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## "Vital signs good" at MCGG

The Morrow County Grain Growers posted record profits last fiscal year, with each department showing a good bottom line, the co-op management told gathered members at the annual meeting Monday night, Nov. 4.

Co-op General Manager Larry Mills said the good health of the co-op was due to increased sales and watching expenses. "And we're off to a good start this year," Mills added.

Profits for the co-op were \$892,144, up from \$423,806 last year, this on sales of over \$45 million. Total sales last

year were just over \$38 million.

In other business Mills also announced expansion plans for the co-op including a service station convenience store in Lexington, and expanded repair services at its facilities in Sherman County.

"We think the future looks both bright and promising," Mills said.

## Ad hoc committee recommends jail in county

The defeat of the Morrow County tax base measure not only left the county finances somewhat insecure, but also dashed county officials' plan to use the six percent automatic yearly increase over the tax base to help fund a county jail.

County officials held meetings in all the towns in Morrow County to discuss the jail situation and promote passage of the county tax base. Officials said the increase could help fund a jail, however, there is no guarantee that the money would be used for that purpose.

Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson and commissioner Ray French told an audience of around 20 people at a meeting at Heppner High School Wednesday, Oct. 30, that the Jail Ad Hoc Committee recommended building a Morrow County Jail and that the committee favored passage of the tax base to help fund the jail.

They estimate that the cost of building a 35-bed facility, which is recommended, would be around \$3.5 million or 25 cents per thousand of assessed valuation. Operation costs for a 35-bed jail are estimated around \$600 thousand a year or 43 cents per thousand assessed valuation. The tax burden on a homeowner with a \$60,000 home would be \$40.80 a year.

Building a jail would create

12 to 15 jobs in the county, but French added that he did not consider building a jail to be economic development.

Residents have increasingly become concerned about setting prisoners free because jail space is simply not available.

The county currently purchases jail bed space from other counties, but the problem is that space is dwindling. French said that 75 percent of all the criminals in the county are released. Currently, only three beds are available for Morrow County in jails located elsewhere. Morrow County now spends around \$180,000 a year to house prisoners at those jails. Prisoners may only be housed in adjoining counties.

Morrow County Undersheriff Verlin Denton said that the jail situation now creates a vicious circle. Denton said that now, if someone is arrested, but there is "no room at the inn", the criminal is cited and released. If the criminal then fails to appear, a warrant is issued for his arrest. But, if there is still no jail space, then the criminal is still on the street.

"We could build a 35-bed jail and it would be filled in a month," added Denton.

Other options were considered and rejected by the ad hoc committee. The committee considered recommending that Morrow County join a five-county

district to build a jail. This option would cost the county \$2.7 million for jail construction and \$564,000. The tax burden is estimated at \$36.60 a year for a homeowner with a \$60,000 home.

Officials say this option would create a disproportionate tax burden on county residents, compared to the benefit received.

The third option discussed was to continue to purchase bed space from other counties when it is available. The estimate of annual operational cost for this option for 35 beds would be \$702,000 a year—\$33.80 a year for a homeowner with a \$60,000 home.

County officials stressed that if a jail is built, funds must be available for operation. If the tax base was not passed, voters would have to pass a levy each year. Failure any one year would create major problems for the county, they said and monies could not be earmarked for jail operation.

Another funding option is creation of a special jail district with its own tax base. However, county officials say that a special district would "adversely impact other taxing districts from compression." They maintain that this option could be detrimental to other county services.

## Characters appear all over town



The yellow brick road wound its way through the Bank of Eastern Oregon last Thursday as Dorothy, the scarecrow, the wicked witch, tin woodsman, the good witch, the cowardly lion and of course Mr. Wizard himself, all appeared at the bank for Halloween.



(L-R) Ghouls Dot Halvorsen, Irene Swanson, Darrell Vinson, Sue Vinson and Rose Moe showed up for a pre-Halloween lunch at the St. Patrick's Senior Center meal site, Wednesday, Oct. 30

## General Election Results - Candidates

Morrow County  
Tues., Nov. 5, 1996

	H E A P P N E R	L E X I N G T O N	I O N E	I R R I D G O N	B O A R D M A N	T O T A L S
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### United States President and Vice President

Bob Dole & Jack Kemp	275	118	131	228	206	958
Bill Clinton & Al Gore	290	68	108	339	256	1061
Ross Perot & James Campbell	92	13	22	153	107	387

### United States Senator

Gordon Smith	399	156	109	423	349	1436
Tom Bruggere	184	37	60	300	197	778

### U.S. Representative in Congress, Second District

Mike Dugan	199	36	56	332	218	841
Bob Smith	525	163	196	365	342	1591

### Oregon Secretary of State

Stan Ash	208	104	106	216	202	836
Phil Keisling	350	77	125	410	299	1261

### State Treasurer

Jim Hill	295	61	98	390	278	1122
Bev Clarno	333	120	144	268	256	1121

### Attorney General

Victor Hoffer	262	109	128	254	243	996
Hardy Myers	272	57	93	364	251	1037

### State Senator, 28th District

Kevin M. Campbell	283	85	118			486
Ted Ferrioli	209	110	134			453

### Judge of the Circuit Court, Sixth District

Garry Reynolds	593	111	127	420	316	1274
Robert Ridgway	239	67	92	215	177	794

### Morrow County Commissioner

William "Whisker Bill" Marren	145	35	44	133	141	498	
Jerry Peck	197	54	76	110	109	546	
John Wenzholz	won	362	105	138	458	309	1372

### Morrow County Treasurer

Margo Sherer	260	69	76	360	271	1036	
Gayle Gutierrez	won	358	129	183	296	270	1236

### City of Lexington Councilpersons

Duane Disque	won	50				50
Stan Kemp		45				45
Jean Brazell	won	46				46

### City of Boardman Mayor

Terry Tallman	won				234	234
William Brown					135	135

### City of Ione Councilpersons

Cleo Childers		36				36
Joel Barnett	won	90				90
Robert Ball	won	95				95
Betty Gray	won	83				83

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