

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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Eileen Saling Office Manager
Sandy Holtz Newspaper Editor
Marcy Bacon Graphics Department
Dejae Kennedy Typesetter

David and April Sykes, Publishers

editorial
We've heard it all before

"Based on recent experience, defeat of Ballot Measure 1 could mean postponing the inevitable until some time after the year 2000," said Jack Zimmerman in a column titled "Why Measure One is called balanced," the August 19 installment of his weekly column, "Salem Scene." He bases his prediction on the fact that the 8-1 defeat of the sales tax in 1969 was so devastating to the legislature that they did not again propose a sales tax until 1981.

Oregon voters have consistently voiced opinions against a sales tax and the Legislature has repeatedly repackaged ballot measures and sent the sales tax question back to the voters.

Glancing through the voter's pamphlet, the arguments in favor and against sales tax all sound vaguely familiar. A sales tax will reduce property taxes by an average of 35 percent and income taxes an average of 9.7 percent, schools won't have to depend on property taxes, all tax payers will pay a "fair share" of taxes, more jobs, and government spending will be kept in control. A sales tax is a regressive tax, it is unfair, bad for the schools, does not guarantee that income and property taxes will not increase, will mean the loss of jobs and tourists who come to a duty-free state to vacation.

The one new wrinkle this year seems to be the "comic book" format which was used to present the "balanced tax plan" to voters. After reading the book prepared by People for a Better Oregon, we were overwhelmed by the logic and good sense of the plan which would do so much good for the state and its people.

With so much creativity and money behind the campaign to sell the "balanced tax plan," we begin to wonder, however, if it really is balanced, or if People for a Better Oregon and the Oregon Legislature aren't trying a bit too hard to promote an additional tax plan. The issue on September 17 is still "Do Oregonians want a sales tax?"

Voters have answered that question before with a resounding "No." If we reject the issue again on September 17 in as great numbers as in 1969, will the Legislature really get the message or will voters have to prepare a "comic book" to convince the Legislature that Oregonians do not want a sales tax?



Letters to the Editor

Sales and Use Tax not balanced tax plan

To the Editor:

Ballot measure No. 1, or the Sales and Use Tax (correct name), not Oregon's balanced tax plan as quoted in the comic book put out by the group wanting us to foot our own property tax relief with a sales tax.

Why would a new business come to Oregon with a sales tax? They know property tax can still go up—cities and counties still get a six percent tax base. Schools get 6 and 12 percent tax base the first two years if the sales tax passes.

More jobs in Oregon because of sales tax, that's a laugh. We don't have a sales tax now and companies are not hiring.

They talk of tourist money for Oregon—do you know we would lose more in revenue from our neighboring states such as Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and California?

No. 1 is a real bummer

To the Editor:

I would like to urge all the people of Morrow County to get out and vote Sept. 17. The Sales Tax, Measure No. 1, is a real bummer; they are saying that we will get property tax cuts and we wouldn't have to worry about school funding anymore, etc. Well, I, for one, think we should have school budgets voted on then we can keep them in line. Also what little property tax relief we would get would be so small compared to what we would be paying out it would be costing us far more.

Think about buying a car, even a \$1000 one then pay tax on it, clothes, and anything else you wanted extra money out the window. If the state would completely eliminate our state income tax, and replace it with a sales tax, maybe?? then, but with a state income tax, plus property tax, plus now a sales tax on top of them all.

Who do they think they are dealing with a bunch of uneducated idiots? We know full well that in couple of years with their increases and add ons that we will be paying more than we are proposed to save.

This is a new Added Tax - Not an equalization tax. It does not eliminate either property tax or income taxes. It simply adds a new tax to

These people come here to buy big items because we have no sales tax.

If the sales tax passes we will have an extra tax burden of \$108.6 million a year on our shoulders. The yearly cost of collecting this new tax would be \$30.5 million, that is more than tourists would bring in plus we lose the out-of-state business.

They say you get 35 percent tax relief, an example to the contrary—your income is \$25,000, home value \$50,000, property relief \$385, income tax relief \$142, break-even purchases \$10,500. Five percent of \$10,500 equals \$525. (no relief).

(S) Margaret Wilson
Chairman Lane County
Consumers Opposing
Sales Taxes
223 Conestoga Way
Eugene, OR 97401

consumers' purchases of 5 percent.

My property tax runs about \$500 more or less a year. If we got 35 percent off of that it would be, \$175. Say I decided to purchase a new car at \$8000 at 5 percent that's \$400 sales tax. Buy the kids new school clothes, say three kids one new outfit each: jeans, socks, shoes, underwear, shirt, and a coat, say \$150 each, that's \$450 plus add another \$50 for school supplies and you have \$500, then pay \$25 more to that. I could go on and on but as you see; we must vote this measure down, because we will be paying a lot more than we could save.

Another thought is if we did get a tax run by the state to completely pay for our schools, I wonder if the state wouldn't completely control our schools, too, what is taught and etc?

This sales tax package does not guarantee that property taxes would stay down. We could end up with property taxes that are higher than they are now in a couple of years, plus be paying a 5 percent tax to boot.

I urge you to "Vote No" on Measure No. 1.

Charlene Papineau
Concerned Tax payer

Justice Court Report

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

William Paul Zinter, Ione - No Vehicle License, \$13 fine.

Michael Robert Parks, Portland - Violation of the Basic Rule, \$57 bail forfeited.

Donald Walter Bristow, Ione - Exceeding the Maximum Speed, (68 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$26 fine.

Richard Ward Cole, Heppner - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (73 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$57 bail forfeited.

Bradley Blair Anderson, Arlington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (67 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$13 fine.

James Leo Boor, Ione - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (67 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$30 fine.



Births

Ryan Lee Tickner - a son, Ryan was born to Flora and Herbert John Tickner, Arlington, on September 8 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. He weighed 8 lbs. 8 1/4 oz.

Brian Patrick Haguewood - a son, Brian Patrick, was born August 30 at Pendleton Community Hospital to Mary and Kelwayne Haguewood, Heppner. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 1/2 oz. Grandparents are Ron Haguewood, Ione; Lynn Haguewood, Portland; and Ken and Anne Fleck, The Dalles.

Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Oral Wright, Lexington; and Mrs. R.S. MacNab, The Dalles. Great-great grandmother is Ava Wright, Heppner.

CABLE T.V. SERVICE TO BE INTERRUPTED

We are sorry, but you will be experiencing off and on interruption during some mornings now until necessary work is completed for winter upgrade. The project will take approximately two months.

Some major outages will be conducted in the early a.m. mornings before 6 a.m.

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An Open Letter to the People of Oregon

To the Editor:

Next Tuesday, on September 17, the people of Oregon will be going to the polls to make a critical decision. It may well be the most important public decision that many of us make as citizens and Oregonians.

To many Oregonians, the question being considered may be reduced to whether or not we have a sales tax. If that's all it were, I'd oppose the measure, as I did last time around. However, I want to assure the voters, and especially those who have supported me over the years, that the outcome on Ballot Measure 1 - the referendum to give us a balanced tax plan - is much more than that. I wouldn't urge its adoption if it weren't.

The question of whether or not we have a sales tax, in fact, may almost be insignificant when it is weighed against the potential benefits of the balanced tax plan. That is one of the reasons that I've been encouraging Oregonians not to oversimplify the Measure 1 proposal. It is essential that we take a look at the "big picture" and consider all the benefits of a balanced tax plan - as well as the consequences to continuing our over-reliance on the property and income taxes.

It also is essential that we look over the horizon and examine the potential for achieving an even better Oregon.

Instead of overburdening the property and income taxpayers, we would have equity in our tax structure which would result in reduc-

tions in the property and income taxes.

Instead of the current haphazard approach to out educational funding, we would achieve stability in our school systems - and, even more important, assure that the children of Oregon are receiving consistent, quality basic education.

Instead of being threatened with more escalating taxes, we would stabilize the tax system - and the sales tax ceiling would be locked into the Constitution so that it could not be increased by the Legislature.

Instead of potential employers by-passing Oregon because of our high property and income taxes, this change would encourage a new era of economic development which would create much-needed jobs.

Instead of subsidizing the tourists who visit Oregon, they would pay a fair share for the state services they use through collection of a sales tax - a step that would bring in about \$26 million in added revenue for the state.

The list goes on and on. It is clear, however, that passage of Ballot Measure 1 is an essential reform element in planning and preparing for Oregon's future.

Measure 1 is our chance to write a new chapter for The Oregon Story - a chapter on tax reform and economic recovery. This can be the most important first step Oregon will take in this decade.

Thank you
Barbara Roberts
Secretary of State

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