

The Heppner

G-T azette Times

VOL 109 NO. 2

Wednesday, January 9, 1991

Heppner 35¢

10 Pages

County taxing districts will lose \$200,000

Combined Morrow County taxing districts excluding schools will reduce property taxes by over \$200 thousand or 36 percent as a result of cuts forced by Ballot Measure 5.

The county, however, will reduce its taxes by \$82,000 from \$4,498,046 to \$4,411,760 or only 1.8 percent in comparison to much larger percentages lost by the cities. Heppner is expected to lose \$70 to \$75 thousand out of \$211,000 or around 1/3 of its tax money; Irrigon's will be reduced by around 17 1/2 percent and Lone 19 1/2 percent. Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek explained that Heppner, for example, is located within a coded taxing district and must share the \$10 per thousand property tax assessment limit with other taxing entities within its district, such as the park district and the cemetery district. The county must compete for the \$10 limitation

within the taxing districts, such as the one which includes Heppner. In rural areas outside the districts, however, the county's property tax rate of \$5.60 per thousand falls below the \$10 per thousand property tax cap. All estimates are based on last years budgets.

While the county is being forced to reduce taxes, county employees however, will receive a 6.3 percent raise, based on the Consumer Price Index. According to Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson the county is "locked into" the raises by union contracts. Carlson says that the county may face lawsuits if union contracts are not upheld.

Monies for computer software for Pioneer Memorial Hospital will remain in the budget also, according to Carlson. He said that customer complaints about the hospital's billing system necessitate upgrading the

hospital's software (programs).

The county has also budgeted monies for its own computer system. County Commissioner Gerry Peck said that the assessment and taxation program now in effect requires changes in the county's computer system to allow the county to comply with Measure 5.

"The old (county's) software is not adequate for the requirements of Measure 5," added Carlson. "Neither is our existing hardware (computers)." Carlson said that the county has two options—to purchase new computers or to expand the memory in the county's existing computer system. Carlson said that "resource people" have indicated that the county can make do with purchasing additional software to update the existing system.

Carlson said that budget work is expected to be completed by Friday, January 11.

City budget meeting set

A budget meeting for the city of Heppner has been tentatively set for Tuesday, Jan. 29, according to city administrator Marshall Lovgren.

At the meeting budget committee members will begin deliberation of budget cuts required by the passage of Measure 5. Questionnaires sent out to city residents asking for input concerning budget cuts are due back at city hall by Jan. 18 and will be considered in the budget cutting process.

Mayor Cara Costa says that the original amount believed to have been required to cut by the city was in error. Instead of the original \$95 thousand in cuts faced by the city, the city will have \$20 to \$25 thousand more in their budget and cuts will total \$70 to \$75 thousand.

A regular city council meeting will be held Monday, January 14.

Bank of Eastern Oregon hires assistant vice-president



Rollee Marshall, formerly of the Bank of Commerce, was hired Jan. 1 by the Bank of Eastern Oregon as assistant vice president and loan officer.

Marshall, 34, who graduated from Wallowa High School in 1974, has

an associate degree in accounting from Blue Mountain Community College. After graduating he was hired by U.S. Bank in Pendleton and was employed by the bank for 10 years, working in Klamath Falls, Redmond, Gladstone and Milton-Freewater. In 1987 he went to work with the Bank of Commerce and worked there for four years.

At the Bank of Eastern Oregon Marshall will be involved in "all sorts of lending," but primarily agricultural lending, he said.

No stranger to Eastern Oregon, Marshall's parents live in Hermiston and his wife Debbie was born and raised in Wallowa where her parents still reside. The Marshalls have three children, Candis, 14, Brandi, 11 and Kristen, 8. Marshall is in the process of moving to Heppner.

Jim Wishart, formerly of the Heppner branch of the bank is now manager of the Arlington branch.

Town and Country days here again

Town and Country Days are here again, with a wine tasting event on Thursday, January 17, and meetings all day long on Friday, January 18. Town and Country Days is an annual event devoted to bringing rural and urban people together to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern. All events are held at the Elks Club in Heppner and are open to the public.

The Town and Country Days luncheon on Friday will feature a panel discussion of the impacts of Ballot Measure 5, with representatives of city, county, school district and state answering questions.

Ron Daniels, president of Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, will facilitate the discussion. Members of the panel will be Bill Kuhn (city), Louis Carlson (county), Mike Wsiaki (school), and Jim Manary (state). Manary is the deputy director of the state department of revenue.

After initial short presentations, the panel will take questions from the floor.

The Morrow County Livestock Growers are cooperating with the Wheat League this year to host Valerie Johnson, spokesperson for the Oregon Lands Coalition (OLC). The OLC is a network of 43 member organizations which are dependent on natural resources. Their goal is to "put people back into the environmental equation". Ms. Johnson will speak at 1:30 p.m. Friday, January 18, at the Elks Club in Heppner.

The Livestock Growers and the Wheat League will both meet separately at 3 p.m. following the OLC meeting.

The Soil and Water Conservation District and the Small Woodlands Owners are cooperating on a program this year as well. They have invited Tim Keith, service forester

with the Oregon Department of Forestry, to talk on forest management, and Arleigh Isley, Extension agent from Wallowa County, to discuss the forest environment. That meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, January 18, at the Elks Club.

Kirby Brumfield, noted humorist from Portland, will be the guest speaker at the banquet Friday night, with a talk entitled "What They Didn't Tell Me In Scappoose". At \$15, the banquet costs a little more this year, but the price includes two free drinks during the cocktail hour, and a prime rib dinner. Also on the agenda for the banquet is the Citizen of the Year award and the coronation of the Rodeo Queen and her

Court.

Anyone expecting to attend the dinner is encouraged to purchase their dinner tickets early. It helps avoid delays in the line at the banquet. Tickets are available in Heppner at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Peterson's Jewelry, Van Marter and Kahl Insurance, the Extension office, and in Lexington at the Morrow County Grain Growers.

"This year's Town and Country Days promised to be the best year," said a spokesperson. All meetings are open to the public. All events are discussion oriented, and every Morrow County resident is encouraged to participate.

Beef preparation part of Town and Country Week



Wayne Philen

Wayne Philen, Oregon Beef Council, will demonstrate proper beef preparation at the Town and Country Days Wine Tasting Event on Thursday, January 17, at the Elks

Club in Heppner.

As part of the annual Town and Country Days, the Wine Tasting Event is in its fifth year. Hosted by the Heppner Soroptimists, this event will feature wines of the Pacific Northwest and will begin at 5:30 p.m. There will be a \$2.50 cover charge for expenses this year. "Last year the Town and Country Committee lost \$200 on the wine tasting event," said committee member Darlene Scroggins. "This year we want to break even. That's why we are having a cover charge."

Wayne Philen will be featured at 6:30 p.m. and there will be no charge for his part of the program. He is the retail/food service program director for the Oregon Beef Council in Portland. As such he acts as liaison with state retail meat sellers, restaurants, packers and the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

The Oregon Beef Council is the promotional arm of the state's \$335 million beef cattle industry.

"Meeting Tomorrow's Challenge" Morrow County's Fifth Annual TOWN AND COUNTRY DAYS January 15-18, 1991 Heppner, Oregon

All meetings are at the Elks and are open to the public.

Tues. Jan. 15	12:00 p.m.	Heppner Chamber of Commerce Installation of Officers Lunch \$5.
Thurs. Jan. 17	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Wine Tasting Event \$2.50 Wayne Philen, Oregon Beef Council.
Fri. Jan. 18	10:00 a.m.	Small Woodlands Annual Business Meeting. S.W.C.D. Annual Business Meeting.
	10:30 a.m.	Small Woodlands and S.W.C.D. meeting with Tim Keith, Oregon Department of Forestry and Arleigh Isley, Wallowa County Extension Agent.
	12:00 p.m.	Luncheon Panel Discussion \$5. Impacts of Measure 5 on state, county, city and school budgets.
	1:30 p.m.	Valerie Johnson, Oregon Lands Coalition.
	3:00 p.m.	Livestock Growers Animal Health Meeting. Wheat Growers League Meeting.
	6:00 p.m.	Cocktails hosted.
	7:00 p.m.	Prime Rib Dinner Banquet, \$15. Kirby Brumfield, guest speaker, "What They Didn't Tell Me In Scappoose"
		Citizen of the Year Awards. Coronation of 1991 Fair and Rodeo Queen and Court.

Banquet tickets are on sale at Morrow County Grain Growers, Morrow County Extension Service, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Peterson's Jewelers and Van Marter & Kahl Insurance.

Museum schedules exhibit work

The Morrow County Museum Commission voted to close the Morrow County Museum from January 15 to February 15 for maintenance, collection conservation and exhibit updating.

Anyone wishing to make special group or individual arrangements to visit the museum during this period may do so by calling the museum at 676-5524. Please be advised that exhibit work will be in progress in most areas of the museum. The museum will reopen on its regular schedule on Saturday, February 16.

Heppner Chamber kicks off Town & Country week

Installation of 1991 Chamber of Commerce officers, the "Year in a Nutshell," goals for 1991, and presentation of the annual Hat's Off award, will be the highlights of the annual Chamber of Commerce noon luncheon, Tuesday, January 15 at the Heppner Elks. Members and guests are invited to attend the luncheon which traditionally kicks off Town and Country week," says Cliff Green, Chamber of Commerce president.

"Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges" is the theme chosen for the week and the year ahead. Board members will be meeting Saturday, January 12, to put together a plan of action and set 1991 goals for membership approval. Members are: Cliff Green, Bob Kahl, LoRayne Bowman, Meg Murray, Larry Mills, Hank Dennis, Bill Kuhn, Doug Dubuque, Doyle McCaslin and Forrie Burkenbine. Roger Williams was newly elected to the board and Harley Sager is treasurer. "They're a hard working group of volunteers, who contribute much to our community," commented Chamber manager Claudia Hughes.

Hughes says Town and Country banquet tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce office, Morrow County Grain Growers, Morrow County Extension Office and Kahl Insurance.

Lexington lighting contest winners

The Lexington Garden Bugs and the city of Lexington announce the winners of the Christmas lighting contest.

First place was awarded to Morris and Shirley McCarl. Second

place was given to John and Linda Ripple and third place was given to John and Kathy Tellechea.

"Thank you to all who decorated their homes this year," said a Garden Bugs spokesperson.

Road constructed to proposed ICABO housing development

By Anne Morter

Ione's Community and Agri Business Organization (ICABO) has been busy with the planning work on their hillside housing development for several years but just last month, an outward sign has become visible with the construction of a road up to the property. The next step will be to extend the city water system to the lower six lots this spring, making them ready for building in the very near future.

ICABO, a non-profit organization, was created in 1984 to promote the school and the community. Organizers determined that one way to attract a stable population base would be to provide much needed home sites on land outside of the flood plain but within the urban growth boundary. Looking skyward, they located 80 acres on a hillside overlooking Ione which was

generously donated to the cause by the late Slim Emmert.

The development, aptly named the Emmert Addition, will start with the sale of the lower six lots. Upper lots may be purchased immediately but the development of those lots is expected to take some additional time and effort. Lots will be a minimum of one acre and most afford an excellent view of the Willow Creek Valley and the city of Ione. Sales are being handled by ICABO members. Interested parties may contact president Joel Peterson or members Marvin Padberg or John Bristow.

Another long-standing ICABO project has been an effort to get a road built across the Bombing Range. The proposed road, which would considerably shorten the distance between Boardman and Ione and also link the north and south

ends of the county, was shelved due to political pressure. ICABO members hope to revive the effort soon.

In addition to increasing communication and interchange between the north and south ends of the county, the following arguments in favor of the road have been given:

* The shorter distance would enable law enforcement officers to get from Boardman to Ione in less than half the current time.

* The road would provide an emergency exit if something should go wrong with the nerve gas incineration project.

* School overflow from the north end of the county could be transferred to the underutilized Ione schools.

* Ione would become a convenient place for Coal Fire Plant employees to live.

IRA Annuities

Ask us for details

8.75%

BANK OF Eastern Oregon Member F.D.I.C.
Arlington • Heppner • Ione
"Your Independent Home Owned Bank"