

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Editorial

Time to pass our budget

It isn't often one can point to a single event, and say "This will make a significant difference in our future." The upcoming Morrow County school levy election is in fact one such event.

You might say it's just a money issue, like any other budget, and it has been voted down before like other budgets. But the significance of this levy election goes well beyond "just another budget."

In times of social change, the schools, especially local schools, are often the first focal point of that change. After all, we can all relate to the schools. Most of us were once students, and many of us have children now in the system. Add to that our right to vote and the election becomes a forum reflecting the state of our communities.

There is no doubt there are changes occurring in our communities now, in fact you almost need a program to keep up with the debates and controversies. However, defeat of this school levy will do nothing solve our problems. It will do nothing to bring us closer to any solutions. If you examine the levy request, you will see there is a relatively minor amount of money involved in comparison to the amount of division, animosity, and friction it will cause, not only with the adults in our community, but with the students as well.

The school district administration, the school board and teachers who work in our district have taken a bit of buffeting this year. Not having an approved school budget, hearing the criticism of the schools, and wondering and planning what should be done, is not a pleasant way to spend your time, and most importantly it was time which should have been spent on, that's right, education.

It is time to show some faith now in our school administrators, teachers, and school board members. It is time to trust that they have given us the best possible budget with which to educate our children. It is time to believe that they understand the changes and problems within our communities, and will address those problems rationally and intelligently during the coming year's budget process.

A clear voice from the electorate that yes, we are thinking ahead; we are thinking of the future of our schools, and community, is now in order.

It is time to pass our school budget.

David Sykes

School Budget Background

1986-87

•March 25	first vote \$6,180,808 levy	732 yes/886 no <small>failed</small>
Budget Committee and School Board cut \$261,037 from budget proposal before first vote.		
•May 20	second vote \$6,180,808	1129 yes/1209 no <small>failed</small>
\$274,093 cut from levy: \$61,517 - new teachers \$12,304 - administrative salaries \$30,407 - summer maintenance \$169,865 - capital outlay		
•August 12	\$5,140,643 one-year levy	1157 yes/1261 no <small>failed</small>
	\$473,786 three-year serial levy	1078 yes/1373 no <small>failed</small>
State law prevents the district exceeding the tax rate limitation for more than two votes. \$5,140,643 is the maximum amount that could be levied for one year after two failures.		
•September 16	second vote \$5,140,643	1648 yes/1284 no <small>passed</small>
	second vote \$473,986	1458 yes/ 1472 no <small>failed</small>
\$107,050 cut from serial levy: \$37,418 and \$30,444 - buses \$15,000 - fund to replace Greyhound \$24,188 - computer replacement		
•November 4	first vote \$366,736 levy	1379 yes/1647 no <small>failed</small>
•January 13	second vote \$366,736 levy	
An initiative petition circulated by voters gained 620 signatures (only 309 signatures were needed) asked the levy be placed on a special election ballot.		

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office assisted two disabled motorists during the week of November 25 - December 1 and three during the week of December 2 - December 8.

December 8 - a deputy arrested William F. Zilko, 37, Irrigon, for alleged Menacing. He was lodged at Umatilla City Jail. He posted bail and was released.

December 8 - a deputy responded to assist Irrigon police attempt to locate a vehicle leaving Irrigon enroute to Umatilla after receiving a complaint of a vehicle making loud noises. Walter E. Gerrard, 29, Irrigon, was arrested for alleged Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He was released on his own recognizance.

December 9 - a deputy responded to back up the Irrigon Police Dept. after receiving a complaint of a possible domestic disturbance at a residence near the Irrigon Fire Dept. Roger Dale Davidson, 21, Irrigon, was arrested for alleged Menacing and lodged at the Umatilla City Jail.

December 9 - a deputy responded to back up the Heppner Police Dept. at Heppner High School after receiving a complaint of an intoxicated person causing problems.

December 11 - a deputy responded to a residence on Nevada St. in Irrigon after receiving a complaint of possible shots fired. No injuries were reported. Investigation is continuing.

December 11 - a deputy arrested Gene Lee Hughes, 41, Vancouver, Washington, on a Multnomah County District Court warrant for Fail to Appear/Driving While Suspended. He was lodged at the Umatilla City Jail. He was also cited for Driving While Suspended in Morrow County.

December 11 - a deputy arrested Russell Ray Smith, 22, Hermiston, for alleged Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Driving While Suspended. He was released on his own recognizance.

December 11 - a deputy investigated a one-vehicle accident at Hwy. 730/184. Vehicle was found unoccupied.

December 12 - a deputy arrested Marlene M. Town, 37, Boardman, for allegedly Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. She was released on her own recognizance.

December 12 - a deputy responded to investigate the report of a vehicle in a ditch approximately two miles West of Irrigon with headlights on high beam. Deputy was Unable To Locate vehicle.

December 12 - a deputy responded to Country Garden Estates in Irrigon to investigate a complaint in relation to a Theft.

December 12 - a deputy investigated a one-vehicle accident at the Port of Morrow. Persons involved were transported by a citizen to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. Investigation is pending.

December 12 - a deputy responded to assist Heppner Police Dept. with a report of an assault at a local business. No arrests were made.

December 13 - a deputy responded to the Wagon Wheel to assist Heppner Police Dept. with a report of a fight. No arrests were made.

December 13 - a deputy responded to Frontage Road to investigate a one-vehicle accident with injuries. Three subjects were transported to Good Shepherd Hospital by a family member.

December 14 - a deputy arrested Eddie Lee Russell, III, 21, Heppner, on a Multnomah County Sheriff's warrant. He posted bail and was released.

December 14 - a deputy assisted Heppner Police Dept. in an attempt to locate a missing person.

During the week of December 9 - December 15, the sheriff's office assisted five disabled motorists in Morrow County.



Vinegar is a natural meat tenderizer.

These programs will be cut if \$366,736 levy fails on January 13:

(If levy is approved, these programs will continue)

Supplies and Books	\$72,479
<small>Supplies, library books, and textbooks</small>	
Co-Curricular Activities	\$100,908
<small>Athletics</small>	
<small>Coaches' salaries and retirement and social security benefits (45 contracts):</small>	
Basketball (1/2 season)	\$11,540
Wrestling (1/2 season)	947
Baseball	6,550
Track	14,738
Golf	3,581
Tennis	2,762
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$40,118
Supplies and Officials	\$6,830
Transportation	\$5,000
Field Trips	\$7,500
<small>Includes gas, drivers, and chaperones</small>	
Extended Contract Days (22 contracts)	\$19,089
<small>All benefits including insurance beyond 190 normal days for certificated employees. Includes agriculture teachers, librarians, alternative school teacher, art teachers, home ec. teachers, music teachers, shop teachers and counselors.</small>	
Annual Extra Duty Contracts	\$22,371
<small>Includes all extra duty contracts, except coaches. 34 contracts cut in half. Also includes \$5,282 for Talented and Gifted Program supplies.</small>	
Aides	\$26,822
<small>Aides who are monitoring students under principal supervision (library aides, Columbia Jr. High P.E. aides, and Education Resource Center aides for teachers covering two schools are not scheduled to be cut.</small>	
Office Aides	\$7,562
<small>Includes 1 fulltime aide, 1 halftime aide, and 1 two hour per day aide</small>	
Instructional Aides	\$19,260
Elementary Art	\$11,247
<small>Includes 1 full time equivalent employee</small>	
Elementary Music	\$46,199
<small>Includes 3 4/7 full time equivalent employees</small>	
Certificated Media Specialists	\$65,449
<small>Six full time employees. If employees are laid off, libraries will be staffed by aides under principal's supervision</small>	
Counselors	\$43,632
<small>Four employees: one elementary, one junior high, and two high school</small>	

FILTERS

We Got'um!!

★Tractor ★Truck
★Oil ★Air ★Fuels
Cab Filters

HYDRAULIC HOSES made to order

Heppner Auto Parts
676-9123 148 E. Center

Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital reports admitting Elizabeth Daggett, Heppner, December 13. She was still receiving care at the hospital Tuesday.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

December 10 - 16				
	High	Low	Rain	Snow
Tues.	34	13	0	2"
Wed.	26	14	0	1 3/4"
Thurs.	27	21	.03	1/4"
Fri.	34	24	.02	1 1/2"
Sat.	43	25	.17	1"
Sun.	47	19	0	1"
Mon.	28	21	0	1"

Births

Eric Alan Hedlund - a son, Eric, was born at Ashland Hospital December 11 to Cathy and Gene Hedlund of Ashland. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz.

Grandparents are Roger and Shirley Palmer, Heppner and Gene Hedlund Sr., Medford.

Eric joins brother Jeffrey and sister Karen at home.

Kristina Noel Sweeney - a daughter, Kristina was born to Brenda and Gregory Sweeney of Heppner, December 4 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 5 1/2 oz.

Grandparents are Pat and Billy Joe McMinn, Heppner and Jerry Sweeney, White City. Great grandparents are Dick and Verna Copeland, Portland and Sterling Wham, Beaverton.

Justice Court

Morrow County Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Michael Reese VanArsdale, Heppner - Operating an Off Road Vehicle on a Public Highway, \$17 fine.

Lester Charles Harmon, Hermiston - Violation of Co-operative: Travel Management Area (Driver), \$36 fine.

Kenley Jason Ward, Pilot Rock - Attempting to Elude a Police Officer, \$855 fine and 90 day driver license suspension, with 60 days in jail suspended.

Clint Robert Timmons, Heppner - Suspended Operator's License, \$292 fine.

Dennis Warren, Heppner - Furnishing Alcohol to Minors, \$387 fine with 30 days in jail suspended on conditions set by the Court.

Merlyn Eugene Stone, Hardman - Recklessly Endangering, 60 days in jail suspended on conditions set by Court and one year probation.

John Martin, Heppner - Minor in Possession, \$57 fine; Furnishing Alcohol to Minors, \$387 fine with 30 days in jail suspended on conditions set by the Court.

SPEND YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH THE ELKS

Sat., Dec. 20
TOM & JERRY PARTY
6:30 p.m.
Live Music

Sat., Dec. 27
VanMarter Reception 7 p.m.
Live Music 9-2 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
CRAB FEED
Shuttle Car to and from Club
Advanced Tickets \$12.50 (At Club or From Officers)
\$15.00 at the Door

Jan 16 - A Night at the Horseraces!
Heppner Elks 358
"Where friends meet" 142 N Main 676-9181

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Charlie's Pizza & Video World

A Gift Certificate for any large pizza packaged with 3 dozen Christmas cookies for just \$15.00 (Please give us 24 hours notice)

Barnett, Dennis & Moro
Certified Public Accountants

Auditing
Accounting
Estate Planning
Financial Planning
Income Taxes
Management Consulting

New accounts especially welcome.
Heppner appointments Tuesdays and Thursdays.
No charge for initial visit.

269 N. Main Heppner 676-9144
495 E. Main Hermiston 567-5215