

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

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Wednesday, June 11 1986



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	Weather		
	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	59	40	.61
Wed.	57	34	.00
Thurs.	63	39	.00
Fri.	69	45	.00
Sat.	81	53	.00
Sun.	90	55	.00
Mon.	83	55	.00

## Parade, elephant races Circus coming to Heppner

By Avon Melby

The circus is coming to town and there will be an elephant race on Willow Street between Main and Chase streets after the parade.

Chuck Marquardt, manager of the Wagon Wheel Cafe, asked city council for permission to sponsor the race after the parade. The parade will be held as soon as the circus gets here, probably about 4 p.m. Friday, June 13.

Proceeds from the races will go for a trip to EXPO for the Heppner 4-H Teen Club, which is sponsoring the appearance in cooperation with Ford Bros., owners of the Circus. There will be two shows at Morrow County Fairgrounds, one at 6 p.m. and one at 8:15 p.m. to accommodate those working late in the fields. Included will be clowns, aerialists, elephants and acrobats. Adult and children's tickets may be purchased at reduced rates by calling 676-5144. There will be four elephant races, with two elephants per race. Those wishing to ride may sign up at the Wagon Wheel.

In other business, the council: -Set a special charge of \$10 for two-hour sessions of the Blue Mountain Community College aerobics classes use of the swimming pool, with the college supplying lifeguards. The council was split on lowering the charge, with two voting for and two against. Mayor Cara

## School Board reverses decision

The Morrow County School Board met briefly last Wednesday night and reversed an earlier decision to raise summertime wages for temporary employees by three percent.

Several of the board members had heard complaints about the three percent increase, and School District Superintendent Doyle McCaslin told the board that although it was generally "bad practice to come back and reconsider a decision on the basis of phone calls to the board," rather than taking the comments which come before the board in an open meeting and standing by the decision. "I feel we must do so in this case, however," he continued. Board members discussed the school budget defeat and approved a motion to freeze the summer wages at last

## School budget committee recommends two levies

The Morrow County School Budget Committee last Wednesday night recommended a one-year \$5,140,000 special levy, the maximum amount they are allowed since the first two levy requests were turned down by voters.

Since \$6,180,808 levy request failed March 26 and again May 21, the Board is limited by the 1981 tax rate limitation law to levying the amount which Morrow County's base tax rate of \$6.89 per \$1,000 of assessed property value will raise. Even if the Board had reduced the levy between the first two elections, they would still be required to return to the base tax rate.

The two defeats, McCaslin explained to the committee essentially mean that the voters feel the budget is "too high while the area's economy is down," and recommended the budget committee accept the budget cuts outlined by district administrators.

After accepting the recommended cuts, the committee was told that the special levy would still not raise enough money for the district to operate the schools all of next year. Should the levy fail August 12, McCaslin said there would be enough money to operate the schools until the next possible election date, September 16, but should the levy fail then, the district would have to schedule closure of all its schools until a budget could be passed.

The committee also accepted McCaslin's suggestion for raising the balance of the money needed to

Costa broke the tie.

Heard a report from City Manager Marshall Lovgren that the city landfill was "just about breaking even." It is using \$3,000 of revenue sharing funds this year, Lovgren said.

Approved purchase of two body armour vests for the police department at \$250 each, with specific instructions that the on-duty officer should wear them at all times.

Heard that Marvin Lane is the only member of the council not required to run for office this

November. There will be three four-year positions to fill and two two-year ones at that election, as well as the position of mayor.

Heard from Kenneth Key that he is willing to be annexed to the city if that will get city water to his property on Cemetery Hill sooner. City Attorney Bill Kuhn will find out from the Corps of Engineers if the city may open an access road through their property.

Appointed Norma Groce to the City Library board, replacing Bill Kuhn who resigned.

## Up, Up, and...



## (hopefully not) Away

See page 2

## Ballots for county levy in the mail

Morrow County is resubmitting the same levy which voters rejected in the May primary election to a mail-in ballot which registered voters should already have received. June 24 is the official election date when ballots must be back in the office of the County Clerk.

The levy was reduced by \$99,690 following the March defeat and, said Morrow County Judge Don McElligott, "We have squeezed out all we possibly can without cutting vital services." All of the departments in the general fund trimmed wherever they thought they could.

The Court has heard comments, the Judge continued that some people voted against the budget because they thought it included additional money for the hospital and for Lifeguard helicopter service. Those levies have already been approved and are separate from the county operating levy.

He also emphasized that no property tax money is being spent for renovation of the County Courthouse. The funds for that project are from federal revenue sharing.

The judge explained that in many cases funds had been shifted. The Public Works budget shows an increase of approximately \$20,000 in maintenance costs, he said, but that is not a true figure. Many funds have been pulled together and what the figure reflects is a change in the way items are budgeted. "We're cutting a little and holding the line a little."

The county's operating contingency was low and now it more

## Lindstrom offers resignation

Steve Lindstrom, marketing director for the Port of Morrow, has offered his resignation, Louis Carlson, president of the port commission confirmed Tuesday night.

"Steve has offered his resignation and, although I can't speak for the commissioners, I assume they will accept it at the meeting Wednesday."

## Sidewalk bicycle ban enforced

Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun has announced that the police department will begin enforcing the ban on sidewalk bicycles.

An ordinance was adopted by the

city several years ago against bikes on sidewalks in the downtown area. Riding bicycles on the sidewalks is dangerous to pedestrians, the Chief said.

## School budget cut \$344,128

The Morrow County School Budget Committee recommended Wednesday night that the School Board cut next year's budget by \$344,128.

The committee voted to approve the \$344,128 arrived at by the district's administrators who had, according to Superintendent Doyle McCaslin, "taken a hard look at the budget and cut those items which they felt could be eliminated or postponed while still providing standard education."

The school board has the final decision and, according to Assistant Superintendent Chuck Starr, may accept or reject the committee's

recommendations and decide the dates for the election.

The Board generally accepts input, from the budget committee, Starr continued. The next board meeting is Monday June 16.

Some of the cuts recommended by the administrators include: reducing the number of new teachers resulting in a budget decrease of \$61,517, cutting administrators' salaries by a total of \$12,304, reducing the amount of summer maintenance, reducing benefits by \$30,407, eliminating \$10,000 of purchased services, and postponing capital outlay in various areas for a total of \$169,865. Some of the capital items cut are \$18,700 of irrigation parts, \$13,768 for an addition to the office at A. C. Houghton, overhead projectors, typewriters, tools, maps, band instruments, cameras, tables, chairs, classroom clocks, drapes, student desks, a used pickup, calculators, a portable chalkboard, office chairs a social studies kit, and a math program.

The school district administrators had recommended cutting \$4,000 for summer school at A. C. Houghton and Sam Boardman that the committee put back into the budget. After adding the summer school back into the budget, the committee approved the total dollar amount of the cuts but did not require that any specific items be cut.

The Board, then, may accept the committee's recommendation and still add back in any of the recommended cuts as long as a similar amount is cut from somewhere else in the budget. The board may also reject the committee's recommendation.

The budget failed by 156 votes March 26 and again by 88 votes May 21. The two defeats, McCaslin explained to the committee "essentially mean that the voters feel the budget is too high while the area's economy is down."

Prior to the committee's decision, McCaslin presented three options to them which he said were possible at this point in the budgeting process.

The first option, a series of five steps would maintain all programs at some level, cut new personnel, most new equipment purchases, postpone equipment and building maintenance that can wait, and to look for a new source of revenue (a serial levy).

The second option would be to embark on a series of major cutbacks that "look good" to voters, by closing down the community services which the district now provides, eliminating inefficient classes such as Advanced Placement English which includes only a few students by making a rule that 12 students were necessary before a class could be offered, close inefficient schools, which he said is a popular notion among some people.

He reminded the board of their policy established three years ago regarding school closure of district schools: The Board must announce a closure six months in advance, study the reasons for closure, and hold a public hearing in the area where the closure would occur.

The board could decide to close a variety of labs, shops, and sell the surplus property, they could eliminate staff such as librarians which some people see as extras, and put these services in charge of the principal and an aide. They could also decide to contract out the transportation service or eliminate it altogether.

The third option would be to target program cuts based on the popularity of the programs, cut the specialists, especially at the elementary level, cut administrative staff, cut athletics, cut special programs beyond the minimum standards, cut extra-curricular non-athletic activities.

He explained that options two and three are attractive to people, but that when programs are cut, they are usually added back in later on as funds allow. He encouraged accepting the option of maintaining present programs at some level.

(See related story.)

## Chamber supports county budget

The Morrow County Chamber of Commerce voted Tuesday to go on record in support of the Morrow County Budget, presently before the voters in the county's current vote by mail program.

The county budget, which has failed two previous times, has been cut by almost \$100,000 since its first defeat in March.



John Boyer to give airplane trip to Mt. St. Helens

## More than 100 prizes await Reno players

Over \$3,000 worth of prizes await gamers who'll be playing at a dozen 21 tables, several crap, roulette and 4-5-6 lew and poker tables.

Playing with purchased script they'll compile it to use for bidding on a tremendous assortment of value items.

Over 100 prizes include a trip to Reno, one-half beef, truck load of wood, self-propelled lawn mower, microwave oven, packaged trips to George Strait concert, Roy Clark concert, two 4-ticket packages to Mariner games, golf trip to Canyon Lake in Tri-Cities, float trip on Deschutes, an airplane trip to St. Helens, and many others.

A large number of Heppner Booster Club members have worked hard putting this together. A big

crowd is looked for according to Dick Devin president. Chairperson Diana Ball expects several hundred people.

This first Annual Reno Nite is designed to be the once a year fund raiser for all kinds of service to school activities not limited to athletics.

"Lots of fun for a good cause, plus a high ratio of folks will go home big winners," claims Ken Turner, Booster member.

There will be finger food, beverages and games right up to auction time.

All the public, 21, and over, is welcome and invited to attend. The casino atmosphere starts at 7 p.m. at the upstairs Lodge room of the Heppner Elks Club.