

The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

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VOL 104 NO. 38 Wednesday, September 17, 1986 Heppner, Oregon 25¢ 10 PAGES

Separate health districts proposed

The Boardman City Council heard a proposal for the formation of separate health districts in Morrow county Tuesday, September 9. Dr. Steve Zielenski presented a copy of a petition circulating throughout the county and asked the council to support placement of the issue on the November ballot.

The proposal asks that the Morrow County Court take the necessary steps to form two separate health districts within the county. District No. 1 would be comprised of "all lands in Morrow County, Oregon, north of the Willamette Baseline" and district No. 2 would be comprised of "all lands in Morrow County, Oregon, south of the Willamette Baseline". The Willamette Baseline is located one and one-half miles north of Lone.

The proposal also states that each district would be governed by a board of five elected members residing within their district.

Each health district would become its own separate taxing district. Funding for the support of the principal health care agencies in each district (North Morrow Medical Clinic and

the Boardman Ambulance in the north end and Pioneer Memorial Hospital and the Heppner Ambulance in the south end) would be based upon property taxes collected within the boundaries of each district. The majority of the county's assessed valuation lies within the north end. The county health nurse would continue to function in both health districts.

This fiscal year, the amount of taxes necessary to balance health care budgets in Morrow County is \$397,549. Pioneer Memorial Hospital and the Heppner Ambulance receives \$358,792 from the county and the North Morrow Medical Clinic receives \$32,385. The Boardman Ambulance receives \$6,372. The combined total budget for Pioneer Memorial Hospital and the Heppner Ambulance is \$1,711,277. Budgets for the North Morrow Medical Clinic and the Boardman Ambulance area \$129,595 and \$34,872 respectively.

Zielenski told the council that by obtaining separate health districts the north end would be able to increase spending on medical care while possibly reducing taxes and improve the delivery of health care.

Zielenski cited possible improvements such as:

- upgrading equipment and the North Morrow Medical Clinic.
- upgrading equipment and the construction of a building to house the Boardman Ambulance.
- offering 24 hour emergency care.
- possibly hiring a second physician and surgeon.

"The north end has been funding a large amount of south end health care", Zielenski explained, "if we're going to have Boeing, the SSC, and other industry we need increased medical care in the north end."

After a brief discussion the council moved to support placement of the issue on the November ballot to let voters decide if separate health districts should be designated. "It should've been done long ago," commented Mayor Gale Grill.

The Irrigon City Council has also given their support of the concept of separate districts.

School to put tax base on Nov. Ballot

The Morrow County School Board at a Monday night meeting authorized the district to request a \$6,999,133 tax base in the November general election. The district is required by state law to hold an election for an updated tax base since it had to ask funding in addition to the tax base last year.

The board authorized an amount based on the amount necessary to balance this year's budget (\$5,140,643 special levy, \$473,786 serial levy, \$839,809 current tax base) plus increases (\$546,895) recognizing agreements the board has negotiated.

The \$6,996,133 amount, Superintendent Doyle McCaslin told the board, "would demand extremely austere budgets for the future. This amount provides for no growth and few, if any, capital improvements beyond those in the present budget. Yet, we feel, that we must promote an amount that has reasonable chance to pass based on present need and the obvious negative voter mood prevalent not only in our county but country wide."

If voters approve the tax base in November, it will not become effective July 1, 1987. It will not effect the current year's budget.

The board also authorized the superintendent to plan a calendar for

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS	Boardman	Lone	Irrigon	Lexington	Heppner /Hardman	TOTAL
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No
September 16, 1986						
School District	421	254	356	130	477	1638
\$5,140,443 Special One-Year Operating Levy	208	77	362	142	495	1284
School District	401	229	342	101	385	1458
\$473,786 Three-Year Serial Levy	230	101	378	173	590	1472
City of Heppner Serial Levy, \$100,000 Each Year for Three Consecutive Years to Replace Sewer and Water Lines and Pave Streets (Heppner City voters only)						291 358
Irrigon Two Year Serial Levy(Irrigon City voters only)						144 110

school closure should the budget fail in Tuesday's election. They set a Wednesday, Sept. 17 meeting to discuss the contingency plan further.

The district reported that 20 fewer students were enrolled in Morrow County schools on September 11 this year than at the same time last year. Enrollment was increased by 16 students at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon and by a total of eight students at Columbia Junior High and Riverside High Schools, decreased by nine students at Sam Boardman Elementary, by 28 students in Heppner schools and seven students at Lone schools. Total enrollment for the district is 1781.

The district heard a report and recommendations from a committee appointed in the fall of 1985 to study population trends and project building needs for the school district in the next ten years. The committee consisting of school board members, administrators, advisory committee members and citizens, considered several options including the district's current bonded indebtedness and the need for engineering and architectural studies in making the following recommendations:

- By the fall of 1989, add a minimum of four classrooms to Columbia Junior High School in Irrigon and move all sixth graders in Boardman and Irrigon to that facility.

- By the fall of 1989, add additional classroom space at Riverside High School. Two options should be considered, to convert the present gym into a bi-level classroom facility and build a new gymnasium and to add four classrooms to the existing facility.

- By the fall of 1995, demolish the existing elementary building at Lone and the existing upper grade building at Heppner Elementary. Add at least five new classrooms to the existing high school building at Lone. Add at least four new classrooms and a cafeteria/multi-purpose room to the existing primary building at Heppner. House Lone students in grades K-5 at lone. House Heppner students in grades K-5 in Heppner. House Lone, Lexington, and Heppner students in grades 6-8 at lone. House Lone, Lexington, and Heppner students in grades 9-12 at Heppner High School.

The report ends, "These recommendations are based on current facts and projections based on those facts. Facts might change between now and 1988 and 1994. If they do, adjustments may be necessary in these recommendations."

The board took no action regarding the report.

In additional business, the board:

- heard that students in all of the district's schools are at or above the national norm in reading, language

arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and reference skills, as reported on Science Research Associates tests given to district students. The one exception was seventh and 11th grade students in language arts who dipped slightly below the norm in all district schools.

- heard that mail-in elections cuts costs and increase voter turnout, from Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth.

- heard that the district is still financially solvent, but would spend \$43,000 more than is in the budget by December 31 if the levies do not pass. Additional amounts would have to be cut from current projected spending to pay caretaker people during a school closure.

- approved amended job descriptions for the custodian at the district office and for a school bus driver.

- adopted a 1986-87 budget calendar.

- appointed a committee to review the district's student dress code.

- hired Martin Perlot on a temporary contract as advanced math teacher at Heppner High School to replace John Edmundson who is taking an illness leave; Christine Esslinger as a 4/7 time music teacher at A.C. Houghton Elementary and Columbia Junior High Schools in Irrigon; hired Marilyn Acocck as a bus driver at the north end of the district.

- heard that a speech-language teacher is still needed for north district schools. ESD personnel and the speech-language specialist for the south district schools are covering the vacancy there.

- approved extended responsibility contracts for Thad Killingbeck - athletic director at CJH, Jeff Dehne - assistant baseball coach at RHS, Cara Costa - assistant girls basketball coach at Heppner Jr. High, Les Payne - assistant girls basketball coach at HHS, and

- approved hiring non-teachers for the following: Susan Hisler - assistant volleyball coach at HHS, Debbie Royer - cheerleader advisor at HHS, Lee Padberg - JV boys basketball coach at HHS, and John Boyer - freshman boys basketball coach at HHS. The administration noted that Lee Padberg agreed to the same stipulation as last year that he would not be paid for coaching as long as he remained on the district budget committee.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

September 9 - September 15			
	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	72	47	0
Wed.	74	37	0
Thurs.	70	39	0
Fri.	63	42	0
Sat.	70	38	0
Sun.	65	43	0
Mon.	66	40	.14

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, September 16			
Soft White			
Sept.			\$2.73
Oct.			\$2.73/\$2.75
Nov.			\$2.77/\$2.79
Dec.			\$2.81/\$2.83
Jan.			\$2.85/\$2.87
Barley			
Sept.			\$70.50
Oct.			\$71.50
Nov.			\$72.50
Dec.			\$73.50
Hard Red Winter			
Ordinaries			\$2.77
PIK			
Generic certificates			113% cash

Heppner Junior High athletic teams picked up trash along Highway 207 from Rugbs to Heppner and from Heppner to Lexington last Wednesday afternoon. The athletes were participating in the Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism Program.

The Oregon State Highway Dept. provided pickups at both ends of their cleanup to haul garbage to the Heppner City landfill. The City, said Mayor Cara Costa did not charge for dumping the trash. Some of the areas along the highway may not look as spruced up as others, she said, because students filled as many as 10 bags of trash within a half-mile. They had to finish on time, so not all teams could complete their distance, she said.

County commissioners Jerry Peck and Irv Rauch and Judge Don McElligott sponsored, prepared and served hot dogs and beverages to the junior high athletes.

Jeff Maben and Heppner Garbage Service hauled bags of trash which first through sixth graders at Heppner Elementary School picked up on their way to and from school each day last week.



Picking Up



Ambulance district studied

Morrow County Court last Wednesday appointed Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator John Hempel director of planning for a committee which will study the possible formation ambulance service districts in Morrow County.

In additional business, the Court:

- heard a report that Boeing has assured the county commission that it will be drawing up a contract for the county's use of a gravel pit on Boeing land. The county expects to pay 50¢/yard for gravel crushed at the site.

- announced its intent to appoint one new member to the North Morrow Medical Clinic Board at its September 24 meeting. The appointment will fill a vacancy created when a board member's term expired.

- heard a report from Summer Park Project Director Charlene Papineau who invited the County Court to walk the newly marked and cleared horse trail at Cutsforth Park.

- held an executive session on legal matters.

- heard a request from Ken Turner for an easement for an irrigation pipeline.

- held an executive session regarding contract negotiations.

- decided to delay action regarding the resignation of a North Morrow Medical Clinic Board member.

- heard a report from County Planner Deane Seeger that work is pro-

gressing on a study on the county's transportation system.

- approved payment of all claims.

Kids show bicycle skills



Officer Bingham

The Heppner Police Dept. is sponsoring a bicycle rodeo Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Heppner Elementary School playground. All first through sixth grade bicycle riders are encouraged to compete. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded at each grade level. R&W Drive-In, Heppner Bowl, and Charlie's Pizza and Video World are donating prizes. The Heppner Gazette-Times is providing participation certificates for all entrants.

Officer Gary Bingham of the Heppner Police Dept. will check bicycle safety equipment. The Oregon State Police and Morrow County Sheriff's Office will also assist with the rodeo.

Participants will demonstrate ability to ride a bike in a straight path without touching cones, to stop without running into a box, to turn sharply, and to guide a bicycle through a slalom course.

Those who do not have bicycle laws pamphlets may get copies at DMV offices, Officer Bingham said.

Hunter Safety classes slated

Hunter Safety classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23 upstairs at the Heppner Elks Club. The classes will continue September 24 and 25.

All 10-18 year-olds are required to complete eight hours of hunter safety instruction before they can get a hunting license.