

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

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David and April Sykes, Publishers

Editorial — Deficit could mean debtors' prison

How would you like to be able to borrow all the money you want, anytime you wanted to, and never have to worry because you could always borrow more to pay back what you already owe?

It sounds pretty tempting, doesn't it? The policy makers in the federal government know how attractive it is. They have fallen to the temptation for more than two decades. And the only way to keep them from falling again and again is to take the temptation away. As the record shows, they cannot handle it.

Since 1961, the federal government has experienced 22 deficits and just one surplus in its budget. As a result, it is more than \$1.6 trillion in debt. Furthermore - if things don't change - it will be adding in the neighborhood of \$200 billion to that debt year after year for the foreseeable future. At that rate, the total debt would double in just seven years.

If you divided \$1.6 trillion among every man, woman, and child in the U.S., each individual would receive almost \$7,000. That is almost \$28,000 for the traditional family of four.

In 1982 prices, \$1.6 trillion would buy more than 24 million new homes and almost 270 million new automobiles.

Furthermore, it would take nearly every dollar on deposit in domestic offices of America's banks to pay that debt off. In other words, we would almost wipe out all the savings in U.S. banks to pay the debt.

The numbers are frightening - but the speed at which the government has racked up this debt is even more frightening.

In 1970, the entire federal budget was \$200 billion and the government had overspent by \$2.8 billion. In other words, our current deficit just about equals all the money spent by the government just 13 short years ago.

Government deficits affect our everyday lives - they help determine how many Americans are working, how much the value of our dollar is eroded by inflation, and how difficult it is for businesses and consumers to get credit. How?

These deficits must somehow be financed. To do this the government can borrow money or it can simply increase the amount of dollars in circulation.

If it borrows, it will absorb new savings needed for the private investment necessary to keep our economy moving and our standard of living rising: investment for plant and equipment, research, technology and consumer goods.

Traditionally, the federal government has used about one-quarter of our national savings pool.

If deficits continue at their current high level, this figure will be closer to one-half to two-thirds of that pool - year after year.

The obvious result of this course is that interest rates will be pushed higher and higher, since there will be greater competition for the same amount of funds. Think about that the next time you or someone you know wants to purchase a car or a home.

As an alternative to borrowing, the federal government may decide to finance its deficit by creating more money. Then we will suffer from inflation. In the classic economic definition, we will have more dollars chasing the same amount of goods.

When inflation is on the rise, no one has any incentive to save and invest. Industry becomes starved for capital, savers watch their nest eggs disappear and recession returns to the horizon. In addition, interest rates rise.

Whichever course the government takes to finance its deficit - borrowing, creating money or a mix of the two - interest rates rise, bringing higher unemployment in their wake.

Fortunately, since we live in a democracy we can deal with the deficits. Democracies are vulnerable to deficit spending because it is far more pleasant to raise spending than to reduce it.

Elected officials know that Santa Clauses get re-elected and Scrooges get rejected.

In Scrooge's day, individuals who could not pay their debts were thrown into debtor's prison.

Our accumulated deficits are slowly, but surely, incarcerating our entire population - and our children for years to come - in what soon may become an inescapable debtors' prison. The walls of this prison are not made of brick, concrete and steel. Instead, they are composed of high interest rates, inflation, unemployment and sluggish investment.

Our key to escape can be found in legislation introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate that would provide for a congressionally initiated constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. The requirement would not apply in case of national emergency.

This amendment is necessary to provide Congress with the incentive to make the tough decisions that must be made to eliminate the deficit. Without such direction, the Congress would continue to spend, spend, spend, far beyond the country's means.

For that key to work we must convince Congress to use it now, before we are locked into this debtors' prison forever.

A little more than two centuries ago, 58 Americans stood up to create this country. Now the members of the House and Senate must stand up to save it. When you stand in the voting booth in November, think about how they stood on this legislation.

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Justice Court Report

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

Willard Dale Smith, Lexington - No Helmet on Passenger under age 18, \$15 fine.

Gary Lee Riley, Heppner - Excessive Tire Noise, \$15 fine.

James Eric Wilcox, Hermiston - Illegal U-turn, \$15 Fine.

Ronald Edward Cecil, Heppner - Disobeyed a Stop Sign, Fined \$31.

Wilfred Ray Parker, Heppner - Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, \$300 Fine and Drivers

License Suspended for One Year. William Eugene Conant, Hermiston - Overwidth and No Trailer License \$15 and \$30 Fine.

John Walter Godier, Hermiston - Illegal U-turn, \$15 Fine.

Robert M. Ingren, Heppner - Improper Passing, \$15 Fine.

Daniel K. Riehl, Portland-Expired Trailer License, \$9 Fine.

Christopher Louis Amsberry, Pendleton-Improper U-turn, Bail Forfeited, \$31.

Eileen Saling, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, (55 mph in a 35 mph speed zone), No Fine.

Marriage Licenses

An application for a marriage license was received at the Morrow County Clerk's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner

from: Robert Arthur Skaggs, 21, Heppner and Wendy Skillicorn, 18, Heppner.

Country Shears

Nicole Jones will be working Wednesday & Thursday evenings & on Saturdays.

Patti Nairns & Jan Stroeber will be available Tuesdays through Saturdays.

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Obituaries

Harry Lemuel Wilson

Harry Lemuel Wilson, 92, died Saturday, September 1, 1984 at his home in Hopewell, New Jersey.

He was born January 14, 1892, the son of Isreal and Lizzie Wilson. In March of 1913 he married Myrtle L. Wyckoff who preceded him in death September 16, 1947.

Survivors include a brother, Oliver H. of Hopewell, New Jersey; a sister Sarah Ellen Baker, Lambertville, New Jersey; three sons, Carl J. of Sutherlin, Virginia, Thomas I. of Sandpoint, Idaho, and Herbert E. of Winter Gardens, Florida; three daughters, Helen Permelia Vliet, Catskill, New York, Marie Adlyn Herbert of Robbinville, New Jersey, and Johanne E. Wood of Heppner.

Also surviving are 16 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Interment is to follow cremation at the Highland Cemetery at Hopewell, New Jersey.

Kenneth A. Gochnauer

Kenneth A. Gochnauer, 18, of Davenport, Washington died Sunday, Sept. 2, 1984 in a motorcycle accident.

He was born in Texas April 8, 1966 to John and Judy Gochnauer and moved to Heppner with his parents at age six weeks. He attended Heppner schools and moved to Davenport in 1978.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 3 p.m. in Davenport.

Survivors include his parents, John and Judy Gochnauer, Rt. 1, Box 32A, Davenport, WA. 99122; three sisters, Lynn Gohlke, Melody and Cindy, all of Davenport; grandparents Hal and Virginia Whittaker of Coulee City, Washington.

Health Dept.

Tuesday, Sept. 4-immunizations and blood pressure clinic 1:30 - 4 p.m., Boardman City Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 5 - blood pressure clinic, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Friday, Sept. 7 - blood pressure clinic and immunizations, 8 a.m. - noon and 1-4 p.m., county health department, school district office, Lexington.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 - immunizations and blood pressure clinic, 1-4 p.m., Irrigon County Offices.

Friday, Sept. 14 - immunizations and blood pressure clinic, 8 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m., county health department, school district office, Lexington.

Tuesday, Sept. 18-blood pressure clinic, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Wednesday, Sept. 19 - blood pressure clinic, 3-4 p.m., Ione Bank of Eastern Oregon kitchen department, school district office, Lexington.

Tuesday, Sept. 25 - blood pressure clinic and immunizations, 1-4 p.m., Irrigon County offices.

Friday, Sept. 28 - blood pressure and immunizations, 8 a.m. - noon, and 1 - 4 p.m., county health department, school district office, Lexington.

Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner admitted and discharged the following patients during the past week:

Heidi Turrell, Heppner-admitted August 27, discharged August 28.

John Ekstrom, Ione-admitted August 29, discharged August 30.

Edna Bailey, Heppner-admitted August 31 discharged Sept. 3.

Public Meetings

Tuesday, Sept. 4-Heppner City Council, 8 p.m., city hall; Morrow County Rodeo Committee, 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds, Heppner; Soil Conservation Service, 8 p.m., N. Morrow Annex; Heppner Morrow Chamber of Commerce, noon, Elks Club, Heppner; Ione City Council, 8 p.m., Ione City Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 5 - Morrow County Court, 9 a.m., Courthouse, Heppner.

Monday, Sept. 10 - Morrow County Fair Board, 8 p.m., Fairgrounds, Heppner; Heppner Fire Dept., 7:30 p.m., Fire Hall, Heppner City Planning Commission, 8 p.m., City Hall.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 - Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce, noon, Elks Club, Heppner; Lexington City Council, 7:30 p.m., Lexington City Hall; Lexington Fire Dept., 7:30 p.m., Lexington Fire Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 - Morrow County Court, 9 a.m., Courthouse, Heppner; Port of Morrow, 1 p.m., No. 1 Marine Drive, Boardman.

Monday, Sept. 17 - Heppner Fire Dept., 7:30 p.m., Fire Hall; Morrow County School Board, 8 p.m., Heppner High School.

Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce, noon, Elks Club, Heppner; Ione Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Ione City Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 19 - Morrow County Court, 9 a.m., Courthouse, Heppner.

Monday, Sept. 24 - Heppner Fire Dept., 7:30 p.m., Fire Hall, Heppner; Morrow Co. Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., North Morrow Annex.

Tuesday, Sept. 25 - Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board, 9:30 a.m., Hospital; Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce, noon, Elks Club, Heppner.

Wednesday, Sept. 26 - Morrow County Court, 9 a.m., Morrow County Annex Bldg., Irrigon; Heppner Library Board, 8 p.m., Heppner Library.

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