

County speaks on Ballot Measure 5

(Editor's note: The following discussion concerning Ballot Measure 5 was held in the office of the Morrow County Judge and submitted to the Gazette-Times.)

Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson: What is Measure 5? Measure 5 simply puts a cap on the tax rate in the amount of \$10 for cities, counties and other districts. It also puts a \$5 cap on school districts, community colleges, and, if we were in an educational service district, it would also be included.

Judge-Q: If it places a cap on tax rates in schools and other taxing districts, won't it lower my tax bill?

Greg Sweek, county assessor-A: Yes, in the cities and in the rural areas as well. As an example, Heppner's tax rate today is \$31.95 per \$1,000 valuation. Ione has a tax rate of \$24.95 per \$1,000 valuation. In Heppner's case, at the end of the first year, the tax rate for schools and non-schools would have to be reduced to \$25 per \$1,000 valuation, plus bonded indebtedness. Ione's tax rate would not be affected in the first year because it is below the \$25 per \$1,000 valuation plus existing bond indebtedness. But, in both cases, the rate would be \$15 per \$1,000 valuation by the fifth year. (Rural taxes may increase because land taxes will be based upon full market value rather than farm deferred value, but may eventually be reduced by the fifth year.)

Judge-Q: If my taxes are going to be reduced by such a large amount, will the state general fund pick up the difference?

Sweek-A: In the case of the Morrow County Schools, the answer is

"maybe"...one of the components of Measure 5 says that the state will pick up the difference on the school portion, but reimbursements are based on a state-wide loss rather than on a local school district loss. In other words, Morrow County Schools could receive less funding depending upon how the legislative body determines the community's ability to fund schools properly. At this point, it is purely speculative.

Judge-Q: You said that the state is required to reimburse school district funding but what about non-school funding such as cities, counties, fire districts, and park districts?

Sweek-A: No, the state is not going to make up the difference in those lost revenues.

Judge-Q: If the state does not make up the difference doesn't this mean that there will be some loss of services that we previously have had in these areas?

Sweek-A: Probably...It is inevitable that without funding from other sources than taxes, there simply will not be any way possible to carry out those functions that counties, cities, and other districts have been providing.

Judge-Q: If Measure 5 passes does it mean that the city police force will be cut, and, if so, will the county sheriff's department be able to pick up that service?

Sweek-A: Most cities in Morrow County have already indicated that they will probably have to cut back in expenditures in police protection. Whether the sheriff will be able to pick up the additional responsibility is questionable because of the budget reduction that the county will also be

facing.

Judge-Q: Greg, do you feel that this measure is one that should be endorsed by the citizens of this state and particularly the citizens of Morrow County?

Sweek-A: No, first of all, the way that the bill is structured, it takes away the option that the taxpayers have to fund projects that they are willing to pay for. The citizens do not have the ability to override the cap. Secondly, as the state picks up the majority of funding for the schools, I can see that there will be a loss of control as to how those schools will operate. Thirdly, for the local districts, and especially the county, I see that we will have a giant loss of state revenues, which previously have funded such things as mental health, juvenile services, special transportation funds for our seniors and grants that provide for low income and disadvantaged people in Morrow County. In my opinion, it's a bad measure and should be defeated.

Missionary to speak at Baptist Church in Lexington

Lexington Baptist Church will have a missionary potluck dinner on Thursday November 8 at 6 p.m.

Dave Johnson, former high school science teacher from Grass Valley and his wife, Clarice, are now appointees with the Conservative Bap-

38th Harvest Festival Nov. 4

The 38th annual Harvest Festival Dinner put on by the Heppner First Christian Church members will be held Sunday, November 4 with dinner at 6 p.m. The menu will feature turkey, dressing, roast beef, and mashed potatoes and gravy with the rest of the meal potluck furnished by the church ladies. The speaker will be Harry Orn from Salem. The purpose of the harvest festival is to set church goals for the coming year. The public is invited to attend.

McNary featured artist at art show

Shirley McNary, Ione, was one of the artists featured in the Annual Regional Juried Art Show at Carnegie Art Center, Walla Walla. The exhibit, co-sponsored by Baker Boyer Bank, continues through November 10. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11-4:30 p.m.

Heppner High Drama Club to present one-act plays

Heppner High School Drama Club will be presenting three one-act plays in the cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. November 17 and 18. The cast includes Laurel Webber-Gray, Missy Wallace, Jeanie Michael, Kathy Anderson, Aleida Goodyear, and Rachel Hoobing.

The first play to be presented is 'The Princess Who Would Not Marry'. Princess Chloe is now old

enough to marry any prince brave enough and lucky enough to slay the dragon. At least that's the tradition, but Princess Chloe has ideas of her own. She refuses to marry anyone but her own choice, and at present, she hasn't any.

Next on the evening's agenda is 'Beyond the Door', a play about a murderer who, while fleeing from the police, wanders into an old house inhabited by two spinsters. They'll protect him if he will consent to marry their younger sister, Lucy, who is waiting for him just beyond that locked door.

In the last play of the evening, 'The Lady Lingers', Granny Smith, who has fought a weak heart and death for years using her strength and love for others to keep her alive, is visited again by death while her daughter-in-law is having a baby. Granny pleads to be left alone to enjoy her grandchild. When the baby, Mary, is born, it can hardly breathe. Granny realizes death is really meaning to take the child. She must make an agonizing decision between the life she loves and the life of her grandchild.

St. Patrick's Committee thinking green

Heppner's St. Patrick's committee has started "thinking green" months in advance of the annual celebration to make sure the annual 'Wee Bit O' Ireland in Oregon' goes off without a hitch. The committee met last Wednesday to go over the agenda and make plans for new and improved events with more action taking place on Sunday.

An organization is invited to run the auction for 25% of the proceeds. Pat Sweeney is retiring from auction chairman after some very successful auctions. Soroptimists are currently holding an in club contest to see which team can bring in the most auction items. The committee felt a group would reach a greater number of people and could utilize some of the proceeds. Groups interested should contact Claudia Hughes, 676-9663 or Diana Ball 676-5306 before Nov. 14 if they are interested. This is a great opportunity for non-profit organizations to earn money, have fun and contribute to a successful St. Patrick's weekend. By the way, it's not too early for auction donations.

A craft fair is in the works, which would be run similar to the annual Christmas Artfair. A search is on for additional Celtic music and the committee would welcome information on sources. There is talk of getting more sheep involved in creative ways...sheep style show, sheep drive, sheep bingo. Also needed are more children's activities. New this year will be the Lamb Cook-off.

Everyone is welcome to attend the planning meetings and become involved in Heppner's 1991 St. Patrick's celebration. The next meeting will be November 14 at 7 p.m. in the conference room at Fabric's Etc./Shoe Box. The more leprechauns the merrier.

Boardman man arrested on drug manufacturing charges

Because of two alert parole and probation officers a Morrow County man is in jail on drug manufacturing charges. According to the Sheriff's Department, the two officers were visiting a client when they noticed he was unusually nervous. They then observed what appeared to be some type of lab in the back of the client's shop. One of the officers contacted the Morrow County Sheriff's Office by radio and requested immediate assistance. The Sheriff's Office dispatched deputies, The Boardman City Police and the Oregon State Police to the residence.

Arrested at the scene was Michael Robert Nelson, 32, of Rt 1 Box 49-B, Boardman. The Oregon State Crime Lab from Pendleton was re-

quested to respond to take care of the lab. That's when it was discovered that the lab was not a methamphetamine lab as suspected, but was an ephedrine lab. This is the first such lab in this area, according to the crime lab personnel.

Several ounces of suspected crack cocaine and chemicals were seized at the residence. Nelson was lodged in the Benton County, Washington, jail on one count of possession of a controlled substance, one count of delivery of a controlled substance, one count of manufacturing a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy to manufacture a controlled substance and parole violation. Bail is \$40,000 on the drug charges and no bail on the parole violation charge.

Nelson is on probation for drug charges stemming from a search warrant served on his residence July 5, 1989. He pled guilty to the drug charges and had received probation. The investigation is continuing and additional arrests are expected.

Garden Club reschedules meeting date

The regularly scheduled Garden Club meeting has been changed to November 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center due to a conflict.

Fillies defeat Wasco; advance to tournament

In Columbia Basin Conference volleyball action Tuesday night, the Heppner Fillies defeated Wasco County, 15-11, 10-15, 15-6. As a result, the Fillies ended in a three-way tie for first place with Weston-McEwen and Stanfield, all with 8-4 records. The loss dropped Wasco County to fourth place with a 7-5 mark.

Thursday afternoon in either Pendleton or Umatilla at 5 p.m. the Fillies will meet Stanfield and Weston-McEwen in a three-way tournament to determine the first place team in the CBC and the second and third place seeds in the District 7-2A tournament scheduled for Umatilla on Saturday beginning at 5 p.m.

In a new format this year, the first place team out of the CBC automatically advances to the state playoffs and will host the second place team from the Wapiti League Saturday, November 10.

The number-two team from Thursday's playoff will play Wahtonka and number three will face Wasco County. The winners of those two games will play to determine the number-two team from the CBC. That school will travel to the home site of the first place team from the Wapiti League on November 10.

Winners of the first round playoff will advance to the OSAA state playoff at the University of Portland in Portland, November 15-17.

United Methodist Church Bazaar
 Saturday,
 November 3
 10 a.m. till
 2 p.m.

- Lunch
- Gift Items
- Bake Sale
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This year the water meters will be read during the winter months, but the meters will need to be insulated. Please put the insulation material (foam pellets, rags, newspaper, etc.) in a small plastic garbage bag that can be easily removed or pushed aside. Be sure that the bag is securely tied or sealed.


If you have had frozen pipes in the past, it is advisable to let a faucet run at a fast drip during extremely cold weather. Any damages resulting from frozen water meters that have NOT been insulated will be repaired at the owner's expense.

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