

The Official Newspaper of the
City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Letters to the Editor

Urges yes vote for school tax base

To the Editor:

The Morrow County Budget Committee this year unanimously passed, by roll call vote, a current, up to date tax base for Morrow County Schools in the amount of \$9,086,618. Additionally, the budget committee unanimously passed, by roll call vote, a next year's levy in the exact same amount.

This tax base and levy are approximately \$11.36 per thousand for Morrow County schools. This base, together with approximately \$2 per thousand levy of Blue Mountain Community College, brings the total assessment for all schools, including Blue Mountain Community College, to approximately \$13.36 per thousand. This is \$2 under the ballot measure 5 maximum for 1991-92.

Many people in the school district, including the editor of the Columbia Valley Chronicle and the school administration, wanted the budget committee to assess the maximum allowable rate this year (13 mills for Morrow County schools) so that we could take care of a number of long range building maintenance problems and other items. Their concern was the very real assumption that this would be the last opportunity the school district would have to raise this kind of money with measure 5 restrictions in mind. These concerns are very real.

By the same token, it is a concern of those on the school budget committee to not attempt to "load up" on this one year and lose faith with our taxpayers in an attempt to obtain these additional funds.

A major and important point involved in establishing a realistic tax base for Morrow County Schools is that, in the future, replacement funds from the state will be determined by the respective tax bases of the entities (Morrow County Schools and Blue Mountain Community College) that are entitled to funding under the measure percentage limitation, which eventually drops to 5 mills.

As things presently stand, Blue Mountain Community College has a higher approved tax base than Morrow County schools and would receive more dollars than Morrow County schools. In effect more than half the taxes paid by Morrow County taxpayers, designated for education, would be paid to Blue Mountain Community College rather than be used to support Morrow County schools.

On behalf of the budget committee and myself, I urge everyone to vote in favor of a modern tax base for Morrow County schools.

(s) John Prag, chairman by dmc
Budget Committee
Morrow County School District

Heppner Police Report

The Heppner Police department reports handling the following business during the past week:

April 15: 6:17 p.m.-Assist Umatilla Tribal Police; 8:39 p.m.-Motorist Assist; 8:42 p.m.-Assist Ambulance.

April 16: 4:07 p.m.-Worthless Document Case; 4:24 p.m.-Civil Matter.

April 17: 12:37-citation issued for Violation of the Basic Rule, 41 mph in a 25 mph zone; 4:03 p.m.-Report of Theft; 5:33 p.m.-Report of Theft.

April 18: 8:30 a.m.-request of officer for Security Check; 12:21-Traffic Accident; 9:22 p.m.-report of Suspicious Vehicles.

April 19: 5:35 p.m.-Suspicious Smell; 8:41 p.m.-False Alarm.

April 20: 11:40 a.m.-Assist

Oregon State Police; 5:45 p.m.-citation issued for Excessive Tire Noise; 11:05 p.m.-request officer for Security Check.

April 21: 3:15 p.m.-Motorist Assist.

April 23: 2:17 p.m.-citation issued for Dog Complaint; 6:54 p.m.-Motorist Assist.

April 24: 8:11 p.m.-assist Hermiston Police department.

April 25: 10:27 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department; 10:37 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department.

April 27: 10:16 a.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department; 2:04-report of Vehicle Blocking Driveway; 11:26 p.m.-report of Fire.

April 28: 1:03 a.m.-citation issued for Wrong Way on a One Way; 9:25 a.m.-Deliver Emergency Message; 8:11 p.m.-Warrant Arrest; 10:19 p.m.-request officer for Security Check.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's department reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

April 23: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to Oregon Potato. One male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a citizen's complaint for careless driving;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area for a neighborhood problem. Problem was resolved.

April 24: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to Lamb Weston. One male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with unknown injuries;

Morrow County deputy made contact with a Heppner residence regarding a neighborhood disturbance.

April 25: Morrow County deputy responded to Bombing Range Road in the Boardman area to investigate a report of a motor vehicle accident with unknown injuries. Deputy was unable to locate vehicle;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area to take a report of a dog that had been killing chickens;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area for an animal problem. Deputy was unable to locate animal problem;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence on Malheur. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness.

April 26: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to the Village Inn Motel. One male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of vandalism. Investigations are continuing.

April 27: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire department to a brush fire on Cottonwood Loop;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area for a suspicious car. Problem was resolved;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire department to the Union Pacific Rail Road tracks North of Lamb Weston for a coal car on fire;

Morrow County deputy responded to a residence in Irrigon to begin an investigation on a stolen vehicle. Vehicle was recovered on April 28;

Morrow County Sheriff's deputies responded to a business in Irrigon to assist with a medical emergency until the ambulance arrived.

April 28: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence on Columbia for a one-year-old infant with an injury. No transport was made;

Morrow County Sheriff's office arrested Mark Sherill Garrett, 34, Fredericksburg, VA, on a Stafford County Sheriff's office Warrant for Probation Violation. Garrett was lodged at Benton Co. Jail.

April 29: Morrow County deputy checked on a vehicle parked at a business parking lot in Irrigon since Friday. Vehicle was secured.

During the week of April 22-29 Morrow County deputies assisted four disabled motorists.

Morrow County deputy responded to Oregon St. in Irrigon to investigate a report of a male subject shooting a pellet gun towards residences. Deputies were unable to locate subject upon arrival;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to I-84 westbound exit 123 to meet a patient. One three-year-old was transported to Mid Columbia Hospital in The Dalles with an injury.

Births

Klint Von Scherrer-a son Klint Von was born to Kevin and Trinette Scherrer of Boardman on April 15, 1991 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz.

Candice Rae Grider-a daughter Candice Rae was born to Wayne and Tina Grider of Boardman on April 20, 1991 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 3 1/2 oz.

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Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

What's your definition of rural? It never ceases to amaze me that rural to some means "an area of 500 homes" close to a city of 100,000. At least this was the description from a Californian who wanted to move to Heppner. Webster defines rural as "characteristic of the country or people living in the country. One definition of country is "regions of woods and fields as opposed to towns." Therein lies our problem. People who grew up in the city feel like they are in a rural area if there are a few clumps of trees, a small field, and no sign of skyscrapers. No wonder many of the decisions that affect our lives have no correlation with the real problems we face. They are made by people who have never been east of Hood River.

The most successful way for people to learn about our differences and likenesses is to show them. One way is to invite legislators east of the Cascades to visit, another is to hold events that bring people to Morrow County, another is to spend time communicating with them in their end of the state, and yet another is to continue participating in small scale education programs such as the opportunity to host a student from Centennial Middle School in Gresham. Sometimes this overflows to other willing host families. It's a rewarding experience...the 5th year for my family. We've had some great young people in our home, excited to learn about a different way of life, asking intelligent questions, and experiencing a week that they will remember for life. Sharing and communication, that's what it's all about, at home, in meetings, at work, in our community.

Next Chamber of Commerce meeting is May 7. The monthly business meeting will include presentation of the school budget; the Columbia Plateau Stage Race and other community business. May 14. Vision 2000 will be presented. Thought for the week: "Giving up is not giving in, nor is it failing; it is no longer needing to be right."

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Shawn Allen Gibson, 25, Heppner-Driving While Suspended, \$110 fine;

Rick Gerald Rea, 31, Heppner-Hunting Prohibited Method; turkey with shotgun capable of holding five shells, \$33 fine;

Garth Leroy Windom, 57, Bingen, Wash.-Open Container (beer) Driver, 43 fine; Drinking Alcoholic Liquor Within Four Hours of Driving, \$95 fine;

Danny R. Mosteller, 33, Lexington-No Mud Flaps, \$20 fine; Jimmy B. Matzen, 34, Deer Island-Violation of Road Closure, \$58 fine; Possession of Less Than One Ounce of Marijuana, \$565 fine; James Houston Roach, 48, Lexington-Open Container (beer & schnapps) Driver, \$37 fine;

Robin Don Scott, 28, Heppner-Drivers License Expired, \$9 fine; William Ralph Mackey, 37, Heppner-Violation of Road Closure, \$58 fine;

Elmer E. Matzen, 63, Deer Island-Violation of Vehicle Closure, ATV, \$58 fine;

Ken Maynard Gates, Lexington-Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, Diversion Program, \$369 diversion filing fee;

Sherill Mark Garrett-Waiver of Extradition Proceedings.

Judge Prior Has Tough Job

Gilliam County Judge Laura Prior is pressing hard for an Eastern Oregon Alliance--as she puts it, an alliance of Eastern Oregon political, economic and social interests to better make those interests heard in Salem.

Judge Prior has her work cut out for her. The very principles of democracy are working against her. In a country where the majority rules, Eastern Oregon interests are doomed to run last. The majority in this state is urban, not rural, lives in the soggy western third of the state, not the arid eastern third, are consumers of everything from food to housing, not producers of anything, and seem to care for only themselves, not concerned about their neighbors no matter how close or distant.

Molding even the minority view among Eastern Oregonians will be difficult. Judge Prior's own Gilliam County is dependent on garbage, including out-of-state garbage. Morrow County is equally interested. Forces that really want to bar the importation of out-of-state garbage enacted a surcharge to protect the state from the adverse image of landfill for the Northwest. It would have been pretty hard to forge a unified position of Eastern Oregon opposed to the out-of-state garbage surcharge even though there are no regional landfills in Western Oregon. While most of Eastern Oregon voted against Measure #5, it would also be most difficult to claim that is the unified position of all of Eastern Oregon.

Land use planning as directed by Salem is seen as a severe restriction on economic growth in most of Eastern Oregon. Yet a unified position will be hard to forge since there are whole communities that resist economic growth and substantial numbers of folks who really believe that farm land should be preserved as farm land (what a really hokey idea.)

But in spite of the difficulties, Judge Prior seems to be on the right track. An Eastern Oregon Alliance, designed to develop a minority view, has the potential for some good. A strong, unified minority has a much better chance of forging some compromise, an exception, maybe even defeat of a narrowly supported position. More importantly, an Eastern Oregon Alliance will have a better chance of making an Eastern Oregon presence felt on the west side of the mountains.

To make the project a success, Judge Prior is looking more than enlist the governmental entities in Eastern Oregon. She is doing for the participation of the agricultural, industrial and business interests too. That will make the alliance even more effective since those folks have the real political power.

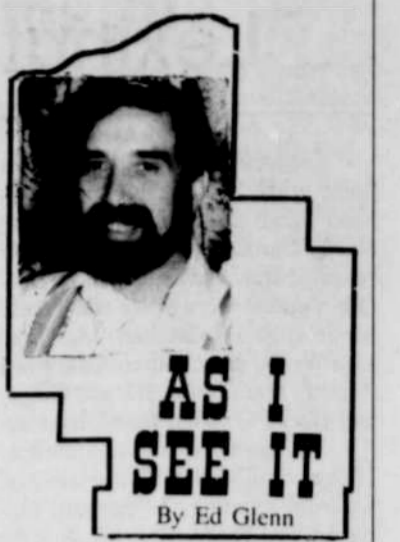
She needs to get some money into the project though. County and city governments cannot fully fund a lobby effort like this. Nor should they. The Eastern Oregon Alliance will lose much of its potential if it becomes just another layer of government.

Organized as a Political Action Committee (PAC) would give the alliance the opportunity to raise the funds for an information center, a series of seminars to develop the Eastern Oregon position, and most importantly, a lobbyist to push that position with the politicians and bureaucrats in Salem.

One of the very first issues the alliance should attack is the 'secondary lands' proposal seemingly bogged down somewhere between the legislature and the Land Conservation and Development Commission. Designation of secondary as opposed to primary farm and forest lands is of prime concern to Eastern Oregonians. Folks in Western Oregon, concerned with the "Californication" of Oregon, will so restrict secondary lands designation that the whole idea will be as useless to Eastern Oregon as the lush, green travel brochures Salem generates.

With some immediate success on secondary lands the alliance could then turn to Measure #5 and prevent the inevitable flow of school control to Salem.

It will be a tough job, Judge Prior, but it is worth doing.



Middle East discussion set

A discussion concerning at the St. Patrick Senior Center. America's role in the Middle East For more information call Pastor Stan Hoobing, 676-9940.

Take Mom out to dinner for
MOTHER'S DAY
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Italian Night Dinner
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