

Judge answers questions on proposed tax base



Judge Louis Carlson explains the proposed tax base for Morrow County.

(Editor's note: on the November 8 ballot voters will see a new tax base measure for Morrow County. Following are questions and answers with County Judge Louis Carlson about the proposed tax base.)

Q. Judge Carlson, Morrow County is asking the voters to pass a measure on the November 8 ballot that deals with a new tax base. First of all, what is a tax base?

A. When we refer to a tax base, we mean a levy that reflects that amount of tax dollars established by voter approval that can be levied in the ensuing years without going to the voters.

Q. Doesn't Morrow County already have a tax base?

A. Yes, as established prior to 1952. It amounts to 5.88% of our total budget or \$586,519.

Q. If the tax base measure passes, will it mean increased taxes?

A. Not necessarily. As a matter of fact, the budget committee and the County Court anticipate the ability to do a better job of holding the line on increased spending.

Q. What is a 6% limitation? Does this mean that you are bound by law to a 6% limit on the total budget?

A. The 6% limit applies to the levy. Article XI section 11 of the Oregon Constitution limits the increase in the tax base to 6% a year. In addition, if a taxing unit exceeds the 6% limitation by a one-year special levy for two out of the past three years, the taxing unit must ask the voters for a new tax base.

Q. Judge, why is a new tax base desirable?

A. At the present time, the county must ask the voters each year for approval of a one-year special levy outside the present tax base. With this hand-to-mouth approach to financing, such services as roads, extension, hospital and other health services, senior center, and police protection, long range planning is limited and capital purchases cannot

be made at the most opportune times. In addition, the new tax base would allow an even playing field for labor negotiations where labor and management would know the boundaries of wages and benefits.

Q. Most of us have homes and businesses that we pay taxes on. How are the taxes in Morrow County divided up?

A. All property owners pay taxes in Morrow County. The divisions are: utilities, which pay 63.17% of the total levy; farms pay 15.90%; industry pays 7.81%; residential owners pay 9.17%; commercial pays 2.97%; and other, (timber and recreation) pays 0.95%. What this means is that the average residential owner and farmer are currently paying about 25% of the taxes levied in Morrow County.

Q. What will happen if the new tax base is approved by the voters?

A. The County Court plans to levy only the amount approved by the Budget Committee. This amount may very well be less than the new tax base.

Q. Why was the figure of \$4,875,925 decided upon for the new tax base?

A. The Budget Committee determined that this is the amount required to fund and maintain county services. This tax base, if approved would be the tax base for fiscal year 1989-90.

Q. Again, will this new tax base mean additional taxes beyond what we normally would expect?

A. The answer is, "no". On the contrary, we anticipate that the increase per year will be less because of better planning, better buying, better negotiations with labor and we feel that it will provide us with a solid financial base from which to operate. I have tried to present you with the facts and now it will be up to the voters to decide whether they wish to approve or disapprove this measure.

Elks make donation to scouts



(L) Exalted ruler, Dean Robinson presents a check to Glen Ward in behalf of the Heppner Elks Lodge. Glen received the check in the amount of \$171 for the Heppner-lone Cub Scouts. The Cub Master is Jeff Wallace and the money will be put into the scout library for various scouting activities. "We greatly appreciate the lodge's sponsorship of this worthwhile youth activity and thank them for their contribution to scouting," said Wallace.

Radio, newspaper columnist to speak

Russel Sadler, political commentator and syndicated radio and newspaper columnist, will be the featured speaker at the Morrow County Grain Growers annual meeting Monday, Nov. 7. Sadler will discuss the political scene in Salem.

Dinner will begin at 6:30 for the annual meeting, which will also include election of officers and the report of financial condition of the co-op.

In the election of directors six people are running for four positions.

Osmin earns CBC Defensive player of the week

By Craig Angell
Senior Jess Osmin earned CBC Player of the Week against the

Umatilla Vikings. Osmin had a total of 23 defensive points against the Vikings, including seven assisted tackles, one unassisted tackle, one fumble recovery and one interception which he ran back 57 yards for the game winning touchdown. Osmin also assisted on two quarterback sacks. The Mustangs beat the Vikings 20 to 6. Osmin plays noseguard on defense and starts center on offense. Osmin is the third player for the Mustangs to earn CBC player of the week.

The annual meeting will be held at the fairgrounds pavilion in Heppner, and free babysitting will be available in the dormitory next to the pavilion for those with young children.

Brownfield is guest of Topic club

Carrie Brownfield reported to the Topic Club on her trip to the Philippines with the Liberty Religion Outreach team in June. She went by way of Seattle, Korea and Manila to the village of Dumauet City and spent one month meeting with people in that area. Some of her observations included: there is no middle class, just rich and poor; seafood and rice are the staple foods; the people are naturally shy but are willing to talk on most any subject when they become comfortable with others; the monsoon season is one of constant rain but not as hot as the summer; the city of Dumauet was about the size of Pendleton but with twice the population; the children attend ten years of school before going on to higher education. Although she learned a lot and felt good about her experience, she was happy to return to the familiar life at home.

Margaret Morgan and Loree Hubbard were hostesses for the day. Plans were made for the fall money-maker. This will be a raffle of the Rand McNally book "Illustrated Atlas of the World" 1988 edition and a 2' lighted ceramic Christmas tree made by Rose Baker. These will be on display in the Bank of Eastern Oregon in lone with drawing to be held December 14.

NOTICE

Port of Morrow
There will be a regular Port of Morrow Commission meeting on November 9, 3 p.m., Port of Morrow Office.



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Lordy, Barb's
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100% Cotton Brown Duck. Nylon lining, 1-8" foam innerlining. Storm cuffs. Available with leg zipper. TOUGH as any WORK.

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UNLINED COVERALL

• 100% Cotton-deep blue and white stripes
• Triple stitch seams
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For Farming, Industrial, Sporting or Just Plain Warm Feet, We Have LaCrosse Weatherproof Footwear for You.

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Lined Western Jacket

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• Lined with 100% nylon shell and polyfoam
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\$48⁵⁰

\$22⁵⁰
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Morrow County Grain Growers

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