

HEPPNER



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Gazette
 Times

Petitions may be withdrawn

Petitions for two different health districts, scheduled for the November ballot, may be withdrawn, following a public hearing on the issue held June 22 at Columbia Junior High School in Irrigon. The hearing will be continued until Wednesday, July 6, at the school district office in Lexington at 7 p.m.

In the meantime, Judge Louis Carlson directed an ad-hoc committee of Art Kegler and Ed Glenn, both Boardman, and Larry Mills and George Koffler, both Heppner, to investigate the possibility of withdrawing the petitions. According to Val Doherty, Morrow County counsel, there are no laws preventing the withdrawing of a petition, but also none to provide for it.

As filed, one petition would provide for a medical district encompassing Boardman area precincts. The other petition would encompass all of Morrow County, excluding city of Boardman precincts only. All of the cities in Morrow county have opted in on the second district, with the exception of the city of Boardman, which has taken no action concerning the county-wide petition.

During the hearing, Kegler said "At this point, I don't think either group of petitioners are ready to change their direction." But following the hearing, petitioner for the Boardman district, Gene Allen, said that withdrawing the petition could be a possibility. "If something came forth to redress the issues, we (the petitioners) could have a meeting," said Allen. "But to cut and paste, I think that's a breach of trust."

The county court could draft a resolution to form a county-wide health district, which would be up for voter approval. But, the city of Boardman would still have to opt in the county-wide district. Allen said that the petitioners could consider such a proposal, providing that the proposal addresses problems concerning north county health care. "It cannot be another band-aid on a hemorrhage," said Allen. The Boardman petitioners maintain that the north end of the county is not represented on the county court, does not receive adequate health care and does not receive its fair share of county health care dollars. They say that a Boardman health care district would provide greater efficiency and local control, would solve local health care problems and would ensure continuity of health care. Goals of the petitioners also include improving and enlarging the Boardman Clinic and providing assisted living facilities.

Port of Morrow Commissioner Larry Lindsay opposed splitting the county into two districts, saying he was "very alarmed" at the prospect and felt it set a "dangerous precedent". He said that the entire county supported expansion of the Port of Morrow, even though "over 90 percent of the benefit has gone into the Boardman community." He added that in his 27 years as commissioner, the port commission has never had a split vote and stressed the same unity in health care issues. He also commented that he didn't think Boardman had been harmed by the port commissioners placing the majority of the businesses in the north end. In the long range, he said, growth in the port benefits the entire county.

Laura Burnside-McElligott, Morrow County health director, voiced concern that the Boardman proposal did not provide enough funds to continue health care operations in the Boardman area at the same level they are provided now. "I see this dual district as being extremely destructive to all the people of the county, especially Boardman," said Burnside-McElligott. She said that the Boardman district's budget of \$160,000 is "no where near enough," and would not be able to provide monies for expansion, especially considering that the clinic funding is listed at \$130,000, leaving only \$30,000 for other expenses.

The county court will set boundaries for the districts if either or both of the petitions go before the people in November, or if the court resolves to put a county-wide district on the ballot. Judge Carlson presented several options concerning boundaries. Following are options and tax rates for the 1994-95 year:

-Option 1: the boundaries would be as filed with the petitions. The Boardman district, including code areas 25-01, 25-02, 25-03, 25-04, 25-05, 39-01 and 39-02, would have a tax rate of 33 cents per thousand assessed valuation; county district, including entire county except 25-01, 79 cents/thousand;
 -Option 2: Boardman district-Boardman city limits, including code area 25-01, \$6.69/thousand; county district-entire district, excluding only 25-01, 79 cents/thousand;
 -Option 3: Boardman district-Boardman city limits and urban growth boundary, including 25-01 and 25-04, \$2.20/thousand; county district-rest of county except 25-01, 25-04, 84 cents/thousand;
 -Option 4: Boardman district-including 25-01, 25-02, 25-03, 25-04, 39-01, 39-02, \$1.33/thousand; county district-

rest of county, except those code areas, 90 cents/thousand;

-Option 5: Boardman district-as filed, including code areas 25-01, 25-02, 25-03, 25-04, 25-05, 39-01, 39-02, 33 cents/thousand; county district-remainder of county, excluding those code areas, \$2/thousand;

-Option 6: Boardman district-from Bombing Range Road west along boundary of Bombing Range to county line, picking up population of Boardman community, including code areas 25-01, 25-02, 25-03, 25-04, 39-02, \$1.53/thousand; county district-remainder of county, excluding those areas, 88 cents/thousand.

According to Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek, code area 25-01 includes the city of Boardman; 25-02, mostly the Department of Fish and Wildlife land (non-taxable); 25-03, farm and rangeland; 25-04, Port of Morrow; 25-05, includes Coal Fired Plant and part of Taggares Farms; 39-01, part of Taggares and Simplot Feedlot; 39-02, rangeland.

Bill Kuhn, Heppner attorney and chief petitioner for the county-wide district petition which has already been filed with (of which Boardman has not opted in), said that "every one" of the Boardman petitioners' concerns could be addressed with one health care district that would encompass the entire county, including Boardman. Kuhn said that one county-wide district would provide stable funding, allow for long-range planning and would eliminate two sets of administrators and the doubled costs that could be incurred with a two-district system. Kuhn also said that a larger district would be more likely to key into state and federal grants.

The proposal for one county-wide district could be created by an order of the court. But, according to Morrow County Counsel Val Doherty, the cities must opt in prior to the order. Because of time constraints, the cities must opt in and the order made by July 13, at the latest, although July 6 would be preferable. The first hearing must be held between 30 and 50 days from the order. At the conclusion of the first hearing boundaries for the district must be established and a date, time and place would be set for the second hearing. The second hearing must be held between 20 and 50 days from the first hearing. At the conclusion of the second hearing, the court then issues an order calling for an election. This must be turned into the clerk's office by Sept. 8 to be included on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Ione moves fireworks display

By Anne Morter

The site for the Ione Fourth of July Fireworks has been changed from the football field to the Stefani property directly behind the Willows Grange Hall. Heightened restrictions by the state

police and the state fire marshal forced the move. Spectators must be at least 400 feet away from the area where the fireworks are ignited so no one will be allowed on the Stefani property. Good viewing will still be

available from many locations in Ione, although very little viewing space will be at the Grange itself. Michelle Raible, Fourth of July co-chairperson, suggests spectators locate themselves at the very north or south ends of the football field, in front of the school or somewhere on second street.

Ione 4th of July Celebration Sunday, July 3rd & Monday, July 4th "Celebrating Our Youth"

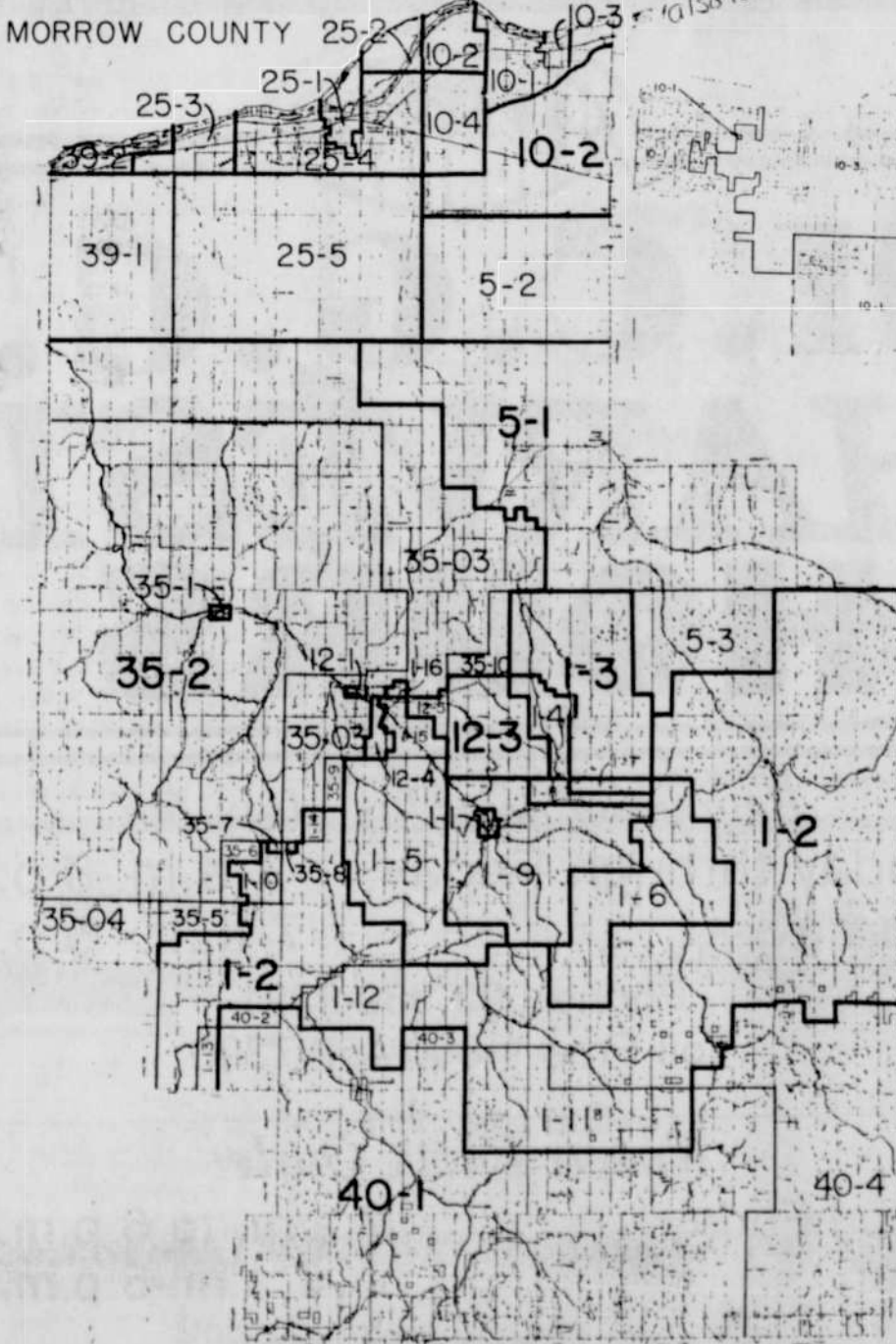
Grand Marshals: Helen Crawford, Ruth McCabe & Ione Youth
Sunday, July 3rd

- 8:45 a.m. Mass St. Williams Catholic Church
- 9:30 a.m. Church Services at Ione United Church of Christ and Valby Lutheran
- 10:30 a.m. Volleyball Ione High School
- 12 noon Shotgun Scramble Golf Tournament, Willow Creek Country Club
- 3 p.m. Junior 3 on 3 basketball tournament, Ione gym; Lasagna dinner and concessions, Ione boosters, until 9 p.m.
- 5 p.m. Ken Snider Memorial Auction, school cafeteria
- 6 p.m. Ken Snider Memorial tennis tournament, tennis courts
- 6:30 p.m. Adult 3 on 3 basketball tournament, Ione gym
- 9:30 p.m. Youth dance, Legion Hall, \$1 admission.
 Music by DJ Dustin Padberg

Monday, July 4th

- 6:30 a.m. Game Day registration/check-in begins for "Dawn's Early Light" run/walk, school flag pole.
 - 7:30 a.m. "Dawn's Early Light" Fun Run/Walk
 - 8 a.m. Continental breakfast, Ione school playground
 - 8:30 a.m. Prize drawing for "Dawn's Early Light" participants
 - 9 a.m. Children's chalk drawing contest, St. Williams Catholic Church. Free balloons for the kids
 - 10:30 a.m. Parade Assembly. Must be at MCGG elevator by 10:30 a.m.
 - 11 a.m. Parade, Main Street
 - 12 noon ICABO hamburger lunch, little league hot dogs, Grange bake sale, Camp Fire girls snow cones, Creative Care Preschool Fish Pond, Topic Club Flea Market, Martingales mini elephant ears, all city park; American Legion Beer Garden, east end of fire hall; Pie and coffee until 4 p.m. St. Williams church. Radio station KORD will play music, interview and give away prizes in city park from noon until 3 p.m.
 - 1 p.m. Straw toy/money pile, ages 0-7; girls' volleyball team, face painting, frog jumping contest, horseshoe pitching contest all city park; antique car display in front of Bristow's Market.
 - 1:30 p.m. "Zulu" the Frisbee catching dog exhibition, city park
 - 2 p.m. baseball throw, hoop shoot, town tour, city park; money bingo by Lion's Club, until 5 p.m. Legion Hall
 - 3 p.m. Cow chip pitching contest, children's races, school football field; free swimming until 5 p.m., Ione school
 - 4 p.m. Historical town #2 meet in park
 - 5:30 p.m. Bed Race, school football field
 - 6 p.m. Cardinal Club chicken dinner, chicken by Kesslers, Ione school cafeteria, adults \$6 kids 11 and under \$3, hot dogs \$1
 - 6:30 p.m. little league batting cage, school field
 - 7 p.m. Jail (for preschool scholarships), duck pond, pick a duck for a prize, 50¢ duck, balloon sculpting, all school playground
 - 7:30 p.m. Money bingo by Lions Club until 9 p.m. Legion Hall
 - Dusk Fireworks Display, in memory of Bob Rietmann, Stefani Property. Concessions available at Fireworks by local 4-H groups.
- Community dance following fireworks display, Legion Hall. Music by Full Tilt Audio
 Admission, \$3 13 and over; 12 and under free.

CODE MAP



We will be closed Monday
Have a Happy 4th of July

Morrow County Grain Growers
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