

G-T azette imes

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O Christmas Tree

Only a few braved Friday's snow for the lighting of Heppner's Christmas tree.

Jan. 13 last chance to pass school levy

The Morrow County School Board called for a special January 13 election at an emergency meeting Monday night. The Board is requesting an election because it received an initiative petition with 620 signatures asking for one more chance to pass a \$366,736 serial levy that has been defeated three times.

Only 309 signatures, 10% of the voters who cast ballots in the last election, were needed to make the petition valid. School Board Vice Chairman Jerry McElligott said that the petition was presented to County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth last Wednesday. She has verified 620 of the total 645 signatures as registered voters in the county.

The Board made contingency plans at its November 24 meeting to cut programs not required by state law at the semester break if it did not receive a petition requesting the January election and if the serial levy should fail at that election. The Board is prevented by state law from putting the levy up for election before the next regular election date in March. Request for the special election had to come from the electorate.

"We simply have to pass the serial levy in January or we will not be able to recover from many years," Superintendent Doyle McCaslin told the Board and the audience of nearly 30 people at Sam Boardman Elementary School.

"We have to have elementary music and art. We have to have libraries, and we will continue to maintain certain minimum standards," he said. Riverside High School in Boardman and Heppner High School are both accredited and may lose that status if staff is cut, he said. "This is only speculative," he said, "but when the accreditation association discovers that we no longer have certificated librarians and counselors, they may send us a letter of conditional accreditation if we assure them that these programs will be added back into next year's budget.

Accreditation allows students to move freely within other schools with no question about their course work, RHS Principal Dan Daltoso explained. Non-accredited schools may have to verify students transcripts if they transfer to an accredited school.

Assistant Supt. Chuck Starr pointed out that there are quite a few non-accredited schools in Eastern Oregon. "I'm convinced that I can't do the self-evaluation," he said. "During the nine years I was there, there was never a question about students transcripts at universities."

If accreditation is important for kids to be accepted into colleges, I would suggest cuts be made which will not effect the school's accreditation, a member of the audience said. I have a problem with thinking that my kids have come through this school system and could be let down in their last year by the lack of accreditation because the board earmarked cuts that will effect education instead of cutting other areas such as transportation and lunches.

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Jerry McElligott

Jean Bernards of Boardman said that when the board "cuts personnel, it's hard to get them back. When they could make cuts in transportation which are more easily retrieved, they should leave things which effect education alone. Granted transportation and lunch are important," she said, "but it's harder to get teachers back if the district has already said they are unimportant."

Board member Bob Mahoney pointed out that 70% of the district's students ride the bus.

Another member of the audience asked the board if different but proportionate cuts could be made in different schools, such as cutting transportation at the North end and counselors at the South end of the county.

Board Chairman Joe Stevens of Boardman said that it probably could be done, but that it would be very complicated, and "I see problems," he said, "with getting the North end against the South end, and we try to keep that at a minimum."

"The most important thing is getting the levy passed," board member Bob Mahoney said.

"When I look at the size of the levy," Chairman Joe Stevens of Boardman said, "a tax rate of \$7.33 per \$1,000 of assessed property value reminds me of what I paid in other places 20 years ago. It hasn't happened yet but I get the impression from listening to people that the levy has already failed, that the cuts are given."

"There's a difference in opinion between the two ends of the county," a member of the audience said. "I thought Boardman supported its schools. Why don't you let the people in each area support their own schools?"

"Nobody here seems to want to vote down the budget," Dean Mason of Boardman said, "but nobody seems to want to take it on himself to pass the budget either."

"We believe we need to pass the budget," the vice chairman said. "The idea is that the budget needs to pass; it will pass, so all our discussions and proposed cuts will be meaningless next month."

In other business, the board approved a revised 1987 budget calendar postponing a vote on next year's budget from March until May. "The most important reason for postponing the election," the superintendent said, "is that we only get one vote to exceed the net tax rate limitation. And if we are going to have to make some cuts and then consider replacing the items cut, we are looking at a hard time building and selling the budget."

The board also authorized the administration to notify employees who would be effected by the proposed mid-January cuts of their possible layoff.

Executive director Ronald "Skip" Matthews has hired Ronald "Skip" Matthews as the County Executive Director for Morrow County. He is expected to start after completion of his Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation training in late January.

Matthews worked for the Soil Conservation Service prior to accepting a job with the ASCS. He comes from a varied farm background, having worked on, and operated farms in the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon. He is a graduate of the School of Agriculture at Oregon State University. His hobbies include snow skiing, kayaking, white water rafting, hunting and fishing.

Executive director hired for ASCS

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Court names health district advisory committee

Morrow County Court last Wednesday appointed a seven-member ad hoc committee to consider the issues surrounding the formation of health districts within the county, and to advise the court of possible solutions to the problem.

Those appointed to the committee include: Art Kessler and Jerry Donovan of Boardman, Cliff Green and Larry Mills of Heppner, Chuck Starr of Lexington, Dan Creamer of Irrigon, and Linda LaRue of Ione.

The court also appointed Bob Rietmann of Ione to replace Terry Thompson on the county budget committee. Thompson resigned from the position.

In other business, the Court: -discussed bid specifications for a computer mapping program with Assessor Greg Sweek and approved advertising for bids in the usual manner.

changed the regular fourth-Wednesday Court meeting to Tuesday, Dec. 23 at Heppner because of the Christmas holiday. -held an executive session concerning a personnel and litigations. -accepted a bid for roadside weed spraying chemicals from Wilbur Ellis for \$23,982. -were advised by Roadmaster Don Ball that the forest highway project on upper Willow Creek Road was ready for the county's acceptance. -denied a request for a permit to exceed the load limit on Bombing Range Road. -signed an agreement with Don Scott to represent the county as their attorney in labor negotiations. -discussed a proposal by Commissioner Irv Rauch to appoint a three-member board to oversee operation of the county's parks, set fees, etc. As it is now, Judge Don McElligott pointed out, monitoring the parks gives the county judge something to do on weekends and summer evenings. No action was taken. -held an executive session concerning negotiations. -approved payment of claims. -heard from County Planner Deane Seeger concerning formation of a Local Improvement District for construction or reconstruction of sidewalks at Wagon Wheel Loop in Boardman. -heard from the Department of Transportation that a grant had been officially approved for improvements at Anson Wright Park. -appointed Judge-elect Louis Carlson as Hearings Officer for the December 9 public hearing concerning formation of two medical districts. -approved a contract with the city of Irrigon to provide emergency dispatching services for Irrigon Police.

Council unchanged by Irrigon recount

Monday's recount of North and South Irrigon precincts did not change the winners of the Irrigon Council positions. Some additional write-in votes were counted and two candidates lost one vote each because the counting board scrutinized the ballots more closely and challenged one of them, Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth said.

A write-in candidate had requested the recount from Secretary of State Barbara Roberts.

Results of the December 8 recount were William H. Cooley - 228 votes, Caryle Gallien - 153 votes, Stanley Paul Mills - 182 votes, Ruth Adams - 103 votes, Dennis Kotilla - 77 votes, Mary Adams - 2 votes, and Ed Johnson, Judy Creighton, Bob Byrd, Daryl Kotilla, Denise Kotilla, Tomas Bailey, Stanley Ricks, and Pratt - one vote each.

Results of the November 7 abstract were William H. Cooley - 229 votes, Caryle Gallien - 153 votes, Stanley Paul Mills - 183 votes, Dennis Kotilla - 65 votes, Ruth Adams - 79 votes, Mary Adams - 2 votes, and Thomas Bailey, Stanley Rich, Pratt, and Daryl Kotilla - one vote each.

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Chamber begins search

Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce announces the search is on for Morrow County's Man and Woman of the Year. Please submit recommendations for nominees to: Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, Box 785, Heppner, Or. 97836.

Nominees may be from anywhere in Morrow County. Selection is based on participation in community affairs outside of profession, outstanding volunteerism over the past years; community activities during 1986; leadership; and contributions to economic base of our society.

Recipients of this annual award will be announced during the Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held January 13, 1987 at the Heppner Elks.



Ronald Matthews

"I am looking forward to working with the farm owners and operators of Morrow County," Matthews said. "The farming practices and problems here are unique to Oregon and I plan on facing these challenges with the best of my ability."

Matthews replaces Judy Buschke who accepted a newly developed job in ASCS as a "County Operations Reviewer."

Register to vote

Those who wish to vote in the January 13 special school levy election need to register with the Morrow County Clerk's Office before 5 p.m. December 24 if they are not already registered.

The new law which went into effect following the November general election requires voters to register at least 21 days before an election to provide time for the elections officers to verify residence requirements. Voter registration cards are available at county offices.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

December 2-8			
	High	Low	Rain Snow
Tues.	37	29	0
Wed.	32	29	0 skiff
Thurs.	34	29	22 frz. rain
Fri.	34	28	39 4" snow
Sat.	38	28	0 3" snow
Sun.	41	23	0 2" snow
Mon.	35	19	0 trace

Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Dec. 9	
	Soft White
Dec.	\$2.89/\$2.91
Jan.	\$2.93/\$2.95
Feb.	\$2.97/\$2.99

Hard Red Winter	
Dec.	\$2.93

Barley	
Dec./Jan.	\$77

Corn	
Dec./Jan.	\$67

PIK	
Generic certificates	108% cash

McElligott presents job training award

The Bon department store of Pendleton recently received the 1986 Distinguished Performance Award from The Oregon Consortium and The Oregon Private Industry Council, Inc. The award was given in recognition of the company's efforts in coordinating hiring opportunities with East Central Oregon Association of Counties, which provides employment services to business in Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties.

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott presented the award to Jackie Raw from ECOAC, accepting the award on behalf of Kathy Ashley, Assistant Manager of The Bon. The presentation was made at The Oregon Consortium's annual meeting on November 20 in Portland. The meeting was attended by more than 120 local elected officials, business and civic leaders and job training professionals from the Consortium, which administers the job training program in 27 Oregon counties.

Under the direction of Wilma Hanks, the job training program of East Central Oregon Association of Counties offers businesses employment services including recruiting, screening, referral of qualified applicants and subsidized job training. The Bon has used these services for



Wilma Hanks (left) and Jackie Raw of East Central Oregon Association of Counties accept an award from Morrow County Judge Don McElligott for their job training partnership with The Bon.

several years with an emphasis on hiring youth. During the meeting, Commissioner Jeanne Hughes was elected to the Executive Committee of The Oregon Consortium Board of Directors, replacing Judge Don McElligott. The Board of Directors is comprised of one commissioner from each of the Consortiums 27 counties. Other Board members include Commissioner Irvin Rauch (Morrow) and Judges Bill Hardie (Gilliam), Lorene Allen (Grant) and Lee Hoover (Wheeler).