

The Heppner

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## City to ask new tax base

By Avon Melby

City of Heppner will ask for a new tax base at the November election, and for a three-year serial levy of \$100,000 per year at the September 16 election.

Council members agreed on the new tax base request because each of the past two years voters have rejected budget requests. Councilman Marvin Lane said "We have had to cut out 25 to 35 thousand dollars of needed equipment and supplies, money we needed to provide adequate services, because the budget was voted down."

A tax base of \$125,000 was approved in 1980. It has been increased by the allowable six percent each year, giving a tax base this year of \$167,000. An amount of \$200,000 was suggested for the new base. Lane noted "We can use less than the total, or not use the automatic six percent increase, if we have enough money in future years." No exact amount was set. A committee will study and report at the next meeting on what figure should be requested. For the November election, the amount would need to be declared to the county clerk after the council's next meeting on September 2.

Money on the serial levy is needed to provide repairs, up date the water system, and repair some street surfacing in many areas of the town. Water and sewer work will be done first, so no streets will be dug up for repairs after new surfacing is laid. Cost estimate figured by crew foreman David Winters is \$40 per linear foot for the paving. Based on current figures, cost would be estimated at \$3.85 per \$1,000 of property valuation to raise the annual \$100,000 next year, but would probably increase a little each of the next two years.

Librarian Bethel Heinrichs and Pauline Winter of the library board, asked approval of the council to order a book drop box to be built at a cost of \$279 as quoted by an out-of-town person. The council said to check locally to see if that price could be met or would come in less than the quoted amount for the work. If no one locally would do the work for \$279, permission was given to go ahead and have it built, contingent on approval of the County Court. Since the Court is in charge of the museum-library building, Mayor Cara Costa said she would meet with the Court to get its permission.

Following a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to permit Ken Key to annex to the city, by-passing the earlier route which would have demanded approval of the Corps of Engineers to deed some of its land to the city. An effort will be made to get the cemetery annexed to the city. The boundary for city limits will be extended to a portion of the property South of the cemetery, taking in Key's land. Key, who had complained about waiting six months for water, was told to meet with the city crew within the next two days to figure where the best connection for water could be made. He will be annexed to the city if the cemetery board agrees. Locations and type of buildings he may put on the land will be set by the planning commission.

Mayor Cara Costa briefed the council on a cooperative effort of the city and several organizations in boosting Heppner. The first project is to change the empty lot on Main Street where a fire burned out a grocery store between the post office and the Shoe Box. The garden club will do landscaping and plant flowers. The Lions Club will put up a tent for covered seating space, and a place to show information about the area. Shorty Peck, of the fair board, will bring an old wagon to display. The project is to be completed before the fair. To obtain insurance, the city should rent the land from its owners, at \$1 per year. This way it can be included in the city's liability policy. Council members thought it was good publicity and agreed to the lease, and to providing water for the area.

Approval of advertising for a project architect for turning Heppner Hotel into a 24-unit housing rental for retired people was given City Attorney Bill Kuhn. Kuhn said the \$500,000 grant already awarded the city could be disallowed if the city is not working on the project by December. He was also authorized to spend \$5,000 to hire an architect to make up a project design so the state could be told how the requested loan of \$600,000 can be repaid. "No one wants to go in to this unless we are sure the project is feasible," he said. The \$5,000 is to come from

donations by organizations. Kuhn said Heppner Economic Development Corp. has already donated \$1,500, the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations will be asked to donate.

City Manager Marshall Lovgren was appointed Certifying Officer, to take care of all the government forms and other paper work necessary on the hotel project.

Tennison Engineering was hired to do the update work on the city's comprehensive plan. This is necessary because the state legislature and Land Conservation

and Development Council requires it. State funding will be used to pay the Tennison people.

Kuhn reported the Corps of Engineers had people here last week. They have agreed to redo the work on the Little League field they built near the dam so it can be used. Leveling and seeding should be done this fall.

Liquor license renewals were approved for Heppner Bowl, Central Market, Cal's Lounge & Cafe, Heppner Elks Club, Court Street Market, and Bucknum's Tavern.



### Building an escape

Ed Struthers, caretaker at the Morrow County Fairgrounds has been busy the last week building a fire escape behind the North grandstand.

The Fair Board was notified in July that an exit from the northwest corner of the grandstands would have to be in place before this year's rodeo. New fire regulations made the regular exits insufficient.

The fire escape descends from the top row of the bleacher seats to a platform above the animal pens then turns at a 90 degree angle dropping into one of the pens. The fire escape will be an emergency exit only and will not be used for a regular entrance or exit, Struthers said.

## Superintendent says both levies needed

The Morrow County School District needs voter approval of both the \$5,140,643 special levy and the \$473,786 serial levy in the August 12 mail-in election, Superintendent Doyle McCaslin said Tuesday.

School district administrators are concerned, he said that many voters tend to consider the serial levy as something extra. "But, nothing extra is proposed. On the contrary, we have actually delayed until next year several things which need to be done. The district has \$27 million worth of buildings and equipment. Any business is concerned with maintaining its investment and not letting facilities deteriorate. If we operate as a business, we need to maintain buildings and equipment. "And that (expense) is only support for our main program which educating kids," he emphasized. "We will still have a good budget if both levies pass."

The School Board, he said, is restricted by the state tax rate limitation law. Since the first two efforts to pass a levy failed, the maximum the district can ask in a one-year special levy is that amount which the tax rate established in 1981, \$6.89 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, will raise. For next year, that amount is \$5,140,643.

District-wide enrollment was lower in 1981 than is expected for next year, the superintendent said. New graduation and special education requirements have been added

since 1981. New minimum standards have been set for counseling and dropout prevention.

The total tax rate for 1986-87, calculated on a total levy amount of \$7,158,922 (\$5,140,643 special levy; \$473,786 serial levy; \$839,809 tax base; and \$709,684 bonded debt payment) is estimated to be \$8.95 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. "This represents an increase of about \$10 per year on a \$10,000 property over last year's rate," he said.

"If a majority of the voters ... send in ballots, we believe the school budget will pass because we can't believe a majority of people are not supporting programs in the schools," Supt. Doyle McCaslin

The serial levy is not an extra, he repeated. It merely raises the additional money needed to retain the current educational standards at a somewhat reduced—but still acceptable—level.

"We're trying to get kids well educated," he said.

Further reduction of educational and extra curricular programs does not seem feasible, he said.

It is important that everyone vote, he said. As of last Friday, the Morrow County Clerk's Office had received only 1,084 ballots, which

## Seniors asked to return property

The Senior Citizens Committee will not be allowed to build a senior center on Fairgrounds property, Morrow County Judge Don McElligott has announced. He has also asked that the senior citizens return to the county the parcel of land deeded to them on June 27, 1985.

Morrow County Court has learned that a governing body is prohibited by state law from transferring public property to a private entity without first holding a public hearing to establish that the property is "surplus," he said.

Since the county did not follow proper procedure and hold a public hearing to determine that the property across Hinton Creek from the fairgrounds is "surplus" county property, the Judge said, the county court is asking that the senior citizens

deed the property back to the county.

If the seniors should decide to build there at a later date, he said, we will hold a hearing to determine if the property is surplus and then act.

McElligott also said that because the county had received a number of letters and personal communications

from people at both ends of the county who opposed deeding fair grounds property to the senior citizens, the county court had determined to hold a public hearing on the matter following harvest and the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. It was while doing research for the matter, that "we discovered that such a transfer is prohibited," he said.

## Harvest yields close to 10-year average

With harvest in Morrow County three-fourths over, Morrow County Grain Growers still has adequate storage available, Manager Larry Mills reports.

Jordan Elevator is full and has had to turn away several customers, elevator manager Dick Snider said Tuesday. "We have been full here the last four or five years. Our total capacity is 600,000 bushels and at the beginning of this year's harvest we only had room for about 150,000 bushels," he said. Most of Jordan elevator's customers have finished harvest.

The Grain Growers still has two large covered piles at the river carried over from previous years, Mills said. Since crop yield is less than last year, it helps storage. "We expect none will be stored on the ground at North Lex this year," he said.

This year's crop is definitely not a bumper crop, and is somewhat below the five-year average, but it is close to the 10-year average, Mills

explained.

There is a wide variety in quality of the crop this year, he continued. A lot of the barley is coming in light because of the hot spell in June. Some of the wheat is even light, but most is about 58 pounds per bushel.

"Yields are down, but are better than were expected," County Agent Fred Lundin echoed Mills report. "Some bushel weights are light, but not as light as they could have been. Some barley is doing better than expected."

Some farmers have reported that this year's spring barley is yielding better than their fall barley did.

## Two special sections included this week

Two special sections are included in this week's newspaper.

A 16-page Morrow County Fair and Rodeo special section highlights events of the August 14-17 county-wide event.

An eight-page section features information about the first Greater Columbia Canoe Race to be held this weekend between Irrigon and Boardman.

## Sheriff confiscates marijuana plants

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office seized 12 marijuana plants August 26 following an investigation and flying over fields near Patterson Ferry Road.

The Sheriff reported receiving information of suspicious activity in a circle of corn near Pole Line Road and I-84. Investigation on August 27 resulted in the location of nine marijuana plants and a suspect who led deputies to three more plants growing along the railroad tracks near Patterson Ferry Road.

The Sheriff has requested a complaint charging "Manufacture of a Controlled Substance" from the District Attorney's office against the suspect, Duane Bruce Sidebottom, 33, Irrigon.

The plants ranged in size from three to five feet in height. Sheriff Roy Drago said a full-grown six foot plant in full blossom has a street value, when dried, of approximately \$1,000, depending on the type and quality of the plant.

The plants were found growing in a circle field owned by a corporate farm, not on land owned by the suspect.

## Weather Report

By City of Heppner

July 29 - August 4			
	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	79	45	.0
Wed.	80	50	0
Thurs.	87	55	0
Fri.	93	58	0
Sat.	94	58	0
Sun.	94	54	0
Mon.	89	50	0

## Market Report

Comments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tues., August 5	
Soft White	
Aug	\$2.74
Sept.	\$2.76/\$2.78
Oct.	\$2.80/\$2.82
Nov	\$2.84/\$2.86
Dec.	\$2.88/\$2.90
Barley	
Aug./Sept.	\$70
Oct.	\$71
Nov.	\$72
Dec.	\$73
Hard Red Winter	
Ordinaries	\$2.71
109% on generic certificates	

## Canoe race starts Sat.

August 9 the first major canoe race in Oregon will get underway at 11 a.m. at the Irrigon Park.

Organizers say there is good viewing at the starting point, along the 15 mile Columbia River course, and at the finish in Boardman.

The race may not start until Saturday morning, but the fun is expected to start Friday night with a 6-9 p.m. barbecue in the Irrigon Park. An outdoor breakfast Saturday from 7-10

a.m. will help put spectators in the mood for a big race, and evening events in Boardman will help everyone relax afterwards. You won't want to miss the Lions Club auction at the Boardman Marina from 6-8 p.m., a Western Street Dance at the Hitchin' Post in Boardman, and a Popular Street Dance at the Boardman Marina and then finish the whole event with an outdoor breakfast at the Boardman Marina Sunday morning.