

March 25 Special Election

Candidates

School Board

No names appear on the March 25 special election ballot for School Board position No. 1 (Boardman-Irrigon) currently held by Board Chairman Joe Stevens. Stevens who was elected to the office four years ago has served the last year as chairman. He has notified the newspaper that he will conduct a write-in campaign for re-election to the board. Scott Bauska has also notified the newspaper that he will conduct a write-in campaign for the position on the board.

His second priority would be sound money management in the budgeting process so that educational standards are maintained and taxpayers are not unduly burdened. "This is especially true now, when the basic staples of the county's economy (agriculture and lumber) are in the grave situation they both face. I feel, therefore, we can do our standards more good by living within our current economic conditions and maybe making some small sacrifices now rather than larger ones in the future."

Director-at-Large vote for one

Frank Pearson, Joseph McElligott, Mary Lou Carlson, Regina K. Coles, and Burke O'Brien are on the ballot for the school board position-at-large vacated by Keith Nelson's resignation.



Frank Pearson

Pearson, 34, is assistant to the General Manager of Kinzua Corporation. He and his wife, Chloe have to school-age children.

He has served on the Heppner City Council and the Heppner-Lexington School Advisory Committee, and has been appointed by the school board to fill the vacant position until the end of the fiscal year. He is also a member of the Heppner City Budget Committee, the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board, and the Morrow County Vocational Education Advisory Committee.

He would like to see more emphasis on "discipline in the schools and stronger education in the basic core areas. Young adults leaving our school system," he says, "should be prepared to enter either the work force or to continue their education at college." He also emphasizes the importance of efficiency improvements and cost-cutting ideas.

no photo available

Joe McElligott

Joseph McElligott, 33, Ione, is currently a member of the Ione Cardinal Club, a director for the Morrow County Grain Growers, the parish council president for St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and a member of the Morrow County Wheat Growers League.

He and his wife, Jeri, have two school-age and three pre-school children. He graduated from Ione High School and Oregon State University with a degree in agricultural economics.

He says he would try "to represent the parents, teachers, and students of Morrow County," fairly because it is "important to maintain the high quality of education students receive here."



R. Burke O'Brien

R. Burke O'Brien, 36, Heppner, is a member of the Heppner Methodist Church, has served two years on the Rodeo Board as secretary and court director, is a member of the Wranglers for which he has three years as superintendent of the horse show. He is a 15 year member of the Heppner Elks Club.

He and his wife, Ginger, have three school-age children. He is a graduate of Baker High School and Blue Mountain Community College with a degree in agriculture.

If elected to serve on the board, his first priority would be to emphasize that all students need a firm grasp of the three basic subjects, mathematics, English, and history, to allow them the best opportunity for higher education and productive employment.

Budgets

School Levy

A \$6,180,808 special one-year tax levy has been proposed for operation of the school district next year. The levy is up \$282,631 or 4.79 percent over the levy which was approved for operation of the district this year. No election is required to approve the \$834,809 tax base and the \$709,684 bonded debt levy; adding these two amounts to the special levy will result in a \$9.66 property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This year's tax rate is \$8.75.

Next year's total proposed operating budget is \$9,471,688, a 9.07 percent increase or \$787,387 over this year's total budget. Expected resources other than property tax are \$2,915,036. The largest expenditure increases are due to staff additions and negotiated salary and benefit costs, item replacement, school vehicle replacement, and continuation of several maintenance projects.

County Operating Levy Hospital Levy

Morrow County will present a \$2,950,425 special one-year operating levy on two separate ballots. The hospital levy is \$381,694 which is \$36,010 or 8.62 percent less than last year's hospital levy. The special levy for the county is \$2,568,731, up 6.61 percent or \$169,875 from last year.

The total levy which appears on the ballots, however, is \$3,500,568 which includes a six percent allowance for taxes not expected to be received. Because the county's tax base is \$522,000 no election is required to approve that amount.

The county's total budget amount is \$8,243,678, a 0.48 percent or \$41,276 decrease from last year's total adopted budget. Although the total budget is down, the county's total tax valuation is also down and because county revenues have not been as good as expected during the past year, the total tax levy is up 6.61 percent.

This year's estimated tax rate for the total levy was estimated at \$4.38 per \$1,000 of assessed property evaluation based on the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of the estimate.

The tax rate for the hospital levy is 48 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The total rate for all other funds, except Lifeguard, is \$3.86 per \$1,000.

The Lifeguard serial levy was approved last year as a three-year serial levy, so no election is needed this year to guarantee the amount. The rate for the Lifeguard levy is four cents per \$1,000 valuation.

During the budget workshops, the budget committee cut \$76,454 from the original budget proposal before arriving at the amount which voters will decide on. The cut is reflected in a reduction of \$212,746 in the proposed levy keeping that amount below the current tax rate limitation.

Heppner Operating Levy

The City of Heppner budget request is for a \$25,309 operating levy above the \$167,277 tax base. The approximate tax rate would be \$9.95

per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is a reduction from last year's tax rate. (See related story.)

Advisory Positions

No names appear on the ballot for election to position No. 5 on the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee currently held by Sue Gibson.

Four candidates are running unopposed for advisory positions: George Miller, position No. 5, Ione-Lexington Advisory; John Jensen, position No. 2, Boardman-Irrigon Advisory; Harley Sager, position, No. 3 Heppner-Lexington Advisory; and Peggy Fishburn, position No. 5, Heppner-Lexington Advisory.

Ione-Lexington Advisory vote for one

Two candidates are on the ballot for Position No. 1 on the Ione-Lexington Advisory Committee. The three-year position is currently held by Paul Tews who has not filed for re-election.



Sue Proudfoot

Sue Proudfoot, 35, Ione, is currently a member of the Morrow County School Budget Committee. She has been active with the Ione Extension Club, as a 4-H leader, and Blue Jay leader.

She and her husband, Paul, have two children, Jason 9, and Megan 5. She received her elementary and secondary education at Scio, Corvallis, and St. Helen's Hall in Portland. Between 1968 and 1972, she attended Pacific Lutheran University, Oregon State University, and

BMCC Board of Directors

Only one candidate has filed for each of the three positions that are open on the Blue Mountain Community College Board of Education. All four positions are four-year terms. Douglas K. Harper has submitted no information to the newspaper about his candidacy.

(uncontested)



Nancy Brownfield

Nancy Brownfield is on the ballot for position No. 1. She has no previous service in public office but has worked as a volunteer for schools and church during the 14 years she has lived in Heppner. She serves as an advisory member for the Small Business Development Center and as secretary-treasurer for both the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization and for the Local Independent Insurance Association. She was recently appointed to the BMCC budget committee.

She supports the Continuing Education program for rural areas. She was hired as the Heppner area coordinator for the program in 1976 and continued in that capacity for seven years during which time she became acquainted with the college, the instructional and support staff, and the communities in southern Morrow County.

Brownfield, 38, and her husband Stephen have three school-age daughters. She has an Associate Degree in Marketing and Management from BMCC and numerous hours of education in the insurance field. She is now working toward completion of Certified Insurance Counselor designation.

Her primary objective is to represent Morrow County in its continuing support for the college. "My desire," she says, "is to be on the BMCC Board comes from a genuine and sincere interest in the operation of the college. I think the college is being run very well now, and I want to see that continue. Morrow County needs to have representation on the

Linn-Benton Community College receiving an ADN in 1972. She is employed part time as a registered nurse.

Her first priority if elected to the advisory committee would be to encourage people to communicate, "if there's a problem, let's hear about it," she says. She would also like to encourage more parents, teachers, students, and recent graduates to say more about local educational needs.



Richard Ladd

Richard Ladd, 23, Ione, has also filed for the position. He currently serves as vice chairman of the Morrow County Fair Committee. He is also a member of the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization, the Eastern Columbia Basin Task Force serving on the site advisory committee for the Superconducting Super Collider, and is a member of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, and the National Rifle Association.

He graduated from Ione High School in 1981 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering Technology from Oregon State University in 1985. He is not married.

His major objective if elected to the advisory committee would be "to effectively utilize fresh ideas within the committee's jurisdiction, toward the preparation of students' futures "whether they are planning to enter the work force immediately after graduation from high school or to continue their formal education.

Board so that we can continue to lend our support."

(uncontested)

Philip W. Houk, 27, Pendleton, has filed for board position No. 7. He and his wife Kathy have two children. He works with Claims and Litigation Management in the law department for the Union Pacific System at Hermiston.

He has served three years on the Umatilla County Juvenile Services Commission, and is serving his second year on the BMCC budget committee. He has also served on the BMCC Long Range Planning Committee and the Citizens Committee for Support of BMCC.

He is a former president of the Pendleton Running Club and a member of the S.W.A.T. team for the Pendleton Police Dept.

He has a bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Oregon State University with emphasis in exercise physiology and law enforcement. He also attended BMCC where he earned an Associate of Science degree in Law Enforcement.

He says, "a right to a good quality education for every citizen is a necessity for a truly Democratic society."

"Blue Mountain Community College is a well run, highly structured school, which is very responsive to the key issues facing education, but must continue to adapt to our new and different challenges in order to enhance those citizens of our communities opportunities to earn a higher education. At the same time, it is important that the College continues to keep a tight rein on the budget in order to satisfy their responsibilities to the taxpayers."

Employee Of The Month

March

Pioneer Memorial Hospital

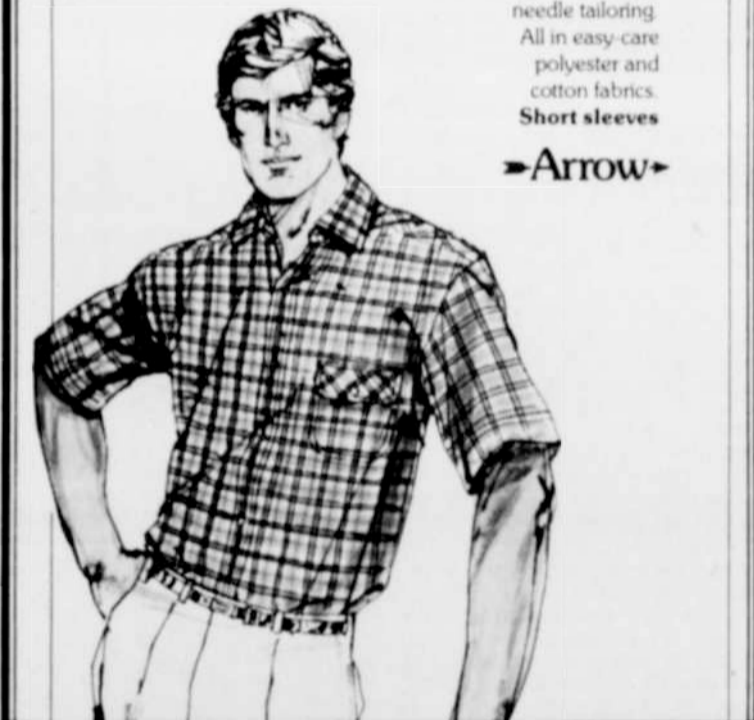


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