

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

**Heppner**  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Concerned about health district budget**

To the Editor:  
Letter to the Morrow County Health District Board

I would like to share some concerns regarding the budget process for the newly formed Health District. In the 17 years I have been a resident of Morrow County I have participated in the budgeting process for several public entities i.e. City of Boardman, Urban Renewal of City of Boardman, Boardman Park and Recreation District, North Morrow Medical Board and others. I had yet to see the "rush for approval" of the proposed budget as occurred at the March 13 budget meeting. It is difficult for me to understand how a \$6 million-plus operating budget for a newly-formed district could be approved without any changes in line items (other than transferring \$30,000 from unappropriated ending fund balance to the contingency line item) in one budget meeting.

As you recall from the first budget meeting, February 20, when we initially received our budget packets and a basic orientation process, there were concerns expressed regarding several budgetary items. Among these were the substantial "unappropriated ending fund balance" of over \$1 million. Notes of concern were expressed by both Larry Mills and myself. I again expressed this concern at the Boardman budget meeting of March 13.

The "perception of fat" in the budget in relation to this large ending fund balance cannot be overstated. In these economic times thrifty budgeting is of utmost importance as can be seen by the difficulty in gaining voter approval for county-wide levies. This is illustrated by the budgeting practices of the Morrow County School District and the Morrow County Road Funds who utilize the large unappropriated ending fund balance method of budgeting.

Evidently the idea of using individual fund departments (i.e., Laboratory, Home Health, Ambulance) with revenue and expense information breakdown fell on deaf ears, since all we received was a two page revenue-expense summary to help us make our budget decisions. We also received the bar graphs illustrating the different departments but these graphs do not break down specific revenue-expense information.

Oregon budget law dictates the form and contents of a district's estimate of expenditures. Estimates of each activity within a "program" should be detailed under separate classifications: personnel services; materials and services; and capital outlay. Separate estimates need to be detailed for special payments, debt service, inter-fund transfers, operating expenses and general capital outlays which cannot be allocated to an activity within a "program."

To my knowledge, none of the above was presented to the budget committee. It could easily be done with use of the basic LB-20 budget form which is utilized by most public entities in their budget process.

Along with my concern for not going over revenue-expense information line-item by line-item, I include the inaction in dealing with the "Boardman and Irrigon clinic." Discussion did occur regarding capital expenditure prioritization. Nothing was done to address any possible changes in expenditures related to negotiations with Dr. Boss on operation contracts for the Boardman Clinic or possible clinic in Irrigon which may easily be provided by Dr. Boss and his staff. I really feel these items need to be fleshed out before any approval of a proposed budget.

You can readily gather my concern for the incomplete budget process we experienced in one short budget meeting. This concern was heightened by the absence of three (3) Budget Committee members when the decision for approval of the proposed budget was pushed forward. You must realize that once the proposed budget is approved by the Budget Committee, changes in the budget are very limited as was pointed out at the March 13 meeting.

I don't know if anything can be done to address any of these concerns I have mentioned, but I can assure you that you will be struggling with a perception problem throughout the county with this type of budgeting. I appreciate your bearing with me as I express my fears regarding the Health District budget.

Sincerely,  
(s) Raymond D. Michael  
P.O. Box 170  
Boardman 97818

**Singspiration May 7**

The community singspiration will be held Sunday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at Christian Life Center, Heppner.

Those attending will sing favorite hymns and choruses, and listen to special music presented by individuals from various churches.

Refreshments will be served following the singspiration. Everyone is invited to attend.

**HCC meeting set**

The Heppner Coordinating Council will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 a.m. in the GEODC office.

The agenda will include follow-up discussion of the gap survey results, the county home rule charter, and the railroad right-of-way utilities corridor.

The public is welcome to attend.

**God put a friend in my path**

To the Editor:  
The day God put a friend in my path. Walking, walking, walking the same streets I used to, as a child, as a mother, as a grandma. A day of celebration, when a small town gets together to enjoy the activities, friends and family. I saw no one I knew for blocks, walking in a fog, people on both sides of the street. I was searching, reaching, needing to find somebody to fix it. There was no one, in a sea of strangers, it seemed at the time.

Then directly in my path of wandering was the light I was looking for, a face I knew, a comfort beyond description. She was there, not by chance, but because God put her there for me. She stayed by my side, she walked with me, ran with me, cried with me, listened to my incoherent ramblings. Whatever I needed to do, walk, talk, cry, not once did she say, "no," or "you can't," or "you shouldn't." She was simply there. Thank you, God, for putting Trish Sweeney in my path the day Josey died.

Sincerely,  
Josey Sue Taylor's grandma,  
(s) Sue (Griffith) Robinson

**13-15 year olds sign up for Babe Ruth**

All 13-15 year olds in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area interested in playing Babe Ruth baseball this summer should contact Rick Johnston 676-5562. Practice and tryouts will be held soon with the first game scheduled for May 24.

**Oregon Together plans meeting**

The May meeting of the Heppner/Lexington Oregon Together will be Monday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m. at Kate's Pizza. The purpose of the meeting will be to look at past events and activities, and preview the events for the summer.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

**Wheat growers meeting slated**

The Morrow County Wheat Growers League spring meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, at the Lexington Grange Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The recipient of the Morrow County Conservation Farm of the Year will be announced at the meeting. Guest speaker will be Clinton Reeder, Oregon Wheat Growers League legislative committee chair.

Pie and coffee will be served. For more information call Judy Rea, 422-7445, or the OWGL office, 276-7330.

**Eighth grade parents to meet**

There will be a meeting for all parents of Heppner eighth graders on Wednesday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Heppner Middle school. The meeting will be over by 6:30 so that parents may attend the sixth, seventh and eighth grade orientation at the high school. Eighth grade students are also encouraged to attend.

Topic of discussion will be the eighth grade party to be held May 25. Final plans will be made. Anyone interested in helping but unable to attend should contact Joyce Hughes 676-9959.

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**Health Dept.**

The Morrow County Health Dept. lists the following monthly schedule for blood pressures and immunizations:  
Thursday, May 4: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, May 9: blood pressures and immunizations, county office, Irrigon, 1-4 p.m.;

Thursday, May 11: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16: blood pressures and immunizations, city hall Ione, 11 a.m.-noon; city hall Boardman, 1:30-4 p.m.;

Thursday, May 18: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, May 23: blood pressures and immunizations, county office, Irrigon, 1-4 p.m.;

Thursday, May 25: blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Births**

Sean Elliott Ferguson, Jr., a son Sean Elliott was born to Honey Love Krause of Boardman on April 16, 1995 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz.

Shane Gregory Swanson-a son Shane Gregory was born to Jodee and Mark Swanson of Pendleton, on April 27, 1995 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz.

Grandparents are Alvin and Julie Ashbeck of Buttercreek and Wayne and Geri Swanson of Pendleton. Great grandparents are Earl and Dolores Ayres of The Dalles, Leo and Mary Ashbeck of Buttercreek and Bill and Mary Tolles of LaGrande.

**Marriage Licenses**

The Clerk's office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses during the past week:

April 28: Lyle Raymond Greene, 43, Umatilla; and Dona Jojean Stevens, 32, Umatilla.

**4-H News**

**The Martingale's**  
Erin Crowell, reporter

The Martingale 4-H club will hold their spring cross country jumping event on Sunday, May 7. The ride will be at the Gene Crowell residence, 10 miles north of Ione. Sign-up starts at 9 a.m. and the ride will begin between 10:30-11 a.m. The ride will be followed by a hamburger barbecue and potluck dinner. Those attending should bring a dish of their choice. For more information, call Kristy Crowell, 422-7564.

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**Sheriff's Report**

The Morrow County Sheriff's office in Heppner reported dispatching the following business during the past week:

April 25: Morrow County deputy did a welfare check on a resident at Woodlands in Irrigon;

Morrow County deputy investigated reports of shots fired from a vehicle on Hwy 730, Irrigon. Deputy was unable to locate vehicle;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of a report of a trespass near Lexington;

Morrow County deputy arrested Lawrence A. Perrin, 18, Irrigon, for Failure to Appear/Possession of Rental Property. Perrin was transported to Umatilla County for lodging on their warrants.

April 26: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for juveniles tying up 911 lines. Deputy was unable to locate juveniles;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area for a report of a dog bite.

April 27: Morrow County deputy took reports of threats made in Irrigon;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray ambulance to a residence on Hwy 19, two miles from town, for an elderly female who had fallen. Female was transported to Prineville hospital;

Morrow County deputy responded to 3rd St. West in Irrigon for a report of vandalism;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Mitchell ambulance to a residence on Hwy 26 near Mitchell. One female with an illness was transported to Prineville;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept to Heppner Elementary School. Page was cancelled, turned out to be false alarm.

April 28: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched a deputy to investigate a boat found in the Irrigon area;

Morrow County Sheriff's office received an audible alarm at the Heppner Elementary School. Alarm turned out to be false;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched an officer to a residence in Irrigon for a report of theft;

Morrow County Sheriff's office began an investigation of an abandoned vehicle found in the Irrigon area;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept to a motorhome fire at mile post 164. There weren't any injuries.

April 29: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept. to the St. Pat's Senior Center in Heppner. Fire alarm was false;

Morrow County deputy

responded to the Irrigon area for a report of a stolen boat. Boat was located;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of shots fired. Deputy was unable to locate anything;

Morrow County deputy responded to Paul Smith Road in Boardman for a report of a disturbance.

April 30: Morrow County deputy responded to East Wilson Road in Boardman for

Morrow County deputy responded to an area on Division St., in the Irrigon area for a report of suspicious activity;

Morrow County deputy responded to the West Glenn area in Boardman for a report of an erratic driver;

Morrow County deputy responded to assist a juvenile getting home;

Morrow County deputy responded to a residence on East Wilson Road in Boardman for an animal problem;

Morrow County deputy responded to a business in Irrigon for a disturbance;

Morrow County deputy responded to assist the Boardman Police Dept. with an unwanted subject at the Nomad Lounge.

May 1: Morrow County Sheriff's office began an investigation of vandalism and theft of a computer at TACX cubing plant in Boardman;

Morrow County deputy began an investigation of theft of four rings in West Glen Addition, Boardman. Amount of value was unknown;

Morrow County deputy began an investigation of vandalism to a field in Clarks Canyon near Heppner;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to Utah St. in Irrigon and began an investigation of vandalism to a vehicle;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon ambulance to south Gilliam County Clinic. One patient was transported to The Dalles;

Morrow County deputy began an investigation of items stolen from a residence in Irrigon;

Morrow County deputy assisted the Boardman Police Dept with an arrest of a person for Domestic Violence;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area to investigate a report of theft of camera equipment.

**WCCC Golf**

**Ladies Play, May 2**

Low gross of the field was Pat Edmondson.

Flight A: low gross Anita Boyer, low net Linda Schultz, least putts Coetta Shuler, K.P. #2 and 6 Pat Edmondson.

Flight B: low gross Lynnea Sargent.

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Whole or Cut-up		Roma Tomatoes	59¢ lb.
Frozen Fryers	69¢ lb.	Green Peppers	4 for \$1.00
Cooks Ham Steak	\$2.29 lb.	Western Family 29 oz.	
Beef Pot Roast	\$1.89 lb.	Peaches	99¢ ea.
Baby Loaf 2 lb.		8 oz. Box	
Tillamook Cheese	\$4.49 ea.	Granola Bars	\$1.59 ea.
Ragu 30 oz.		Western Family	
Spaghetti Sauce	\$1.99 ea.	Paper Towel	65¢ roll

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