

The Heppner

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Many questions still unanswered following meeting with French

Representative Ray French and local hunters locked horns Saturday over a game management bill, and when it was over many questions were still unanswered.

French says the bill is not intended to cut off the general public from deer and elk hunting, and would actually increase the amount of game available.

Local hunters aren't so sure, however, and many said the proposed legislation would cause an increase in fee hunting in the county and make hunting available only for the wealthy.

The hunters are concerned that most of the private land, and some of the public land, would be closed off to the general public, and reserved for fee hunting.

French said the bill, which in effect will allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue wildlife management licenses to private landowners, is not designed to exclude the public from hunting, but instead will increase wildlife herds.

Some hunters said they realize a private land owner has every right to close off his property to the public, but, they feel the game on the private lands belongs to the public-not the landowner.

French stated that fee hunting is already practiced on many private lands, and that when ranchers and farmers establish fee hunting "they are not selling the animals, they are selling access."



Representative Ray French (right) speaks to group of hunters in Heppner Saturday. Left is Dean Robertson who presented French with petition bearing 415 signatures in opposition to hunting legislation.

Hunters also fear that private landowners will close off roads that access public lands, thus keeping hunters from reaching public lands.

They also feel that in areas where public land is adjacent to private, but not separated by a fence, ranchers would charge the public to hunt on public lands.

Game migrate during the year, and hunters say animals that feed on public lands may move to private lands during hunting season, thus providing the private landowner profit.

"Game ranch owners can control where game are," said Clackamas County Representative Larry Sowa, who is in opposition to the bill. "You can't guarantee a game rancher will only have game on his property that he fed during the year. Deer flock to private land during hunting season," he said.

"How can anyone take something public and make a profit on it," said Dean Robinson of Heppner, a vocal opponent of the legislation.

From the private landowners' point of view, questions were asked

Three measures appear on Tuesday's ballot

Two statewide measures and one local measure will appear on next Tuesday's ballot.

State measure No. 1 asks voters if state officials should continue challenges to federal selection of high-level nuclear waste dumps in Oregon. Measure No. 2 would authorize school districts that are unable to pass a budget by September to levy taxes equal to the last amount approved by voters. This "safety net" measure would prevent school closures, its supporters say.

Locally, the school district is asking approval of \$5,870,917 one-year operating levy.

With the levy, property taxes will increase \$558,127 (7.3%) over last year to \$7,609,999. A three-year serial levy of \$366,736 per year (approved last year), the district's bonded debt payment, and tax base, \$884,898 also are included in the district's total tax asking, but do not appear on the ballot because the amounts have already been approved.

A tax base automatically increases 6% each year; a serial levy stays the same. This year's budget includes the final payment for the November, 1975 bond issue and a scheduled payment on the July 1978 bond issue.

The school district's general fund budget, \$9,635,749 is \$615,239 more than last year's budget of \$9,020,510.

The estimated tax rate necessary

to collect the needed property taxes is expected to be \$9.16 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Budget information handouts are available at the district office and at each school building.

Specific questions about the budget may be addressed to McCaslin at the district office, school board members or budget information chairpersons Karen Pettigrew and George Koffler.

City planners to attend council meetings

By Avon Melby

Failure of the city council to approve the city planning commission's recommendation to change zoning to allow county use of the old dental building was subject for discussion at Monday night's planning commission meeting.

"I don't think they (council members) understand they have

delegated planning to the planning commission," City Attorney Bill Kuhn said. He mentioned that there were several new members on the council, and said he would try to arrange time for them to "become better educated on what the planning commission does."

Several planners expressed fear the county might change its plan to make all the improvements in that area because of the lack of adoption of an ordinance allowing the juvenile department and justice court to operate in that residential R-1 zone. The mental health office, also located in the building now, is covered through the previous condi-

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Motorcycles—lots of them—swing through Heppner

Dave Zimmerman and his friend Esther Thacker both of Yakima take a break at the checkpoint outside Heppner during Saturday's Motorcycle run.

The run started in Beaverton, came up the Columbia Gorge, through Heppner to Fossil and back to Portland.

Zimmerman says he goes on quite a few of the runs, and enjoys the excitement of seeing new country. He retired from Boeing Aircraft Co. and Esther is retired office manager of a nursing home in Yakima.

Zimmerman's bike, a Honda Aspercade, is equipped with CB radio, tape deck and other options. It cost about \$11,000 he said.

Zimmerman was born in Grass Valley, but he said it has been a long time since he was in this area. Thacker also owns her own bike, a Honda Silverwing. This is the first time she has ridden as a passenger, she said.

The run was organized by the Rose City Motorcycle Club of Portland, and is a timed event with prizes and awards.

The bikers started at Beaverton Honda about 4:30 a.m. Saturday and left at 10 second intervals. There were a total of 712 bikes which came through Heppner on Saturday. Chamber of Commerce Manager Claudia Hughes and Heppner Mayor Cara Costa were at the Heppner checkpoint handing out a packet of Heppner and Morrow County brochures and welcoming each rider who came through.

Officials of the run take the average time and average miles on the run and those coming closest to a pre-determined time and mileage will win. "If you go too fast, you will lose. If you go to slow you will lose," said one run official punching check-in cards at the Heppner checkpoint, "so it is not really a race."

The run is an annual event, and last year the club went through McKenzie Pass. "It was snowing, so this is much, much better," said one rider standing in front of the Bank of Eastern Oregon eyeing a thermometer which read 85 degrees. He said about half the riders dropped out last year because of the bad weather.



Craig Berleman (left) and Leyton Jump, M.D. from Tenino, Washington were some of the motorcyclists who came through Heppner Saturday during the annual Rose City Motorcycle run. Berleman and Dr. Leyton left Portland about 5 a.m. They are riding on Dr. Leyton's Kawasaki 1300 with a sidecar attached.

Pancake booth said successful

Heppner Masons served 210 people at an all day pancake feed last Saturday.

"It was a very good turn out," a spokesperson said. Quite a few bikers coming through town as part of the Rose City Motorcycle Club's 500-mile Road Rallye stopped for a meal. Many said they didn't expect such a friendly welcome; some said they had never been through Heppner before but would come back again later.

One person left an extra donation when he learned proceeds from the breakfast would benefit special education, the spokesperson said.

Heppner man killed in Saturday crash

Sam Worley, 31, Heppner, was killed Saturday evening when he was thrown from his pickup on Willow Creek Hwy. six miles from Heppner.

Worley was headed toward his home at Blake Ranch when his pickup skidded and rolled in the gravel on the right shoulder of a left curve. There are indications that he was driving at an excessive speed, Oregon State Police Trooper Carl Martin said. He was apparently headed up the slight hill and instead of going left, around the curve, the vehicle went straight. It appears he tried to get back on the road and that's when the vehicle skidded. He was apparently thrown from the pickup when it rolled twice on the gravel shoulder. The vehicle rolled

maybe two or three more times and as it went down a 20' bank before coming to rest in Willow Creek, Martin continued.

There were no passengers or immediate eye-witnesses, he said, but a driver who met the car moments before the accident turned around when he saw the dust and another

driver arrived at the accident site about the same time.

Results of a blood test were not known, Monday, he said, but reports said Worley had been drinking earlier in the day.

Worley worked at the Heppner Bowl where he was instrumental in organizing a Junior Bowling league.



Wrecked pickup ready to be towed away



Dave Zimmerman and Esther Thacker

Loss of revenue sharing sparks motorcycle course selection

After reading an article in a February issue of the Portland Oregonian about Fossil's loss of federal revenue sharing, I called Mayor Buck Leckie and told him we were going to come to his town, Rose City Motorcycle Club's Road Captain Dale Allin said.

Although \$4800 federal revenue sharing may not seem like much to a city the size of Portland, it can make a real dent in some smaller town's budgets.

The motorcycle club's road rallye is a revenue producer for the towns along the route because bikers are encouraged to stop for two meals

and to rest. "We don't tell them where to stop," he said, except at the checkpoints where they get directions to the next stop. When they begin the course, riders know only that they will begin and end at Beaverton Honda and drive 500 miles in between.

Normally we select a course with hills and curves that avoids freeways, Allin said. We strive to show the participants some of the country they may not have seen before as well as a challenging drive.