

Changes made in levy notice

Changes in wording for the March 29, 1983 County Tax Levy are being requested by County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth.

Bloodworth stated that the needed changes became apparent when several voters complained that the sample ballots were confusing. Also, an error was caused by the use of incorrect population figures.

The corrected version retains the total amount of the levy at \$2,742,478 but changes the amount that needs to be financed independent of state

funding from \$554,442 to \$366,188. Had the original ballot been submitted to the voters, it would not have resulted in payment of more taxes, according to the county

spokesperson, but would have resulted in the need for an administrative adjustment.

The budget which the county is proposing for 1983-84 has been projected at \$289,802 less than for the current fiscal year.

A complete text of the changes in the ballot measure can be found on page 8 of today's paper.

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., March 15	54	30	
Wed., March 16	52	29	
Thurs., March 17	53	30	
Fri., March 18	50	29	
Sat., March 19	56	32	
Sun., March 20	59	38	
Mon., March 21	59	40	.09

VOL. 101 NO.12

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1983

12 PAGES

25

HEPPNER, OREGON

Voters to go to the polls Tues. Sheriff Fetsch resigns

School budget

Voters will be asked to approve a tax levy of \$5,111,515 for the school district, an amount up \$245,669, or 4.5 percent, over last year.

School Superintendent Matt Doherty says the increase is due mainly to increased costs of benefits for employees and planned repairs to heating systems in the schools.

Health insurance premiums for employees will cost the district \$82,000 more this year, and heating problems at Heppner High School and Heppner Junior High will cost over \$35,000 to fix, he stated. Other increases are in purchased services, mainly the cost of electricity, which schools in the northern end of the county are heavily dependent upon for heating, and in supplies which are still showing increases because of inflation, the superintendent said.

The total school budget for next year is \$7,432,618, with a little over \$5 million to come from local taxes.

To raise the tax money, the district estimates a tax rate of \$8.13 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, based on an estimated total county property valuation of \$700 million.

Last year's tax rate was \$7.95 per thousand of valuation, which means an increase of 0.18 to fund the proposed budget.

Tax payers will notice a larger jump in their tax bills though, because the district received nearly \$1,200,000 in back taxes from Portland General Electric which brought down last year's levy to about \$6.

The new rate would mean a person owning a \$60,000 home would pay \$487 in taxes.

"The district gained some added benefit from the PGE settlement," Doherty said. "We normally receive our tax money in dribbles, but we were given \$1,200,000 all at one time and were able to invest it and the district made about \$300,000 in interest."

He said the interest and surplus funds left over from last year were used to offset taxes for the coming year.

Voters will have a choice in this election to vote on an A and B ballot; however, the breakdown of the A and B, or amounts funded all locally and amounts partially funded by the state, will be shown in the ballot explanation.

Polling places

The following have been designated as polling places for the March 29 special election:

- Combined Boardman 1A and 1B - Greenfield Grange;
 - 1one 3 - 1one City Hall;
 - Combined Irrigon 4A and 4B - North Morrow Annex;
 - Lexington 5 - Lexington School office; and
 - Hardman 2 and combined Heppner 6, 7, 8 and 9 - Heppner Neighborhood Center.
- All polling places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County budget

Morrow County voters will be asked to approve a tax levy that is \$289,802 less than the levy approved by the voters for 1982-83.

This year the tax rate for county operations will be approximately \$3.92 per \$1,000 valuation. Last year's levy was \$4.37, but after Portland General Electric paid back taxes, the tax levy was reduced to \$3.52 per \$1,000 of valuation.

Although the total taxes proposed to be levied are down from last year, the tax levy would actually increase because there will be no off-set this year.

Of the \$6,306,745 total budget, \$2,742,478 is to be funded by property taxes. The 1983-84 tax base is \$438,281. If the measure passes, \$2,376,290 of the taxes levied will be eligible for some state funding. However, \$366,188 of the taxes levied will be totally financed by local taxpayers with no partial funding from the state.

Judge Don McElligott sites increased efficiency in county operations as one of the reasons for the decrease.

County employees will receive a 3.3 percent cost of living increase, compared to a 6.7 percent raise last year.

The county budget includes all county operations plus Pioneer Memorial Hospital, North Morrow Medical Clinic and ambulance, County Fair and Rodeo, Mental Health Services, the Juvenile Services Commission and Federal Revenue Sharing.

State statutes and federal laws require county governments to provide certain services at county expense, including tax collection and property assessment for the county, the school district, Blue Mountain Community College, the incorporated cities and special districts within the county.

Other required services include public health, waste disposal, judicial systems, police protection and maintenance of county roads.

All county taxing districts requiring property taxes will reflect a similar increase based on their proposed levies, the court spokesperson said.

BMCC budget and board

Umatilla and Morrow County voters will be asked next Tuesday to pass a \$3,255,859 levy for Blue Mountain Community College's operation. The levy shows a 3.5 percent increase over last year.

The levy will amount to \$1.64 per \$1,000 valuation, an increase of five cents per \$1,000 over the 1982 levy.

The owner of a \$60,000 home would pay \$3 more for support of the college in 1983-84 resulting in a total of \$98.40 for the school year.

Included in the proposed budget will be funding for: the sophomore career program, an electronics engineering instructor, a computer science

School board and ad. comm. positions

County voters will elect two directors to the Morrow County School Board, and on local levels, a total of six advisory committee members will be elected.

Seeking election as directors are Jerry McElligott of Ione, incumbent, who is running unopposed for zone III; and Robert Hawkins of Butter Creek and Randy Hughes of Lexington, who are vying for the position in zone IV, currently held by Irv Rauch of Lexington. Both are four-year terms.

Paul Tews of Ione is seeking re-election to position no. 1, a three-year term, on the Ione-Lexington Advisory Committee, and George Miller of Ione is running for position no. 5 on the Ione-Lexington Advisory Committee, also a three-year term. That position is currently held by Ed Patton.

Harley Sager of Lexington has agreed to run as a write-in candidate for position no. 3 on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee, Sharon Harrison of Lexington currently holds the position and is not seeking re-election. Sager runs unopposed.

Marlene Currin and Peggy Fishburn, both of Heppner, are seeking election to position no. 5 on the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee as write-in candidates. Gail Hughes currently holds the three-year position.

The names of write-in candidates must be written correctly on the ballot to be counted.

Voters in the north end of the county will also elect two advisory committee members. Marilyn Putman of Irrigon is seeking re-election to position no. 5 on the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee and John T. Jensen is running for Shane Fritz's seat, position no. 2 on the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee. Both are three-year terms.

(For more information about local candidates for school board and advisory committee positions see Candidates Forum on page 4.)

Port Commission

County voters will have to choose two of four candidates to fill positions on the Port of Morrow Commission in the March 29 election. The positions are four-year terms.

Those seeking election as commissioners are incumbents Leroy Gardner and Lawrence D. "Larry" Lindsay, both of Heppner; Jody Tatone of Boardman; and Daniel Creamer of Irrigon.

(see Candidates Forum page four.)

Other ballots

Voters in Heppner will choose directors for the Heppner Rural Fire District, the Heppner Water Control District and the Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District. Ione and Lexington voters will elect a director in the Ione-Lexington Cemetery District.

Seeking election to the Heppner Rural Fire District are Donald L. Bennett and Monte Evans, who both run unopposed for four-year terms.

Archie Ball, Jr., Albert L. Osmin and Gene Pierce are running for three open positions in the Heppner Water Control District.

The Heppner Cemetery maintenance District has two open positions for directors, one two-year term and one four-year term. Christopher George seeks election to the two-year term and Beverly Gunderson is a candidate for the four-year term. Both are running unopposed.

Voters in Ione and Lexington will elect a director for the Ione-Lexington Cemetery District. Roy W. Lindstrom of Ione is seeking election to that four-year position and is running unopposed.

Gardners to retire



Leroy and Marj Gardner

Marj and Leroy Gardner, owners of Gardner's Men's Wear in Heppner, have announced they will retire from business the first of April.

The Gardners, who have owned and operated the clothing store, since 1964, will be turning over the business to their son Leroy "Roe" Gardner, and his wife, Marilyn.

The Gardners came to Heppner from The Dalles in June of 1952. Marj worked at beauty shops in Heppner and they both worked for Heppner Nor-Gas until 1964 when they purchased what was then called Wilson's Mens' Wear from Bill and Shirley Blake.

The store was much smaller then and in 1975 the Gardners expanded with a major remodeling job which took in a building next door once hous-

Morrow County Sheriff Larry Fetsch resigned last Friday after being away from his duties for one month. Fetsch has served as sheriff for the past six years.

Fetsch's wife, Donna, presented the resignation to Morrow County Court for him, since he has been out of the state receiving medical treatment.

County Judge Don McElligott said Tuesday that the resignation had not yet been accepted but that it would be reviewed in county court's Wednesday session, "and (the court) will undoubtedly accept it." The judge also said that county court holds the responsibility of appointing a new sheriff, and that court members were reviewing that policy Tuesday.

Mrs. Fetsch said the sheriff has undergone surgery three times in the past few months; once to repair a nerve injured while making an arrest and twice for a bone disease that has affected both jaws.

"Widespread speculation in many quarters by persons in both the private and public sector of the county on Sheriff Fetsch's whereabouts" is the reason for his resignation, she said.

She said the sheriff had arranged to have his duties covered whenever he was away from the county and also kept in touch with his office.

Deputy Sargent Roy Drago of Boardman has been heading the sheriff's department since Fetsch left February 17. Drago has been with the sheriff's department for three years and will continue running the department until the court appoints a new sheriff, and McElligott says he does not know when that will be.



Sheriff Larry Fetsch

Local student wins 1st place in state poster contest



Nance Wright

A Heppner Elementary student's Eye Injury Prevention Poster has won first place in the state contest sponsored by the Oregon Elks Lodges.

Nance Wright, 12, is to receive a \$300 U.S. Savings Bond for winning the contest. Her poster was selected as first place winner from among 5,000 entries made by fourth, fifth and sixth grade children statewide.

Second place was awarded to Teresa Lent, 12 of Myrtle Creek. She receives a \$200 savings bond.

New power rates and conservation program approved for irrigators

The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board adopted new rates and an energy conservation program for irrigation customers at a board meeting last Thursday, Mar. 17, announced Fred Toombs, co-op manager.

The new rates are the same as those that were considered at the board's last meeting. Toombs said earlier that the rates had only been restructured and will not reduce revenue.

Energy charges will now be based on a pump's horsepower use, energy use and demand use, instead of only horsepower and energy use.

After a recommendation from the Irrigation Commit-

Be Careful with these Objects:

- BB Guns
 - Shells
 - Dynamite caps
 - Firecrackers
- above all, Please HELP PREVENT EYE INJURIES!

Nance Wright's winning Eye Injury Prevention poster

months at Mall 205, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Clackamas Town Center, in Portland.

The Order of Elks of Oregon has sponsored the poster contest since 1975 as part of its commitment to providing eye care to children. The organization supports the Elks Children's Eye Clinic at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland.

Nance is the daughter of Kenny and Judy Wright of Ruggs.

Prize winners on St. Pat's Day

Local residents as well as out of town visitors took prizes in St. Patrick's Day contests in Heppner last week.

The best dressed Irishman prize went to Joe McLaughlin of Pendleton and Mrs. Mike McDavid, also of Pendleton, won a prize for being the best dressed Irish woman.

Donna Moeller and Sheridan Tarnasky, both of Heppner, tied for the best dressed leprechaun award.

Ilene Kenny Richards of Eureka, Calif. won the prize for being the Irish descendant to travel the farthest.

Winners in KUMA radio station's contest were: Cam Kennedy of Spray, a \$50 green bill; Donna Privett, Heppner, a necklace; and Helen Martin, also of Heppner, a green sweater.

For more about St. Patrick's Day in Heppner, see page seven.

Third place winner is Jason Frazer, 10, of Grants Pass. He is to receive a \$100 savings bond.

The top winners had already won local and district awards for their posters, which were intended to remind children to watch out for the dangers of eye injuries.

Four judges selected the winning posters for originality, composition and their "message."

The winning posters along with 17 district winners will be displayed during the next two

Physician submits application to PMH

Dr. Clare Koznek of Sandy has submitted his application to Pioneer Memorial Hospital's Medical Staff and Board, announced Hospital Administrator A.K. "Lucky" Felt.

The medical staff reviewed the application Tuesday and

later one staff member said "It looks fairly certain that he will be coming the first part of May."

cont. p. 2