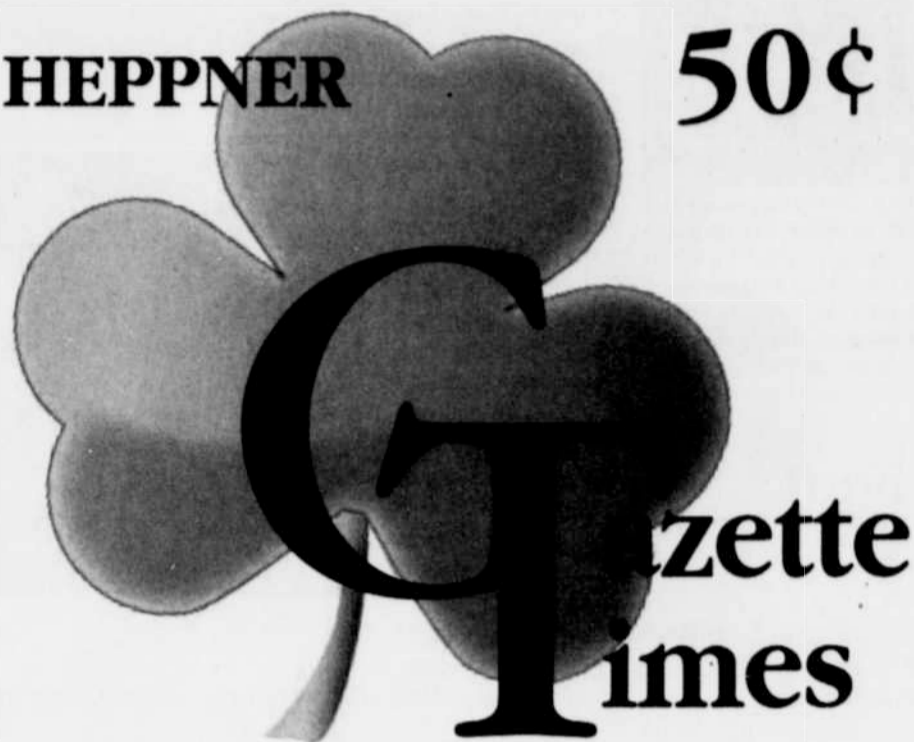


HEPPNER

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VOL. 131 N.O. 16 8 Pages Wednesday, April 18, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Heppner prom court rules the night



Heppner High School's prom took place last Saturday, April 14, at the Elk's in Heppner. On this year's prom court were (back L-R) Mayci Garrett, Natalie Rauch, Queen Carrie Hagewood, Stephanie Shulyer, Cassie Day, (front L-R) Seth Palmer, Andrew Bara, King Justin Pranger, Drew Brannon and Jake Bowles. —Contributed photo

Ballot measures for May election

Along with contested races for a couple of county positions, voters in south Morrow County will find several local or county measures on their ballots in May. Measures range from the extension of a school district levy to the amendment of Lexington's town charter, giving voters plenty to think about as they fill out their ballots.

Ballot measures are as follows:

For Morrow County School District, 25-62 Morrow County School District Renewal of Local Option Serial Levy.

Question: Shall School District levy \$1 per \$1000 assessed value each year for five years beginning 2012-13 for operations and programs? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than 3 percent.

Summary: This measure, if passed, would simply continue for an additional 5 years the existing levy of \$1 per \$1000 assessed value. For example, it is estimated that if this measure passes, the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000 would pay approximately \$100 per year for five years only.

This measure authorizes the district to levy a property tax in the amount of \$560,000 each year for five years beginning with

the fiscal year of 2012-13. The funding would offset declining revenues from state funding.

The School District will use the funds received to pay for expenses related to educational programs such as to buy materials and textbooks, to maintain the current level of programs with associated staff, and to maintain class sizes at levels considered appropriate for proper education.

The estimated tax costs for this measure is an estimate only based upon the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate.

Vote yes or no.

For Lone Library District, 25-63 Permanent Tax Rate Limit

Question: Shall the district be authorized to impose \$.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value as a permanent rate limit beginning 2012-13?

Summary: The Lone Library District is newly formed in November 2011 with the intent to take over operations of the Lone Public Library. For over 50 years, the Lone Public Library has been run by the Lone Topic Club through fund raisers and donations. The Lone Library District will use the revenue generated from the permanent

—See **BALLOT MEASURES/PAGE FIVE**

School levy on the May ballot

Morrow County voters will see a Morrow County School District renewal serial levy on their ballots, which will be mailed to registered voters on April 27. This levy is a continuation of the previous school district levy that has expired.

If approved, the ballot measure will levy \$1 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years for school district operations and programs. The owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$100 per year for five

County surveyor... who, what, why?

Among the contested races during the upcoming election is the run for Morrow County Surveyor. It may be a difficult decision for some, since the behind-the-scenes position, while affecting many county residents, may not be understood by more than a handful.

In some "home rule" counties, like Umatilla County, the surveyor is an appointed position. In others, like Morrow County, the county surveyor is an elected official. That leaves voters wondering, "So what, exactly, does a county surveyor do?"

Among other things, the county surveyor

City takes delivery of new fire truck



City council member Cindi Doherty inspects a new fire truck delivered to the Heppner Fire Department on Saturday. The truck was driven down from Yakima on the final leg of its trip to Heppner. "It looks good," said Fire Chief Rusty Estes who, along with numerous members of the fire department, was also on hand to check out the new equipment. —Photo by David Sykes

Stone resigns as principal, Combe named successor Heppner to change to K-12 principal

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner Jr./Sr. High School Principal Daye Stone will be stepping down at the end of this school year. Current Heppner Elementary School Principal Matt Combe has been named the new K-12 principal for Heppner schools, according to Morrow County School District Superintendent Dirk Dirksen.

According to an email sent out by Stone, he has accepted a job as principal at Hidden Valley High School in Grants Pass, OR. He will start that position in August of this year. Stone, whose wife, Michelle, is the music director at Heppner

Elementary, says the family decided on the move in order to be closer to family in southwest Oregon.

"The community support here in Eastern Oregon is second to none, and that will be missed," says Stone's email. "At this point, we

have lots of questions that are not answered, but we are trusting that God will set the sights on our next steps and chapter of life."

As for the move to one principal for both Heppner schools, Dirksen says that is the long-term plan

for the moment.

"Looking at the student enrollment and the balancing of responsibilities district-wide, we've made administrative reductions and teacher reductions and counselor reductions... it's what we've been doing to balance our budget," Dirksen says.

He adds that it was never the plan to lay off anyone from the school district, but MCSDD has been looking at contingencies for downsizing as people retired or left the district.

"It was a hypothetical situation...if —See **HEPPNER PRINCIPAL/PAGE FIVE**

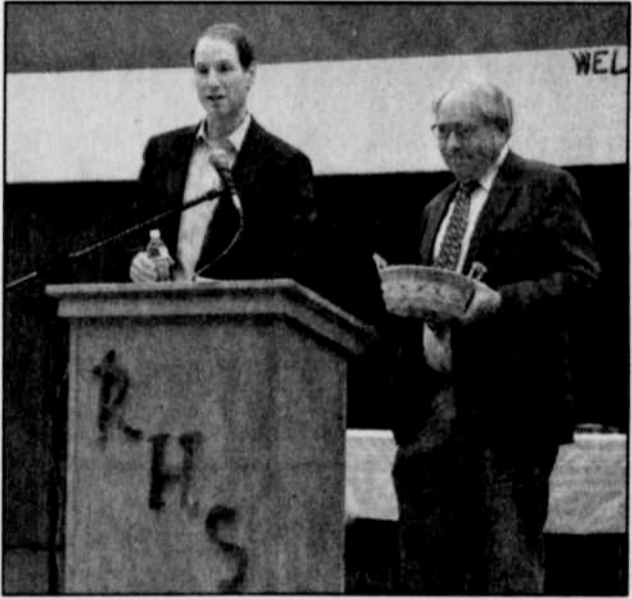


Daye Stone



Matt Combe

Wyden holds Morrow town hall



Sen. Ron Wyden (L.) takes center stage while Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman looks on during Wyden's 622nd town hall meeting at Riverside Jr./Sr. High School in Boardman. Wyden addressed 60 students from Irrigon, Boardman and Heppner, along with 20 adults, during the town hall last Thursday. He made the stop during a trip of Eastern Oregon that included several town hall meetings and a tour of the ZeaChem biorefinery in Boardman. —Contributed photo

Wyden tours Boardman plant

ZeaChem Inc. welcomed U.S. Senator Ron Wyden to its 250,000-gallon-per-year biorefinery

—See **WYDEN IN BOARDMAN/PAGE THREE**

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