

The Heppner

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Congressman Smith finds optimism in Oregon

Congressman Bob Smith (R-2nd Dist.) said last Friday that he had lived in small towns all of his life and knew how it feels to be left out. "Morrow County has a voice in the federal government and will not be left out as long as I'm in Congress," he promised. "I will work hard at communication and am in contact with local officials and individuals and look forward to continuing to work with them."

Earlier in the day at an informal luncheon at the Heppner Elks Club, he was seeing more optimism in rural Oregon than was apparent two or three years ago. "It's not boom times yet, but there is room for optimism, there's a light at the end of the tunnel."

The timber industry is coming back, the red meat industry is picking up, interest rates are down and will continue to go down, inflation is down and under control, and unemployment is at a six-year low. The Ag picture may not be too good, but those farmers in government programs are sustaining. We have lost our foreign markets and we have to get them back even if it means an export subsidy.

There is enough money in the farm credit system to last into 1987, he said. An evaluation and updating of the system is necessary before we know if the system needs additional funding.

How to write a farm bill and not break one-third of the farmers in America has been a problem, Smith said. The Crop Reduction Program is part of that effort by attempting to reduce production on highly erodible land. It may have seemed a more effective reduction of production by aiming at productive land, but the push for CRP came from the midwest where fields are losing topsoil at an alarming rate from wind erosion. It is unfortunate that one county was hit as heavily as Morrow County has been with land bid into grass cover.



State Representative Ray French, (left) Millie Evans, Congressman Bob Smith, and Louis Carlson at Friday evening Republican dinner at the Carlson Ranch near Heppner.

For eastern Oregon, he said, the 1985 farm bill translates to better days and better markets. When the dairy buy-out was proposed, he was the one who introduced the amendment allowing a pound for pound red meat buy out to guarantee that dumping dairy cows on the beef market would not hurt cattle ranchers. The cattle prices have recovered during the last month and are looking better.

Timber
He also reports optimism because he says the timber industry is making money for the first time in years. The industry needs a stable supply of timber to provide employment. With good management that can be done without cutting more timber than is biologically justified. There

is no need to cut away at the timber base. It is possible to protect wildlife and at the same time provide jobs in the industry.

Canadian imports have hurt the lumber industry and the Secretary of Commerce will make a decision before October, he said, following international trade conference recommendations to put pressure on our best trade partner, Canada, to settle the issue because our industry cannot compete with timber at subsidized prices.

Columbia River Gorge
Smith opposes federal control of the Columbia River Gorge because, he says, it would provide no opportunity for the cities there to expand.

"What happens in the gorge," he said, "should not be controlled by people sitting in Washington, D.C."

Hanford
He opposes Hanford as a site for a national high level nuclear waste depository because it does not follow any of the criteria set by the Department of Energy. Hanford is near a river, a densely populated area. "It doesn't qualify and it will not happen."

Furthermore, the three proposed sites are in Nevada, Texas, and Washington, and 80% of the waste is produced in the East. Transporting the waste would provide all sorts of opportunities for accidents, he said.

Balanced Federal Budget
"I don't think that Gramm-Rudman will stay in place," he said. "Congress traditionally ignores its own legislation, but it cannot ignore an amendment to the constitution." He proposes an amendment which will limit increasing spending and increasing the deficit. "I don't think the budget can be balanced in five years without impairing justice," he said, "but I can be balanced in 10 years."

Gramm-Rudman has had a tremendous effect on rural counties

Heppner asks new tax base

By Avon Melby

City of Heppner will ask voters for a new tax base of \$200,000 at the Nov. 4 election. The proposal was approved by the council at its regular meeting last week.

Councilman Marvin Lane, Budget Committee member Jacki Allstott, and City Administrator Marshall Lovgren worked out the amount to request. They went over past budgets, and considered anticipated increases in costs and needs of the city in arriving at the amount. "This should make it so we do not have to go to the voters every year," said Mayor Cara Costa. "Maybe not for three or four years."

Heppner has operated on a base adopted in 1980 for the past several years. Adopted six years ago was a tax base of \$125,000. With the

allowed 6% annual increase without a vote, that figure is now a tax base of \$167,270. The city has had to ask for extra money each of the past two years, but when the budget went down it has shaved off funds for needed services, such as street repairs.

Former councilman and owner of the Shoe Box Jerry Holloman reported on a survey he had made of businesses for the city. He said owners on Main street were in favor of retaining the present police force. Out of 17 contacted 13 were in favor, even though some admitted the city would probably save money by having the county sheriff's office take over police responsibilities in the city. Four of the retailers thought it would be a good idea because it would save money. Loss of control

of the police force was given as main reason for not changing. No action was taken by the council, nor comment made.

Ken Key responded to a letter to the council from City Attorney Bill Kuhn. Kuhn said Key "has legally partitioned the property and does not have county approval for his use of the property on Cemetery Hill. Because he has no county approval, the city or any other interested land owner could request he remove any structures placed on that property." Kuhn asked for, and received approval of having the planner, Dan Meador who is working with the city planning commission plat the area between the Bobbi Angell land on the west, Heppner city limits on the north, the Corps road on the east and Willow Creek road on the south. This would make it simple to annex the land later. Kuhn recommended to the city that water not be allowed to Key on the property, he said it would take four to six months before the Corps could enter into an agreement to annex its land as the proposal has to go to Washington to be approved. Key objected, and said he had all requirements met that the county had given him. He insisted he did not want his two-acre subdivided and did not intend to sell off lots. He said he wanted to live there, but would leave the area if he could not build there. He accused the council of "not wanting Heppner to grow" and said he had received one setback after another for almost a year. No action was taken beyond giving authority to plat the land.

The council adopted a motion encouraging votes to keep the schools open in the county, by approving the proposed school budget and serial levy.

Application to renew liquor license for Bud's Pub was approved. Charlie Wisdom, new owner of Kate's Pizza, attended the meeting asking for approval of a beer and wine license as he needed to get one from the state before another council meeting. It was reported a new owner of the Wagon Wheel had contacted city hall to see about getting the same approval. Council voted approval, contingent on a favorable result of the check of records to be made by Police Chief Doug Rathbun, on both new owners.

Mayor Costa said she has been hearing good reports from people in the town and from the schools about how the city crew is giving good services to citizens.

Kuhn reported the Senior Citizens were now interested in locating their Senior Center on the ground floor of the hotel building and would meet with the architect to see what could be worked out.

Chief Rathbun reported two of the sidewalks on Court Street still had not been repaired. He said he had written owners Harry O'Donnell and Bill Johnson but had no cooperation.

City Manager Lovgren reported the Scott Atkinson lot on Main Street where his business burned out three years ago is for sale. Price is \$10,000 cash; \$15,000 if the owner carries it. Lovgren said it is appraised at \$20,000.

City Crew Foreman Dave Winters said he wanted to get on with constructing the foot bridge over Willow Creek but had not heard from the Lions Club. He was told to contact them, they were waiting for him to outline the work so they could do it.

A special meeting was set for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18 to audit the ballots in the September 16 vote, at city hall.

County requests tax base increase

Morrow County Court last Wednesday decided that the original request (before the \$99,690 cut) for this year's operating levy, \$3,472,425, would be an appropriate amount to ask for a new tax base.

The county's current tax base of \$522,000 is the amount of taxes (with a six percent annual increase) which the county can levy each year without holding an election and asking voter approval. The current tax base was established prior to 1952 and represents only 15% of the total taxes needed to fund the county budget.

The Court heard advice from Budget Officer LoRayne Bowman that a proposed tax base should be sufficient for the county to operate without asking for an additional levy for at least two years.

"With an end of Revenue Sharing passing a tax base would ensure the county's ability to continue funding of the neighborhood center and the senior citizens mealsite," Jerry Peck.

The new figure includes the current tax base and the levy which was originally proposed. The Court decided to use the original proposal rather than the one which voters accepted because federal revenue sharing is ending and the county will need a source of funding if it decides to continue support of the Neighborhood Center and the Senior Citizens mealsite.

Commissioner Jerry Peck also pointed out that the \$3,472,425 levy was gone over by the county's entire budget committee and it was the amount which they felt justified in asking.

An adequate tax base would allow the county to plan ahead, Judge Don McElligott said. It will also save the county with expense of annual elec-

tions for special levies.

In other business, the court: directed Architect Bob Smith to prepare bids for a 20 foot addition to the North Morrow Annex building which will provide additional space for a Sheriff's office, the county planner, improve the traffic pattern of the existing annex building, and

equip the building with the handicap-access items required.

heard that a total of \$144,149 was spent so far for renovation of the Courthouse. The funds for restoration were obtained through federal revenue sharing money paid to the county.

heard from Cecil Rill and a delegation of others living along Keck Canyon Road that it is long overdue for repairs.

agreed to sponsor a wiener roast

Park planned at Willow Creek Dam

The Willow Creek Park District Board is working on plans for development of a park area on the west bank of the lake just below the Corps of Engineers building.

The site, says board member Ken Turner, has good aesthetics and could provide a swimming area, a day use area and 20-30 RV pads. The development, he says, will be done in phases with much volunteer labor. Guy VanArsdale, the park's first promoter, has already donated heavy construction. The Board also expects to obtain cost-sharing from various sources.

The park board, he said, appreciates all the community support it has received so far and asks for further feedback from area residents.

"Which areas would you like to see developed first?" the board asks: a swimming area, a day use area, overnight camping area with full

hookups, overnight camping area with no hookups, restroom facilities, water ski area, fishing access, other development. Park Board members are Fred Toombs, John Edwards, Marne Anderson, Steve Lankford, and Ken Turner.

People now seem "uptight about the economy," Turner said. "We need to look at our communities for the great place they are and we need to consider their many attributes to retirees. People who went to school here come back to retire. Business people from urban areas come here to retire. If we keep a positive attitude, and keep up our community pride," he emphasized, "we can promote tourism and replace any lost revenues from farming."

"We want to have the park done right," he concluded, "and by doing it ourselves, we can get exactly what we want much cheaper".

Land donated for community development

The lone community and Agri-Business organization will begin developing 80 acres adjacent to Ella Road and Highway 74 at the east end of lone.

The land has been donated to the organization by Delbert (Slim) Emert for residential development.

ICABO has had the property surveyed and will cut in a road to provide for an exit-entrance on the back of the property, John Bristow, president of ICABO announced. The property will be divided into minimum one-acre lots and will be sold for the cost of the development.

ICABO will not make a profit on the land, Bristow emphasized. The property will be sold for the cost of development; the road, a surveyor, lawyer; divided by the number of parcels in the Emert addition, he said.

The lights went off...

It was the same story again Monday night when many area residents were without electricity for nearly six hours, said Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Manager Fred Toombs.

An insulator "flashed over" on the Bombing Range which set a pole on fire and burned the pole off. The conductors dropped on each other, Toombs said.

A full crew reported to change the

The property is zoned residential and the deed will specify that the land be improved (have a private dwelling on it) within a specific amount of time, Bristow continued. The property may not be held for speculation. ICABO expects to have the lots ready for sale within six to 12 months, he said.

Other ideas for development in the Emert Addition are still in progress, Bristow said. About 15 acres of the property are too steep for residential development and ICABO may try to develop some kind of recreational facilities there.

ICABO was formed three years ago to develop and promote the town. One of the organization's first projects was to clear some commercial lots in lone and the organization has sponsored a general town

pole, Toombs said. They returned to Heppner at 6 a.m. and repaired two minor outages here.

We are asking our customers to bear with us, Toombs said, until the new line is built. The line had been scheduled for replacement in 1988-89, but because it was deteriorating so rapidly, replacement has been scheduled to begin in March, 1987.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

September 2 - September 9			
	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	84	53	0
Wed.	85	54	0
Thurs.	90	54	0
Fri.	85	44	0
Sat.	75	47	0
Sun.	80	46	0
Mon.	69	48	05

Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, September 9	
Soft White	
Sept.	\$2.74/\$2.76
Oct.	\$2.78/\$2.80
Nov.	\$2.82/\$2.84
Dec.	\$2.86/\$2.88
Jan.	\$2.90/\$2.92
Barley	
Sept.	\$69
Oct.	\$70
Nov.	\$71
Dec.	\$72
Hard Red Winter	
Ordinaries	\$2.77
Generic 114% cash certificates	