

Heppner Gazette Times

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Snow Water, Rain Shows Big Decrease Over Last Year

The outlook for any great quantity of irrigation water didn't appear any brighter this week following a check April 1 of the snow pack on the Arbuckle snow course by Tom Wilson, soil conservationist. The measurement showed 23.3 inches of snow with a water content of 8.9 inches which is 48 percent below the same time last year and 30 percent under the 10 year average.

The snow storm which hit the section of the state during March did add slightly to the pack as the measurement taken on March 1 showed 21.8 inches with a water content of 8.5 inches. The check on March 30 last year showed 17.1 inches of water in the pack, or practically double that of the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson skied into the course to take the measurements and the final check will be taken the end of this month.

Rainfall Lower
Rainfall recorded at the Heppner weather station for the first quarter of 1954 shows a heavy decline from last year also, with only 2.90 inches falling during the first three months this year. This compares with just over five inches for the same period in 1953.

The heavy, though spasmodic, rains which fell over this section of Morrow county early this week didn't add as much moisture as many persons might expect, as Leonard Gilliam, local weather recorder checked in only .30 inch for Sunday and Monday. It is thought that other nearby areas in the county probably received more than did Heppner as heavy rain and some hail fell Tuesday though there was none recorded here.

Most ranchers and cattlemen are looking forward to some warmer weather to bring up the wheat and grass as most range land is still practically bare of new stand.

Homemakers Set Festival Date

Morrow County Homemaker's Festival is scheduled May 5, during the ninth national Home Demonstration Week, May 2-8 and the Rhea Creek extension unit will be hostess for the festival.

Committee members in charge of general plans for the festival are Mrs. Alfred Lovgren, Mrs. Walter Wright, and Mrs. Elmer Palmer. The festival luncheon will be served by members of the Rhea Creek Grange home economics club.

The County executive committee will meet April 14 at 1:30 p. m. at the residence of Mrs. Maud C. Casswell, county agent, home economics, Heppner, to complete plans for the festival and select the theme for the festival. County executive committee members are: Mrs. Earl Blake, chairman, Lena; Mrs. William Garner, vice chairman, Boardman; Mrs. Ray Drake, secretary, Heppner; Mrs. Lester Cox, Lexington; Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Ione; Mrs. Paul Berger, Irrigon; and Mrs. Ben Anderson, Rhea Creek.

Social Security Representative Due

Ben Kantner, field representative of the Social Security Administration office in La Grande, will be in Heppner on Thursday, April 22nd at the City Hall from 9:00 a. m. to noon. Residents in this area who wish to apply for their social security benefits or need information about their social security account are invited to see him at that time.

The regular filing of a quarterly social security tax return is one of the most important things that employers do for their employees. An inaccurate or incomplete report may jeopardize the future security of an employee and of his dependent family, or it may delay payments at a time when they are greatly needed. So, when quarterly returns are made, check it carefully to make sure the correct amount of wages are shown for each employee, he said.

Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Wolff and Billy visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilson from Thursday to Tuesday. They are en route to Puerto Rico where Dr. Wolff will be stationed with the Army. **Volney Thomas, Gilliam county sheriff** from Condon was in Heppner Wednesday on business.

NEED FOR COUNTY NURSE, PUBLIC REST ROOM TALKED AT MEETING

Meeting last Wednesday at the Lexington Grange hall, the Morrow county rural life committee took up several problems affecting local residents including the securing of a budget for a county nurse, investigating the possibility of building public rest rooms at the courthouse park and the expansion of 4-H club activities in the county.

Mrs. Douglas Drake, chairman of the health nurse committee reported that letters had been sent to all organizations asking them to express their wishes for the services of a county health nurse, which office has been vacant since early last fall when Miss Martha Tapanainen resigned to accept another position. Since that time the county court has been attempting to find someone to fill the position, but without avail.

The rural life committee appointed a larger committee to

Vote Registration Deadline Nears

Residents of the county were reminded this week by Mrs. Fred Parrish, county clerk, that they have only until Tuesday, April 20 to register to be eligible to vote at the May 21 primary elections or in other local special elections.

Citizens who have been a resident of the state for the last six months and who have not voted at least once in the last general election year are required to re-register. It is also necessary to re-register if the present precinct of residence has been changed since the last election.

The Heppner Parent Teachers are urging all persons who are not registered to do so to be eligible to vote both in the primary and also at the forthcoming special school election.

Residents of the Heppner area may register at the county clerk's office in the courthouse and other registration posts in the county are Boardman, Walter Hayes store; Irrigon, Mrs. Marguerite Howton; Ione, George Ely; Lexington, Mrs. Emma Breshers; and the Ruggs store at Ruggs.

Rheumatic Fever Strikes Ron Currin, Heppner Salutatorian

Ron Currin, Heppner high school senior who two weeks ago was named high school Salutatorian, was taken to St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton last week-end where it was found he is suffering from rheumatic fever. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Currin of Lena.

According to reports he is progressing satisfactorily but the illness will require that he remain in the hospital or in bed for probably three months.

In addition to his high school honors, Ron was recently named F. F. A. State Farmer for Morrow county.

New Farm Plan Acreage is Added

It was announced that two more farm plans have been adopted in the area at the meeting of the Heppner Soil Conservation district held here Tuesday night. The two plans are to be carried out on the Lexington ranches operated by Millard Nolan and Ray Dolvin.

Soil conservation surveys have been recently completed on 7785 acres of land within the district to bring the total now under conservation plan to 686,574 acres, it was said. Other recent improvements include two acres of sod waterways, three farm ponds, 90 acres of under grass legume seeding, 18 acres of irrigation system completed, 50 acres of brush eradication, 15 acres of land leveling and 600 feet of stream channel straightening.

The district completed its score chart for entry in the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company conservation district contest, and sent its report in for entry.

P-TA TO MEET

The Heppner P-TA will meet at the high school Wednesday evening, April 14 with Miss Donna Neal, girls physical education instructor in charge of the program. The topic will be "P. E. in the schools," and several children will take part in the program. Hostesses for the meeting will be Mrs. C. A. Warren and Mrs. N. C. Anderson.

Robert Clark of Portland was in Heppner this week visiting with his daughter, **Mrs. Floyd Adams**.

State To Build Safety Island at City Intersection

With the passing of a special "No Parking" ordinance Monday night the Heppner city council gave approval to state highway commission for the construction of a traffic divider and safety island in the intersection of May and Court streets in front of the court house in Heppner. The state will construct the island.

The problem of school crosswalks and traffic control at the three-way intersection came under state surveillance early in the year when the chamber of commerce and other organizations attempted to obtain permission from the highway department to install a cross walk blinker sign at the intersection. The department sent an engineer to Heppner to work with the committee and suggested that the only practical method of controlling traffic and installing satisfactory crosswalks would be to build a safety island.

The plan, as presented to the council Monday calls for a triangular shaped island to be built directly in front of the courthouse steps and in the middle of the three-way intersection to divide the traffic and allow for short marked crosswalks to come to the island from all three directions. To make this plan possible, parking must be eliminated in front of the courthouse, which the council has ordered through the ordinance passed that night.

According to the information from the highway department, it will build the island and install all necessary lights and signs, the only expense to the city will be to pay the power company for the lights. Total cost was estimated at about \$1,250.

Work is expected to be started shortly, though no definite date was set by the commission.

Power Mower Injures Lexington Boy's Foot

Gene Heliker, 5-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Cutsforth of Lexington suffered severe injuries to one foot and ankle Tuesday afternoon when he fell in front of a power lawn mower at his home. He is under treatment at Pioneer Memorial hospital.

The boy suffered the partial loss of one toe in addition to badly severed tendons in the foot and the loss of part of the ankle bone. He was reported resting easily today.

The mower was just a new machine which members of the family were trying out at the time of the accident.

Excise Tax Cut To Mean Lower Telephone Bills

Telephone users in Heppner will save an estimated total of \$5,000 a year, starting April 1, through federal excise tax reductions recently voted by congress, according to Pacific Telephone manager D. A. Short.

Short said the reduction will mean annual savings to Pacific Company telephone users in Oregon for better than \$3.5 million. Throughout the five-state area served by Pacific Telephone, the lower tax rate will reduce customers' telephone bills by some \$39 million.

Excise, or "sales," taxes on all telephone service have been cut from 15 and 25 percent to 10 percent. The tax reductions are effective on bills dated April 1 and thereafter.

The largest cut will be in the 25 percent tax on long distance calls costing 25 cents or more. Thus, where telephone users previously paid \$2.50 in taxes on \$10 worth of such toll calls, they will pay only \$1.

Tax reductions also mean that on bills dated after April 1 a two-party residence customer here, who formerly paid \$4.08 a month including tax for exchange service will in the future pay 17 cents less.

Similarly, an individual line business subscriber who has been paying \$7.19 a month including tax for exchange service now will pay 31 cents less.

"These tax reductions, carefully considered by congress, will mean savings to all telephone users," Short declared.

DIVORCE GRANTED

Circuit judge William W. Wells Monday granted a divorce to Marian C. Hedger from James C. Hedger, during a court session held in Heppner.



EASTER SEALS HELP HIM—Four-year-old Brian Mulcare, whose home is in Curry county, exercises muscles under direction of Geraldine Wassels at Easter Seal Agency's hospital school in Eugene where children from over 20 Oregon counties receive special therapy and education. The exercises will strengthen Brian's muscles so that he can walk. The school is financed by the sale of Easter Seals.

Idaho Power's Hells Canyon Plan Told to Chamber

"Hells Canyon power, from the government dam, would not be cheap power. To the contrary, its generation cost would be considerably greater than power produced from Idaho Power's three proposed projects at Oxbow, Brownlee and Hells Canyon," Stan Church, public relations representative from Idaho Power Company told the chamber of commerce Monday in presenting a detailed discussion of the power company's proposed development program for the Snake river.

Church, whose headquarters are at Portland, said that construction of a federal Hells canyon project at an initial cost of over \$429 million could only result in forcing a sizable increase in northwest power rates. The Idaho Power plan would be built at a saving of \$296 million over the government plan and could get power on the line within 38 months if the Federal Power Commission will grant the company the permit to start construction, he explained.

Church told the group that the present hearings are not to determine whether the private company or the government shall develop the river, but only whether Idaho Power's proposal will be OK'd, pointing out that twice previously congress has refused to approve the government proposal. In other words, Church said, if Idaho Power is refused the right to build its dams, there is a good possibility that none will be built in the foreseeable future.

Church touched briefly on the tax angle, saying that tax revenues from the private ownership of the development would amount to \$16 million per year, while if the dam were built by the government it would be tax free. He also gave figures on the small difference in potential power generation between the two proposals.

The talk was illustrated with numerous graphs and drawings. The chamber has, during the past several weeks, heard speakers for both the public and the private power sides of the Snake river development question. Clint Sinclair, representative of the Hell's Canyon Association, having presented the government proposal to the group about a month ago.

Heppner Sophomore Speech Meet Winner

Charles Bailey, Heppner high school sophomore, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bailey won first place for interpretation of poetry at the Oregon high school speech league tournament held last weekend at EOCE at La Grande, school officials announced this week.

Bailey was the only top place winner from any Morrow county school though Hermiston took first place in class A schools for debate as well as several other categories.

City Holds To \$13,000 Price For Park Property

Two Ordinances Passed by Council

The question of what to charge school district No. 1 for the city park property which the district wants to use as part of its site for a new grade school, came in for lengthy discussion by members at the regular Heppner council meeting Monday night with the group finally voting five to one to stay with its original figure of \$13,000.

The council had been requested by the school board to set its price for the land so the school could determine what amount it would be necessary to raise with a bond issue for the building plan. The group discussed the idea that it would use whatever money it might receive from the sale of the park property for the purchase of filtering equipment for the city swimming pool. The cost of such equipment was variously estimated at from about \$7,000 to \$10,000. It was also brought out that if the school did use the property it would be necessary to move and rebuild a water main which crosses the area because the proposed building would be located on top of the present main.

Councilman Jeff Carter, who voted against the \$13,000 figure, urged that an appraiser be called in to appraise the property which would give the council some basis on which to set its price. The group, however, voted to ask \$13,000 for the land.

Ordinances Passed

Two ordinances were passed by the council and another was ordered altered before passage was allowed. The two passed included a no parking restriction in front of the court house to allow construction by the state of a safety island at the intersection and prohibiting the throwing of trash and rubbish into any creek or stream within the city limits. The ordinance also prohibits the dumping of any matter, liquid or solid, into streams which can cause offensive odors and stream pollution.

An ordinance governing the issuance of parking permits was ordered re-written before the council would vote final passage.

Offer Refused

The council refused an offer of the government to sell back to the city a lot located on May street between the Gilliam and Bisbee hardware and Farley Motor company which is now part of the forest service grounds. The government recently declared the area surplus and offered it to the city for \$1000 with restrictions that it be used only for park or similar purposes. Previously it had been offered to the city free, but with the restrictions, and this offer had been refused as the council felt the land should go back on the tax rolls. The area was donated to the government several years ago.

Two building permits were granted, one to William Padberg for a new residence on Jones street to cost \$7,500 and to Marion Olson for a storage shed to cost \$100.

Water superintendent Victor Groshens reported that the repair job on the city reservoir has been completed and that the tank is now in condition to be filled to capacity. A serious leak had developed part way down on the cement reservoir which has prevented it being filled clear up.

Farley Installed As Elks Exalted Ruler

James J. Farley was installed as new exalted ruler of the Heppner Elks last Thursday evening.

He replaces Jack Van Winkle who has served for the past year. Other officers installed at the ceremony were Milton Morgan, Leading Knight; Conley Lanham, Loyal Knight; Alton Yarnell, Lecturing Knight; Jack Bailey, Secretary; and Bill Labhart, Esquire.

Other officers who took over their duties included Don Hatfield, Inner guard, La Verne Van Marier Jr., chaplain; Harold Beckel, organist and E. L. Bisbee, treasurer. F. W. Turner, R. B. Ferguson and W. C. Rosewall are the directors.

CLUB TO MEET

A regular meeting of the Triple Link club will be held Monday, April 12 at the home of Ruby Munkers.

Mrs. James Harris of Pendleton visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Hager on Monday.

Site Cost and Budget Problems Take Up School Board's Time

P. W. Mahoney, attorney for the Heppner school board, reported at the regular meeting Tuesday evening that a total price of \$57,000 is set for the property on which the district plans to erect its new elementary building.

A breakdown of the total cost showed that owners were asking \$13,000 for the city park property, \$42,000 for Tum-A-Lum Lumber company lots, \$1,000 for the L. E. Bisbee land, and \$500 each for the small plots owned by A. J. Chaffee and Gepe Noble.

The board had previously received an appraisal of the Tum-A-Lum land, but instructed the attorney to obtain the services of another appraiser so that more accurate figures could be obtained. No further action could be taken by the board toward setting the date for the bond election or the amount that it will be necessary to raise until plans and specifications are received from the architects.

The board was advised by the rural school board that its budget had been reduced by nearly \$39,000 from the original request and after discussion of the various points of the budget which were reduced, ordered superintendent H. C. Reed to request a hearing from the rural board. The board will ask that most of the \$39,000 be allowed.

It was announced that all the Heppner schools will be dismissed for Good Friday, with school to be dismissed early on the Thursday afternoon ahead.

Umatilla River Closed Monday to Steelhead Fishing

An indefinite emergency closing of the Umatilla river to all steelhead fishing was ordered last Monday morning by the game commission, state police reported this week. The section closed is from the Cold Springs intake, about one mile above Echo to the mouth of the river at Umatilla.

The apparent reason for the closure is extremely low water in the stream due to the heavy takeout for irrigation, it was said. It is not known how long the closure will be in effect.

State police also reported that steelhead fishing on the Columbia below McNary dam has been fair during the last few days, though the size of the fish has been up.

Kip Taylor to Speak At Graduation Here

Kip Taylor, Oregon State College football coach, has accepted an invitation to be the graduation speaker at the Heppner high school Commencement exercises May 26, school officials announced this week.

LICENSE EXAMINER COMING

A drivers license examiner from the secretary of state's office will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, April 13, from 9:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. at the courthouse, the office announced today.