

Carlson expects no major changes

"It's not my intention to step in with major change," Morrow County Judge-elect Louis Carlson said Friday. After taking office as head of the county board of commissioners in January he said, "I will give my full and complete attention to the job to serve as fairly and equitably as possible."

He will spend the time between now and January "analyzing the current county budget, reviewing expenditures and anticipated income, to satisfy myself that our house is in order."

The main idea now is to hold the line on budgeting because "I don't think taxpayers are willing to see increases in taxes. That will be hard to do because many costs are increasing, but unless the public is willing to pay for services, something has to give," he said.

He also will visit with department heads at the Courthouse to familiarize himself with county programs and "get myself geared up to what is going on" in the county, he said. "They have all been courteous and helpful, and that will help make a smooth transition."

"I intend to find out first-hand where any problems are." He will

also attend the weekly County Court meetings.

Carlson's priorities after taking office will be dealing with the problem of proposed medical districts, developing a budget, and although he said he has not yet talked with the other commissioners, he will try to fulfill a campaign promise to advertise for a Director of Public Works.

"Somewhere we need to begin immediately to think about the county as far as dissention. It has not just now hit, but has been brewing for many years and just now surfaced," he said. "We must deal with the inequities between the north and south and with the cost of medical services. How people work to resolve those is up to the people because they have to pay the bill. The Court can only implement a decision."

"We need to look and decide what service, and to what level, we can afford in terms of health care. We already have a precedent of park districts. Medical districts could well set a precedent for other districts, such as a sheriff's district. There's obviously a problem of inequity, so let's (solve) that problem instead of creating another one. The north says they don't think their needs can be

met with the present system so it's necessary to change the system. We need to look toward a positive solution."

As Hearings Office, I will take testimony for the County Court at public hearings beginning December 9. He said his duties will include taking facts and controlling the meeting. "The people will make the decisions," he said.

"We cannot look the other direction. We must face the issue and make hard decisions on services and how to pay for them," he said.

McElligott will leave things in order

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott says he wants "to leave things in order" when he goes out of office in January. Our computer system is fairly well established and we have a good financial system, with accountability, which the county has not had in the past, he said. "I'm a little disappointed at losing the election because of the many projects which still need to be completed," he said. "But, I wish my successor luck; it was a hard-fought professionally run campaign."

Golf course may increase tourism

The Chamber of Commerce tourism committee met Tuesday morning at the extension office in Heppner. The committee heard from Willow Creek Country Club president Ed Struthers about the desire of the local golf course to work closer with the tourism committee on promotion of the golf course.

Struthers said golf tournaments bring quite a few people into Heppner, and advertising the course would help increase visitors in the area.

The committee agreed to advertise the golf course in any brochures or

promotional material produced in the future.

In other business, the committee looked over the entries in the Heppner Motto Contest. The entries were narrowed down to about 12, and would be presented to the judging committee Tuesday night. Winner of the contest will be announced at the Town and Country Banquet Friday night, and will receive a gift certificate good for \$50.

The next meeting of the tourism committee will be Tuesday, Dec. 16 8 a.m. at the Morrow County Extension Office.

Charged with Disorderly Conduct



Ted Sampson

Ted Sampson, an unsuccessful candidate for Morrow County Judge was arraigned in Justice Court Monday morning before Judge Charlotte Gray on a charge of Disorderly Conduct.

Sampson, 39, Route 1, Irrigon, entered a plea of Not Guilty and was released on his own recognizance. He had been lodged at the Umatilla City Jail since his arrest on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Sampson allegedly used his tractor to block a county road, open to public access, and prevent two hunters from passing.

room of the County Clerk's office. That arrangement is no longer satisfactory because the Clerk needs the office space.

The County will need to hire someone for the position rather than fill it on a contract basis in order to receive state subsidies; a county counsel no longer qualifies counties for the money.

The solution to a petition from north-county residents asking the court to form two medical districts will not be worked out before the end of his term, he said. The court is gathering data and will hold public hearings beginning December 9 in Boardman, but no action will be taken until next year.

School board to make serial levy decisions Monday

The Morrow County School Board Monday night scheduled a special meeting for next Monday, 7:30 p.m. at the District Office in Lexington to decide how and when the district will resubmit the \$366,000 serial levy which failed to gain voter approval in the November 4 election.

"The district's financial position for the remainder of the year is at the point of involving next year's solvency if a solution is not immediately (within the next two months) forthcoming," Superintendent Doyle McCaslin told the board.

"Continually, we are faced with either passing the serial levy, cutting the budget, or borrowing against next year's funds," he said. "In the present climate for passing levies, if we do not resolve this dilemma now, the election for next year's levy promises to be as difficult as this year continues to be, perhaps more so when all of our estimates are for some decreases in revenues and increases, significant increases, in expenses."

In other business, the board: -heard the financial report and learned that taxes will be received none too soon this month.

-learned that the district was awarded a clear win in the Oregon Land and Water Suit concerning property owned by the district and adjacent to its schools in Irrigon.

-heard that advisory committees are beginning to conduct a telephone survey of voters in order to compile a report in March.

-canvassed the election results.

-took no action to fill a vacancy on the budget committee.

-approved district principals' field requests for next year.

-accepted the resignation of Ione

business teacher Anna Morford. -approved retirement of two employees: Wade Bothwell, custodian at Heppner High School, and Edie Partlow, librarian at Riverside High School.

-approved extended responsibility contracts for Mark Jones junior high boys basketball coach and Margaret Kincaid junior high girls basketball coach both at Ione, and Randy Gundlach, annual advisor, and Beverly Seese, drill team advisor, both at Columbia Junior High.

-held an executive session to discuss termination of a classified employee.

-approved termination for reasons deemed sufficient by the district of Marilyn Acock and approved hiring Terry Sandlin as a replacement bus driver effective immediately.

Medical Districts

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Judge-elect Louis Carlson and Bob Miller, chairman of the NMMC board suggested a committee of representatives of all medical boards meet to discuss their respective financial requirements before public hearings about the districts begin December 9 in Boardman. "We did not intend to come to any conclusions tonight," Don Eppenbauch said. "Our primary purpose was to gather information to present to the county court."

Steve Rowe suggested that the committee consider formation of a district which would fund the hospital and ambulance at Heppner and another to fund the North Morrow Clinic and ambulance leaving the cost of operating the nursing home at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in the county general fund.

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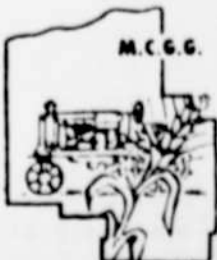
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