

# G-T azette Times

VOL 105 NO. 6 Wednesday, February 11, 1987 Heppner, Oregon 25¢ 10 Pages



The Morrow County Budget committee scrutinized departmental budgets Tuesday at the Pettyjohn Building conference hall.

From left: Judge Louis Carlson, Commissioner Irv Rauch, budget committee member Bob Rietmann and Elden Padberg, Commissioner Jerry Peck, Budget Committee chairman Matt Doherty, Budget Officer LoRayne Bowman, and County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth (with back to camera).

## County works to hold down budget

Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson last Friday morning reminded the county budget committee that it is their duty to scrutinize individual budgets to make certain that expen-

ditures and revenues are presented in realistic terms of the taxpayers ability to pay as well as providing necessary funds to carry on the business of the county without undue fiscal restraints.

"It is equally important that you are convinced the projected revenues are realistic and will in all probability be forthcoming," he said.

He told the budget committee to keep in mind the direction taxpayers said they expect: 1) equality of services to all communities based on need, 2) a no-increase budget, if possible, 3) streamlined government when feasible.

"This year's budget reflects a reduction from last year in the amount of \$634,401 provided the budget committee can trim \$8,153 from this document," the judge said.

The reason for this reduction, he continued, is the desire of the Court to stay within the Tax Rate Limitation. This Tax Rate Limitation is based upon legislation enacted

by the Oregon Legislature in 1983 and provides that the tax rate shall be no higher than the highest of the last five years. In the case of Morrow County, that year was 1981-82, when the rate was \$4.39 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. "The county assessor estimates that this year's valuation will be down to \$830 million from last year's \$878 million. The Court has determined to stay within the \$4.39 limitation," Carlson said.

The county is looking at a one-year tax levy of \$3,099,311 in the March 31 election. That would be combined with its tax base of \$553,320. A tax base can be collected each year without voter approval but a levy must be approved by voters.

The total budget is expected to be about \$7.9 million compared to a figure of about \$8.5 million before preliminary cuts were made.

"If the budget committee finds that it should not stay within the Tax Rate Limitation, the budget will be submitted to the public in this form one time only," Judge Carlson said. "If the budget is turned down by the voters, there will be no recourse but to submit the budget thereafter in the form of a serial levy in multiple years in equal proportion," he said. If the budget stays within the Tax Rate Limitation, the budget may be submitted to voters as many times as necessary for approval.

The budget committee expected to wind up its meetings Tuesday afternoon.

The March 31 vote will not involve tax monies for Lifeguard Medical Transport. A serial levy for \$28,143 already has been approved by Morrow County for Lifeguard.

## Oregon's governor plans Heppner visit

Governor Neil Goldschmidt will be at an open house at Heppner City Hall from 9-10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20. The open house will commemorate the February 9, 100th anniversary of Heppner's incorporation.



Neil Goldschmidt

## Weather Report

February 2 - 10  
High Low Rain

|       |    |    |     |
|-------|----|----|-----|
| Wed   | 52 | 29 |     |
| Thurs | 45 | 29 |     |
| Fri   | 47 | 27 |     |
| Sat   | 47 | 28 | Fog |
| Sun   | 40 | 32 | Fog |
| Mon   | 40 | 31 | Fog |
| Tues  | 37 | 30 | Fog |

## Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, February 10  
Soft White

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Feb                        | \$3.15               |
| March                      | \$3.16               |
| April                      | \$3.15               |
| May                        | \$3.07/\$3.01/\$2.98 |
| June                       | \$2.93/\$2.90/\$2.87 |
| New Crop July              | \$2.83               |
| New Crop, August           | \$2.81               |
| Barley                     |                      |
| Feb                        | \$90                 |
| March                      | \$89                 |
| New crop                   | \$72.                |
| Hard Red Winter Ordinaries | \$3.00               |
| PIK                        |                      |
| Cash                       | 106%                 |

## Council reverses decision upheld for four years

# Cemetery hill landowners to get city water

**By Avon Melby**  
In a quick one-two-three action last week Heppner City Council solved the long drawn-out problem of allowing city water service on the hill above Heppner cemetery.

A request for water service to the proposed Willow Lake Park near the dam was made by John Edwards of the park board. The same request had been tabled by the council last month. But Edwards said the board was soon to meet with state officials in an attempt to obtain a grant, and it was felt their success might be more likely if the approval of the city

had been received so there would be no question about eventual water supply to the area beside the dam. The land is owned by the Corps of Engineers. Water service is now supplied to the office building used by the Corps and an addition could be made to this line.

Bob Ployhar, councilman, said he thought the city had been denying these requests long enough and was getting nowhere. "I'm at the point where I feel we should just grant these requests," he said.

Ployhar stated the motion and the council approved the request.

Ken Key, who was in the audience, asked that he be granted water on his land across the road from the Corps office. He went over the many requests he had made to the city, saying he had asked to be annexed, and that he had approval of the county for meeting all requirements to locate in the urban growth boundary of the city. He has a small mobile home on the land. His application was granted.

Bobby Angell, who originally owned the Key property, and still owns 13 acres there, asked for water service because she wants to live on

the land. She is the first one who asked for service there more than four years ago.

Her application was also granted. Both Key and Angell said they would annex to the city and would eventually want sewer service. (See related story).

Councilman Doug Lowe said he had talked to Kit George, chairman of the cemetery board, and had been told the cemetery board would have no objections to annexing to the city, if the city asked it to. It is necessary to annex the cemetery in order for the adjacent land, of Key and Angell to be annexed.

## Heppner to vote on hotel renovation

**By Avon Melby**  
Heppner residents will vote on a charter amendment to allow the city to sponsor remodeling Heppner Hotel into a senior citizen housing center, probably at the March 31 election.

After expressing objections for the past two months, the council unanimously adopted the measure at a meeting last Tuesday. "We obtained what we wanted," said Councilman Doug Lowe, "a vote will show if the people are behind us."

A grant for \$500,000 has been obtained by the city for the project. An additional \$380,000 is needed but council members were hesitant about signing to place the city in debt for that amount without a vote.

Last week it said the outcome would depend on changing the charter, which is necessary before the loan can be made. The Bank of Eastern Oregon has indicated a 20-year loan at six percent interest may be available if the charter change is approved.

Tax Counsel Harvey Rogers, Portland, will have to research present total debt of the city and sign to authorize the loan. If that authorization is received in time the vote will be in March.

There was a standing-room-only crowd at city hall, with many expressing interest in gaining approval of the council for completion of the hotel project. Hotel owner Arnie Hedman reminded the council that the Odd Fellows Lodge had donated \$30,000 for the project. Linda Gehrke, secretary-treasurer of Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce read an endorsement from that group and others spoke in favor.

City Attorney Bill Kuhn said it was possible the hotel could be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of 1987.

Plans are progressing on the Heppner St. Patrick's Day celebration Dave Sykes told the council. He asked that the city become the official sponsor for the event. Bob Kahl, of the St. Patrick's Day com-

mittee whose company also carries the insurance for the city, explained that it was necessary to have a liability policy in effect for the event. This can be added to the city policy. The request was granted.

New Council member Wilbur Jackson took part in the meeting. He

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## Win \$100 gift certificate

How well do you know your home town? For the next five weeks you will be able to find out, and maybe win some prizes too.

Look inside this week's issue for details on the "Re-discover Your Hometown" contest, sponsored by local businesses who would like you to become better acquainted with the stores and businesses in our area.

Each week photos of the inside of four local businesses will be printed

in the paper. If you can correctly match the photos with the list of business at the bottom, and you are the first correct entry drawn, you will win \$100 in gift certificates from local stores.

See inside for a complete set of rules, your first set of pictures and where you can enter this week. Then test your knowledge, and re-discover your hometown.

## School budget up 16%

Next year's proposed school budget will require \$845,415 more tax money than this year, the budget committee was told this week.

The increase, if approved, would raise tax rates by \$1.30 per thousand in the county.

The proposed budget would require voter approval of a \$5,986,058 one-year operating levy for next year. This year's operating levy is \$5,140,643. Not requiring voter approval, \$366,736 serial levy, and a \$884,898 tax base will be included in the district's total tax asking.

"Tax rate computations are based on a higher, but still conservative valuation than we were using at this

time last year," McCaslin said. "The assessor is using an \$830 million figure for next year rather than \$878 million for this year. His reasoning is based on "potential devaluations in the north county area."

"Using the \$830 figure, the tax rate to raise the entire levy amount calculates to be \$8.72. Adding 59% the tax rate for our debt payment plus uncollected taxes—\$487,488—makes a total tax rate of \$9.31 for next year, an increase of \$1.30 over this year's \$8.01 rate," the superintendent said.

"We have attempted to squeeze everything possible from the budget based on the all too recent experience with voter approvals to balance this year's budget. Our major premise has been and is that we can take very little risk of levy failure."

"As you may recall, we are allowed only one vote—one request—to exceed the "net tax rate" limitation. Failing once means that we are in another mess in not only determining how much can be levied legally but also actually getting voter approval of enough money to operate at or near present levels," he said.

The budget committee will consider next year's budget at the following meetings:

February 23-7:30 p.m. at Riverside High School; and  
March 2-7:30 p.m. at Lexington District Office.

## Grain Growers sponsor free breakfast

The Morrow County Grain Growers will hold its annual customer appreciation day this Saturday, Feb. 24.

The day will start off with the customary free pancake breakfast starting at 8 a.m. and last until noon.

You can also enter to win one of the many door prizes including: a Homelite chain saw with case, tool chest, space heater, case of oil, coffee urn and toy tractor.

After breakfast you will be able to visit with factory representatives from Century welding, Calkins,

Leaky Pipe, Key Industry, Cenex Seed, DuPont, Monsanto, Mobay, Case-IH and others.

There will also be demonstrations during the day by the Morrow County Extension Service and the Oregon Wheat League.

## St. Patrick's Day photos needed

The Gazette-Times is looking for pictures of St. Patrick's day from previous years. The pictures will be copied and used for promotion of the event, and will be returned to owners unaltered. If you have photos

A photographer will also be on hand to take family photos.

The following week, on Saturday, Feb. 21 there will be an open house at the M.C.G.G. Wasco parts house from 8 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome to attend both open houses.

(negatives preferred) that you could loan please contact David Sykes at the Gazette-Times very soon, as St. Patrick's Day is approaching rapidly.



## Open house planned

Museum Curator Johanne Wood reminds everyone to come to the Saturday open house at the museum. Paintings by local artists including this one by Cork Norene will be on display.