

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
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Editorial

Do voters want services?

"Yes we really mean it." These are the words of Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson about cuts in county staff and services if the current levy fails.

Carlson says quite a few people seem to believe employees won't really lose their jobs, funds for services won't really be cut, and programs can't truly be eliminated if voters say no for the third levy try.

It's really going to happen. There isn't any rabbits to pull out of the hat, no funds to miraculously appear. In case there's some out there who haven't seen "the list" put out by the county, here is a partial run down on what you, that's correct, you, will be losing:

- elimination of all deputies in the sheriff department
- no more county funding for extension, Neighborhood Center, soil and water conservation district, fair and rodeo, and more
- no paid staff at museum
- cuts in support staff in the county court, accounting dept., treasurer, clerk, juvenile dept. and planning dept.
- elimination of six positions in the assessors office
- cut back to half days to the public in the assessor's, treasurer's, clerk's, juvenile and county court offices.

This is not a complete list, but you get the idea. Carlson says now is the time for the voting public to decide if they are willing to pay for the services they typically have enjoyed. Are they? Are you?

Ballots are in the mail.

David Sykes, publisher

Senator Smith to hold town meeting

State senator Gordon Smith will be holding an informal town hall meeting from 7-9 p.m. Friday June 18 at the Boardman Greenfield Grange 209 First St.

NW. Senator Smith represents district 29, which consists of Umatilla, Union, Wallowa counties and a portion of Morrow County.

Johnston lead East, beats the West

The East team, coached by Heppner's own Rick Johnston, came out on top two games to one in the recent East-West Oregon baseball tournament held last weekend at John Day.

The east beat the west in the first and second game 4-0 and 12-7 respectively but was outdone by the west in the third game 7-4.

Coach Johnston commented that Jason Hanna and Scott Coe both played good games for the east team. Hanna, who had a batting average of .418 during season play, had two RBI's in both the first and second game.

T.J. Bailey of Weston-McEwen was selected the most valuable player for the east team. Brian Rodgers, from Elgin, whom the Mustangs defeated in the playoffs was the tournaments most valuable player. Rodgers pitched eight scoreless innings in the first game and got several key hits for the east team.

Assisting Johnston was Dennis Ross, Lost River. West team coaches were head coach Wayne Stango, Harrisburg and Lennie Wolfe, Warrenton.

A good crowd of Heppner people attended the games.

Letters to the Editor

Mushroom picking should be regulated

To the Editor:
I don't think the Forest Service is managing the commercial mushroom permits very well. There are too many mushroom pickers out in the forests. I know the wildlife eat mushrooms, and as many pickers as there are, there aren't any mushrooms left for the wildlife. They are disturbing the elk and deer while they're having calves and fawns and pushing them out of the mountains.

If the forest service is going to

sell mushroom permits, they should be able to limit the number of pickers and allow only certain areas to be picked, and have patrols that can speak the language and patrol the pickers before someone gets hurt.

They've cut back on cattle numbers on the forest and are trying to cut more. The cattle do less damage than all those people as far as I'm concerned. But if they're cutting the forest use, I think mushroom picking should be cut or totally eliminated.

(s) Rosco Qualls

Museum closure concern for children

To the Editor:
To the residents of Morrow County:

Each year our third grade classes visit the Morrow County Museum as part of our field trip. The children always look forward to visiting the museum and going into the old school house.

The class has a scavenger hunt at the museum and each year we find new and different items to find, as well as new exhibits for them to enjoy.

This year we were notified the museum would close on July 1

should the Morrow County budget be defeated. Not only is this a concern for our school children, but also for all residents and visitors to Heppner and Morrow County.

Please consider this aspect of our community when you vote on the upcoming Morrow County budget.

Sincerely,

(s) Cara Osmin
Third grade teacher
(s) Karen Dubuque
Third grade teacher
(s) Bryan Traylor
principal

Levy failure should concern all of us

To the Editor:

Both of our families and ourselves have lived and worked in Morrow County for years in the Boardman, Irrigon, Lexington and Heppner areas. We consider ourselves conservative in spending our money. We do own home property and a retail business, Green Feed and Seed, in Heppner so we do pay our fair share of property taxes and feel that we get a fair return on services from the county.

We believe that Morrow County is a good place to raise our three children, but wonder if that will change if the county levy fails a third time.

The thought of living in a large county like ours without deputy sheriffs or a preventative drug program should concern all of us.

Please join us in making that extra effort to return your mail ballot voting for the Morrow County tax levy by June 29.
(s) Mike and Kay Proctor

Support museum by 'yes' vote

To the Editor:

In a recent conversation with Marsha Sweek, the director of the Morrow County Museum, I learned that unless the upcoming June 29 levy passes, the museum will be shut down. I am writing today to express my concern about the potential loss of this fine institution, with the hope that the information I am providing will be of help to voters in determining what the potential effects of levy failure may be.

The Morrow County Museum has sponsored many cultural events offered by the Oregon Council for the Humanities' Chautauqua program, which I oversee. Most recently, the museum hosted on April 27 an appearance by actress Jane Van Boskirk highlighting the lives of notable pioneer women in "Abigail and Others: The Northwest Women". This program,

which was enthusiastically enjoyed by many, was funded by the humanities council to come to Morrow County because there was an organization, the museum, with the capabilities and staff to host it. In other words, the tax dollars spent to fund the county museum acted as a magnet to attract other available statewide funding. On a larger scale, the Morrow County Museum has been chosen from a nationwide survey of small museums to host an upcoming exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II. This exciting project will provide educational opportunities for adults and schoolchildren alike. Unfortunately, if there is no museum in Heppner to sponsor it, the exhibit and the funding which accompanies it will go elsewhere.

I understand that the museum is but one component in the county funding levy being considered in the upcoming vote, but I would hope that voters would maintain funding at its current level by voting yes. To do so would indicate an investment in the cultural heritage of Morrow County and in its future.

Sincerely,

(s) Penny Hummel
Coordinator, Oregon Chautauqua Program The Oregon Council for the Humanities

Births

Jordan Brooke Sauer-a daughter Jordan Brooke was born to Natalie Tiboni and Richard Sauer of Boardman on May 29, 1993 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz.

Saryna Marie Horrace-a daughter Saryna Marie was born to Patricia Marie Horrace of Irrigon on June 6, 1993 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz.

NaDine Lee Ann Rodriguez-a daughter NaDine Lee Ann was born to Deanna and Fernando Rodriguez of Boardman on June 5, 1993 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 8 lbs.

Joseph Bryant Armato-a son Joseph Bryant was born to Kim and Mike Armato of Portland on June 7, 1993 at St. Vincents Hospital in Portland. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Grandparents are Sharon and Keith Lewis, Heppner and Kenneth and Carolyn Cutsforth, Hermiston and Frank and Fran Armato, Petaluma, CA.

He joins a sister Maggie Armato, 23 months, at home.

Off the Wall By Meryn Robinson

Citizens should become more involved when it comes to the budget making process for county operating expenses. It doesn't take a college degree to look at the budget and decide some options when it comes to reducing the levy amount.

Because two of the highest-paid department heads objected to wage freezes because of retirement benefit credits, the court opted not to freeze salaries. And the current levy reduction of about \$37,000 translates to about one department head's salary and benefits.

No one wants to see the county services devastated or people laid off from their jobs. But there has to be a half-way point to be acceptable to the people who bear those expenses.

It's said that the county road department will be limited to bare maintenance. However, the road department budget of over \$4 million shows around \$240,000 budgeted for capital outlay plus another \$20,000 budgeted for equipment rental. And nothing shows for bridge construction expenses although it's said that contracts for bridges have been approved.

Why does the county need two high paid road department heads when a roadmaster and an office manager were able to handle the job in the past? And how are 20 paid road workers going to occupy their time if the work is reduced to bare maintenance--because nothing has been said about laying off any of these workers.

We're being threatened by total reduction of the sheriff's department. Nothing said about city police or state patrol protection. Can we really afford to have nine sheriff's officers when the population hasn't grown in the past 10 years? Admittedly the crime rate has increased and officers are hampered by paperwork and many regulations that protect criminals.

People need to take a closer look at the 121 page budget document that is open to the public. And it sure wouldn't hurt to show up at the budget hearing at 9 a.m. on June 23. There has to be a happy medium between a drastic reduction in services and providing an affordable level.

Oregon needs Oregon Trail license plate

To the Editor:

Oregon needs a license plate to commemorate the Oregon Trail. Idaho, Washington, Wyoming and many other states have had special plates to commemorate their centennial celebrations.

HB 3266, the Oregon Trail commemorative license plate bill, passed the House unanimously.

Senator Joan Dukes, chairman of Senate Transportation, opposes the bill and has not scheduled a hearing on the bill. Please write or call and request her support.

The bill died in her committee in 1991. Oregonians should not have to wait until the 200th anniversary of the Oregon Trail to purchase a commemorative plate.

Write or call: Senator Joan Dukes, Oregon State Capitol, S-205, Salem, 97310 (503) 378-8027.

Sincerely,
(s) Jill Thorne
Executive Director
Oregon Trail
Coordinating Council

* **PLOYHAR INSURANCE** *
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* 676-5818 *

Wranglers Riding Club
Trail Ride - Sun. June 20
Ride begins at 10:30 a.m. at the base of Madison Butte Road and ends at Tupper Corral, approximately 3 p.m. Barbecue will begin at 3 p.m. This ride is open to anyone interested.

Hey Heppner!
Want the REAL Light?
Jesus said, "I am the LIGHT of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the LIGHT of the world." John 8:12
Come share the LIGHT with us at
WILLOW CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
New location! Now meeting on Sundays at the Seventh Day Adventist's building.
560 N. Minor
3 p.m. Sundays

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Carrots 2 lb bag 2 pkg. \$1.00	Nalleys Chili 40 oz. Reg. \$2.99 \$2.39
Green Peppers 3 for \$1.00	Lunch Meat Spam 12 oz can Reg. \$2.45 \$1.99
(new chop) White Potatoes 29¢ lb.	1/2 gallon Darigold Ice Cream Reg. \$2.55 \$1.99 ea.
Fresh English Peas 69¢ lb.	Grill Master Turkey Franks 16 oz. 99¢ ea.
Western Family Sliced Cheese 12 oz. Reg. \$2.99 \$1.99	Top Round Steak \$2.39 lb.
Western Family frozen 16 oz. Peas, Corn Reg. \$1.09 69¢	London Broil Steak \$2.39 lb.
Mixed Vegetables	Beef Cube Steak \$3.00 lb.
Western Family 4 roll Bathroom Tissue Reg. \$1.45 89¢ pk	Boneless Beef Ribs \$2.19 lb.
	Cooks Ham Roast \$2.19 lb.