.24. However, the 30 percent tax credit from the state would result in an actual cost to the taxpayer of \$91.17. Passage of the 'B' ballots would result in a tax on this same house of \$6.20 for the hospital, \$93.02 for the road serial levy, and \$2.28 for the transport deputy and building inspector. Passage of the 'A' ballot and all of the 'B' ballots would result in a total 1981-1982 tax bill for county services of \$186.89 for this same house. This figure allows for the 3 percent discount for November payment.

Bob Costa
Morrow County
Extension agent

Engagements

McCabe - Biddle

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Biddle, Heppner, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Sonja Rae, to John Edmond McCabe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest McCabe, Heppner.

An August 8 wedding has been planned at the United Methodist Church, Heppner.

Road work

The Morrow County Public Works Dept. has released the following work report for the past week:

Leveling and resealing six miles of the Bombing Range Road has begun. The beginning of this project is located approximately six miles north of the Lexington-Echo highway. Weather permitted the crew to work five ten-hour days this past week, which, according to the dept., expedited this project considerably.

Resealing of Lower Rhea Creek Road has been completed. The shoulder reshaping on this project has been halted during the resealing season but will continue this fall.

Roads bladed were: Toll Rock, Spring Hollow, Zinter and Liberty Schoolhouse.

Crushed rock was spread and bladed onto Baker-North to Smith Road, Emma White Road and Brenner Canyon Road.

Oil rock has been stock piled on the shoulders of Dick Smith - McNabb West for future road resealing.

The shop worked on No. 13 dump truck, pickups No. 2, 4, 6 and 7, did minor repairs on the resealing equipment and other daily preventive maintenance.

JUSTICE COURT

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

Andrew James Gorman, P.O. Box 66, Heppner, offensive littering from a motor vehicle - \$16 fine.

Timothy George Wilkins, P.O. Box 1, Dale, Ore., no angling license - \$6 suspended fine.

Curtis Lynn Walsh, 330 E. Cherry, Apt. D, Hermiston, no angling license - \$6 suspended fine.

Edward Lawrence Goddard, P.O. Box 6, Gill, Colo., switched license plates - \$55 fine; and

John William Hammel, Jr., mile post 34 on Highway 207, P.O. Box 86, Spray, violation of basic rule (54 miles per hour in a 35 mph designated speed) - \$29 fine.

Clarence Ellis Austin, Box 3139 Rt. 1, Heppner, studded tires - \$6 suspended fine.

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