Editorial

We need school levy - vote yes

There will be two separate issues concerning the education and welfare of our children up before the voters in the upcoming mail-in election: the school bond levy for construction of new classrooms, remodeling of current structures and technology (computers); and the swimming pool construction bond and three-year serial levy. Both issues deserve your yes vote.

The $13,290,000 school district general obligation bond will build 45 new classrooms, remodel, repair and maintain existing facilities, provide updated communications systems and will meet federal and state requirements for disabled access and asbestos removal. There are three reasons to vote for this:

1. Students in the north end are so crowded that in some instances they are holding classrooms in closet space. The area is still growing. People in the south who have a grudge against the north, think of these children as your own. Then how would you vote? Children who do not have the room to learn will become a problem to society, a problem that you will end up paying for.

2. If the bond issue fails, 25 teachers will have to be cut, many in the south end schools. The money that would have been spent on teachers will have to go to pay for repairs, maintenance and federal and state mandates. We are already losing 11 teachers. Can we afford to lose any more teachers or programs? No. The kids will suffer if this bond issue fails. Remember, this bond issue has nothing to do with teachers' salaries. It has to do with construction and maintenance of classrooms.

3.The schools are in their final phase of Ballot Measure 5. The money for operating expenses for education is at its lowest point, $7.50 per thousand assessed valuation. Last year it was $10 per thousand assessed valuation. So, even if the bond levy is passed at $1.96 per thousand valuation, the total amount to be spent on education is still lower than last year. A taxpayer with a 50,000 home payed $500 last year for school taxes. This year the same taxpayer would pay $470 a year. There is no excuse for those who say they care about children to vote down a levy because ''they don't have children in school anymore''. Shame on you. I hope that when I am old I still care about the welfare of children, and not just the blonde, blue eyed, English speaking variety.

4.South Morrow County, let's face it. Our population is dwindling, and aging. North Morrow County is young and growing. We are faced with a school consolidation here in the south, because we just don't have the students to justify the number of teachers and programs we had years ago. ''When I was a kid,'' is not justification. Times are changing. Don't make it worse and vote against the bond levy because you are mad that your seventh grader has to be in the same school as high schoolers. As a parent of two high schoolers, I realize that they may look big and scary, but most of them are good kids. I cannot see most of them wanting much to do with 7th and 8th graders and would certainly not want to hurt them. Let's give this a chance. Also, any of you Irrigon residents who are mad because you didn't get your high school, don't give up hope. With the growth you are experiencing, I think you may get your high school some day. I hope so, but don't take it out on this levy and make things worse.

As an editor who has attended many, many meetings over the years, I question the motives of many boards, greed and grudges and territorial mudslinging figure in more often than I would ever want to admit. But not with the school board. You may not always agree with them, but I firmly believe that the school board has the best interests of all the children of Morrow County at heart. They are doing a good job. Vote for the construction bond levy.

April Hilton-Sykes

Approve both pool measures

We need a swimming pool and this one has something for everyone. It will have a fan style, zero-depth sloping beach type pool, which will be ideal for young children and allows handicap access. Older children and adults will be able to use the competition lanes and a slide with a deep well will be a lot of fun for the more adventurous, without the danger and noise of a diving board. The year-round therapy pool can be used for physical therapy and water aerobics. There will also be a room for meetings and classes, in addition to a dressing room.

Pool Commission officials say that the entire pool package is around $1.2 million. But, they did not want to ask the voters to fund a million dollars. So they kept the bond levy at $975,000. This will fund the basic pool and dressing room. Only if they are able to raise the additional money through grants and donations will they build the indoor therapy pool.

So, what is this going to cost you? A person with a $50,000 home will pay around $30.50 a year to fund both the pool construction bond and the three-year operating levy; one with a $500,000 business will pay around $305; and one with a $1 million ranch will pay $610. Both the pool construction bond measure at 45 cents per thousand and the three-year operating levy at 16 cents per thousand must pass. The Kinzua Corp. grant program has pledged $45,000 toward the pool effort if the bond and serial levy pass. The People for the Pool have raised around $15,000. The therapy pool and handicap access aspects of the pool may avail the project to other grants.

Yes, the pool will give the kids a fun summer activity, important in these times of threatened school activities, but it will also provide a safe activity. Children will once again be able to take organized swimming lessons, and, just as importantly, may not be as tempted to swim at Willow Creek Lake. The lake is a tragedy waiting to happen. Let's not wait for a child to drown before we do something. The algae choked water at certain times of the year is not too appealing either.

There are people who say that the pool should be self supporting. It has never been self supporting and few, if any community pools are self supporting. Pools are normally funded through municipalities or recreation districts.

Some rural residents say they don't use the pool or it's too far to bring their children in and so they don't feel they should have to pay for it. Their position is understandable, but the previous pool was tax supported by residents of the city of Heppner. However, everyone, city or rural dweller, was welcome to use it. And anything that gives children so much joy has something going for it.

Some people are still saying ''What was wrong with the old pool?'' It had serious structural problems that could have been dangerous, serious filtering problems and heating problems. Repairing the pool would have been exorbitant and like putting a bandaid on a gaping wound. On top of it, the city was hard hit by ballot Measure 5 and in no position to fund repairs or construction of a new pool.

The pool is one more thing that will help attract people to Heppner. Believe it or not, some people are reluctant to move to the area. It's too far from shopping malls, movies, colleges, the freeway, etc. Let's not make it too far to the nearest pool.

A yes vote for the pool construction bond and operating levy will be a yes vote for our children and our community. You must vote for both for either to pass. A pool cannot be built without money to operate and operating monies are no good without a pool. Vote yes on measures 25-13 and 25-14.

April Hilton-Sykes

Great Decisions group to meet

The ''Great Decisions'' discussion group will meet on Thursday, March 9. Everyone curious about the program is invited to drop by. This week's topic is the future of the United Nations. The informal discussion begins at 7 p.m. at the book store next to city hall.

Health Dept.

The Morrow County Health Dept. lists the following monthly schedule for blood pressures and immunizations:

Thursday, March 9: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14: blood pressures and immunizations, county office, Irrigon, 1-4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15: blood pressures, senior center, Heppner 11 a.m.

Thursday, March 16: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21: blood pressures and immunizations, Ione city hall, 11 a.m.-noon; Boardman city hall, 1:30-4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28: blood pressures and immunizations, county office, Irrigon 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, March 30: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Justice Court Report

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

Corey Patrick Sweeney, 21, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, 52 mph in a 35 mph zone, $117 fine;

Kirsti Winters, 21, Lexington-Violation of the Basic Rule, 50 mph in a 35 mph zone, $95 fine;

Philip William Wirth, 35, Monument-Truck Speeding, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, $95 fine;

Cheri Alston, Heppner-Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance, $58 fine;

Myron Williams, Heppner-Discharging a Weapon in City limits, $92 fine;

patrick T. Aulton, 40, Gresham-Hunting Prohibited Area, Shooting From Road, $112 fine.

In the Service

Navy Fireman Erik T. Jorgensen is more than halfway through a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean and Persian Gulf aboard the destroyer tender USS Cape Cod.

Jorgensen is one of more than 1,800 sailors aboard the 645 foot-long repair ship, which departed San Diego in October. Jorgensen's ship can perform a wide-range of shipboard maintenance and also provide logistics support to Navy units in remote areas. Equipped with high-tech electronics repair equipment, sophisticated machine shops, and divers with underwater welding equipment, USS Cape Cod is a floating repair center. Jorgensen and his fellow crew members spent a month in Yokosuka, Japan, where they completed more than 2,000 repair jobs in support of Navy ships deployed to the Western Pacific ocean.

Jorgensen and the Cape Cod crew also have been providing fleet repair services for ships in the Persian Gulf, which have been working in support of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

He is the son of Don Jorgensen, Irrigon and graduated from Riverside High School in 1994. He joined the Navy in July.

Still time to enter parade

There's still time to get entered in the big St. Patrick's Day parade. This year's parade includes categories for Irish floats, the best Irish characters and Irish groups, antique autos and machinery, bands, musical groups, dance and drill teams, civic groups, bicycles and more.

For those Irish lads and lassies, age 12 and under, the Kids and Pets division of the parade will again be looking to give out a little o' the green to those who come as either the best (Irish) dressed kid and pet, have the best behaved Irish pet, the most talented Irish pet or the best looking Irish pet.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be Saturday, March 18 right after the bed race at 1 p.m. Check in time is 11:30 a.m. in front of Green Feed and Seed store.

For more information or entry forms contact Bob Kahl 676-9113 days or 676-5422 evenings or stop in at Van Marter & Kahl Insurance in Heppner.

Commission on Children and Families to hold workshop

The Morrow County Commission on Children and families will be holding technical assistance workshops for project proposals. The first workshop will be March 13 at 10 a.m. at the Children's Services Division conference room, 101 SW Kinkade, Boardman. The second workshop will be held March 16, at 10 a.m. at Columbia Basin Electric Conference Room, 171 W. Linden, Heppner.

An estimated $195,422 will be available during the 1993-95 biennium to help Morrow County children and families. The local commission administers funds from Great Start, Juvenile Services, Student Retention Initiative, Child Care Block Grants and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps programs.

Among programs currently funded county wide are DARE, Hands on Science, Gang Intervention Task Force, Crossroads (a shelter home program), Client Specific, Juvenile Department assistant, Sex Abuse Program, Responsible Adulthood Workshop, Parent Training, and the summer Oregon Youth Conservation Corps program. Adopt-a-Cop, Columbia Youth Basketball, Youth Assistance Services, Boardman Child Development Center are all based in Boardman. The South Neighborhood Center Summer Project Heppner Daycare, Drug/Alchol/Tobacco Education, Parent/Child/Teacher Video Program are based all in Heppner and Creative Care Preschool in Ione. Start up funding for the Irrigon Latchkey program was also provided.

All proposed programs must be consistent with the goals of the commission and address the benchmarks that have been identified in the Commission Comprehensive Plan. Proposal packets wil be available at both Technical Assistance Workshops or by contacting the Commission office at 471 N. Main, Heppner, or calling 676-9675.

St. Pat's celebration 10 days away

Come rain or shine the 13th annual St. patrick's celebration in Heppner is only 10 days away. ''Even wild horses couldn't keep us away from the 1995 Wee Bit 'O Ireland celebration said co-chairpersons, Claudia Hughes and Rene' Devin. This is Hughes' fifth year in the position of co-chair and Devin's second. Many volunteers faithfully put in long hours in preparation for the Irish event, Bob Kahl who chairs the parade every year; the Catholic and Methodist church members, seniors, firemen, and O' Golfers who cook the food; the auction workers; the Lamb Cookoff, coffee hour, and sheep dog trial organizers; the pageant volunteers, and neighbors Ted Smith, Joe McLaughlin, Scott Sager, Mike Duffy and the Doherty family. The list goes on and on. ''A glimpse at the schedule of events show that even with leprechauns about, it doesn't happen in just a twinkle of the eye,'' says Hughes. The dedicated committee makes it happen.

A big change for 1995 will be the Sunday auction in conjunction with the lamb barbecue at the fairgrounds. Following Saturday's activities, it is hoped that everyone will kick back on Sunday to enjoy the lamb barbecue sponsored by the South Morrow Scholarship Trust and the indoor auction which keeps the event ongoing from year to year. Auction chairpersons Doris Brosnan, John and Ann Murray and Diana Ball are collecting some terrific items and still welcome contributions. Also on site at the fairgrounds on Sunday will be O' Barrel Racing and Roping events. There will be something for everyone.

Dallas McKennon to entertain Sat. during St. Pat's celebration

Dallas McKennon, a well known actor from Portland, will be coming to Heppner for the St. Patrick's Day celebration. McKennon will provide entertainment on Saturday night, March 18, at the Heppner Junior High Auditorium at 7:30 p.m..

Tickets will cost $4 for adults and $2 for children under 12 and will be available at Murray Drugs, the St. Patrick's information booth on Main Street and at the door.

Segments of the ''Erin Came to County Morrow'' pageant will be performed by local talent with McKennon's help.

''Erin Came to County Morrow'' is a pageant written by Jane Rawlins specifically for the St. Patrick's celebration. The pageant was performed in its entirety twice. This year certain segments will be performed during McKennon's show. Children ''young and old'' will be entertained by Dallas McKennon.

Arts and Crafts club to hold sale

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts club members are reminded to bring all items they might like to offer for sale to the Les Schwab showroom for the St. Patrick's celebration.

Food items are welcomed this year and the group needs lots of white elephant items. Everything should be priced. ''Now is the time to pick out a few things that you no longer use, but someone else might like to buy to raise funds for the club and to clean up your own clutter,'' said Peggy DeZoete. The club also needs cookies from each member to help welcome visitors. The show will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 22 at 1 p.m. at Kate's Pizza.

Big green booth has the answers

Need a schedule of events, a ticket to the evening entertainment by Dallas McKennon, a lucky collectors button? Want to know where to catch a ride on the O'Schooner wagon or who won the O'Ducky race? Find all the answers you need at the information booth by the Post Office.

The members of Soroptimist International of Heppner will be on hand to greet visitors, sell tickets and give information on Saturday, March 18. Also available will be Irish envelopes for purchase for those wishing to mail a greeting with the first issue Wee Bit O'Ireland cancellation stamp. Postmaster Mike McGuire will begin offering this stamp Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18.