

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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Flood Toll Viewed as Waters Recede



ANYONE FOR GOLF? This was the scene on Willow Creek Golf course last Thursday when Hinton Creek's torrent joined Willow creek. Somewhere beneath this chocolate-colored flood is one of the greens on the course. (G-T Photo)



THE GALE STREET bridge had just about all it could handle last Thursday when Hinton Creek flooded. This picture is taken at the confluence of Willow Creek (coming in from left) and Hinton (at right). A little light is still visible in the bridge aperture, but it couldn't have handled much more water. The new Main street bridges have been a boon in preventing flooding in this area. (G-T Photo)

Council Talks Streets, Speed Limits and Dogs

Discussion of streets and roads, including some damage done by flooding, and concern over speed limits and stop signs occupied much of the attention of the Heppner city council at its meeting Monday night.

Bridge over Willow Creek on Alfalfa street and the one over the McDonald Canyon waterway on Chase street were discussed. The Alfalfa street bridge approach was in danger of washing out by recent high water, and the Chase street bridge has long been a bottleneck in periods of heavy surface runoff. It carried the runoff in recent floods but some damage was done below it to private bridges.

Some of the councilmen said that there is a need to post speed limits on the outskirts of town in some places and at danger points so they are more readily discernible. Need for some more stop signs was also pointed out, including one at the Harold Erwin place leading to the new road to the high school.

The street committee, composed of Councilmen W. C. Rosewall, Bill Collins, and Haskell Sharrard, will inspect locations discussed with City Superintendent Vic Groshens and report to the next meeting.

John Venard, manager of the Heppner Branch, First National Bank, said that the bank will present trees to various locations, including the City of Heppner, in commemoration of the bank's 100th year. City Supt. Groshens will select a tree and a location to plant it at the city park, and the bank will choose a date for the dedication.

A certificate of merit from the Oregon State Board of Health was read, commending the accomplishments of the personnel of the Heppner water system in safeguarding public health by supplying water that meets standards of the state board for pure drinking water.

A perennial problem—dogs

running at large—made its first official appearance of the year. Discussion centered on the question of whether it is the city's responsibility to catch stray dogs when the county collects the dog license fees. No action was taken.

Merchants committee of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce was represented by E. E. Gonty who asked that the city permit hooding of parking meters one day per month during the current year, except that two days be allowed in July and none in June.

Councilman Collins was administered the oath of office for his term now starting. He was unable to be present at the January meeting when others took the oath.

Councilman Carl Spaulding was appointed budget officer. Pirl Howell and Gene Pierce were approved as citizen members of the city budget committee for 3-year terms. Budget work will begin with the March council meeting.

He told of the challenges he has found in the war-torn country in a talk to members and guests of the Soroptimist club last Thursday noon. Colored slides of the people and what he is seeking to do there added visible interest.

Considered by some as a type of missionary work which, as the speaker emphasized, "should be of vital interest to all Americans and Christian people,"

Butter Creek Ranches Take Heavy Punishment

As waters receded following the second flood in a little more than a month county officials and residents this week checked damage and began the wearying work of making repairs.

Unlike the Christmas flood, damage in Morrow county on the second onslaught was confined to a few areas, principally the Little and Big Butter Creeks, Hinton Creek, and to a lesser extent, Willow Creek.

It was Butter Creek this time that attempted to assume proportions of the Columbia River. In the December flood, it was lower Willow Creek that covered the valley from side to side.

Families all the way from Ray French at the south through the Tony Vays, Leo Ashbecks, George Lucianis, and Harry

Proudfoots sustained heavy damage. Two county bridges went out on Butter Creek at Pine City, and these with culverts lost in the area represent \$100,000 damage alone. County Judge Paul Jones said after discussing the matter with state highway engineers.

For a time the Vay, Ashbeck and Lucianis families were isolated, and on to the south the French and Paul Hiler families still did not have a road out by Wednesday, although county crews were working to make repairs. Mrs. Bernice Struckmeier, who with her husband and family lives on the French place, had to hike part way out in order to get to transportation to take her to her Heppner High school teaching post for classes Monday. She waded through waters to be met on the other side.

It was reported that the Ashbecks and Lucianis lost all of their irrigation structures. One man said that there was hardly a cement structure left on Butter Creek.

Harold (Doc) Sherer, county road supervisor, said that the county is building a detour road in from the Glenn Campbell place to connect with the Butter Creek road. A crew started on the job Sunday morning.

Alfalfa fields along the creek bottoms took a terrific beating in the flood. Vay said the water was the highest since 1916.

Willow Creek road above the end of the pavement took heavy damage, and it was estimated that in one spot it will be necessary to move 2500 yards of dirt and rock to make repairs. Sherer said, however, that he expected to have a temporary road open there by Saturday. This will be good news to skiers headed for Arbuckle.

Dick Wilkinson and others along Willow Creek reported rather extensive damage above Heppner, and Hinton Creek swept away dams and structures. It did not do extensive damage to the fairgrounds, county shops nor the rodeo grounds, however.

Water swept over the highway at the Proudfoot place at the Butter Creek Junction and surrounded the family home there. The swollen creek made a huge lake out of the whole valley floor with many homes surrounded by water.

Meanwhile, the Umatilla River was on a rampage and flooded routes leading to Morrow county. It threatened the main bridge at Echo, but the bridge stood the test. There was some washing on the approach, but the structure was saved and traffic proceeded through there Sunday after it had been closed Saturday.

On down, the river battered the bridge between Hinkle and Bucks Corners, ripping out the northern approach and closing this route to Hermiston. At one time the only route from Morrow county to Pendleton was via Irrigon, Hermiston and Stanfield.

Judge Jones said that elsewhere in the county little damage appeared to have been done. Rhea Creek was swollen but not of torrential proportions, and lone, like Heppner, had no flood in town. On Lower Willow Creek was none of the disaster that hit just before Christmas.

This flood seemed to come in two waves, the first following torrential rains in the mountains Wednesday night and hitting Thursday. The second hit Friday night with extensive flooding Saturday.

Judge Jones said that he did not know at this time whether the county will be eligible to apply for more federal aid as a result of this second flood. It will depend on whether the state is declared a disaster area.

Malcom Reports Mill Loss Heavy In Second Flood

Barney Malcom, whose sawmill operation at Spray suffered some \$100,000 in damage in the Christmas flood, including loss of logs washed away, took another severe jolt in the flood last week.

He estimated that damage to the Spray mill may run to another \$40,000 to \$50,000, although he stated, "It's hard to say for sure."

He lost the chip bunker at the plant, the log pond went out, the burner was tipped at a sharp angle, the oil house and pumps were swept away, some more logs were lost (but less than the Christmas flood) and the sawmill yard was in a shambles.

Motors on low levels were removed in time to prevent damage to them.

Actual damage to the mill itself in this flood was probably more severe than the earlier one, aside from the log loss.

"We were whacked worse than the last time," he told the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce in a report at the meeting Monday. "I don't know what we will do now."

Judge Paul Jones reported to the chamber on flood damage around the county, estimating loss on bridges and culverts in the Butter Creek area at \$100,000 alone.

Judge Oscar Peterson reported on a directors' meeting of the Inland Empire Waterways a week ago, and Mayor Al Lamb reported on progress towards the Willow Creek dam after conferring with Congressman Al Ullman's office.

Dave Potter, school superintendent, gave a resume of five education bills among those now under consideration in the legislature.

The Chamber met in the high school cafeteria through the courtesy of Principal Gordon Pratt on its annual school visit.

WEATHER

By LEONARD GILLIAM

Official weather report for the week of January 29-February 4 is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Friday	56	48	—
Saturday	56	45	.55
Sunday	65	31	—
Monday	45	25	—
Tuesday	44	23	—
Wednesday	40	28	—
Thursday	54	30	—
Total precipitation for the month of January was 2.32.			

Mike Bengé Finds Work in Vietnam Challenging

By HELEN SHERMAN

Keen interest in working with people of South Vietnam has grown so much in the past two years for Mike Bengé that after only a short leave he will return to continue work he has started there.

He told of the challenges he has found in the war-torn country in a talk to members and guests of the Soroptimist club last Thursday noon. Colored slides of the people and what he is seeking to do there added visible interest.

Considered by some as a type of missionary work which, as the speaker emphasized, "should be of vital interest to all Americans and Christian people,"

workers in the International Volunteer Service, of which he has been a member, seek to educate and improve conditions for the deprived people.

"We concentrate our work with the young people," he said. "Since the older ones are already set and will not change. They feel the conflicts with Western ideas, and progress is slow." This was shown in modes of dress and attitudes.

After periods of language training in Saigon, he was called on to teach at technical vocational schools. On one occasion he found the inscription "American Advisor" over his desk.

So appreciative were the people of his work, he was

"adopted" into eight families in ceremonies where animals or poultry were sacrificed in his honor. Bracelets on the speaker's arm represented the sacrificial honors given him by "his families."

Mike has been very appreciative of clothing, garden seed, money for animals, and other articles sent him by friends and relatives. Through efforts of his mother, Mrs. Terrell Bengé, and his sister, Mrs. Matt Hughes, children were clothed and fed by things sent from here.

"In the hamlets many people starve to death and children do not have clothing. Eastern Oregon wheat reached us through American Aid, as were tools and

building materials, but they need someone to teach them how to use them."

"Generally, Vietnamese people are either right wing, left wing or neutral toward the government, and if one stays away from congested city areas he is not in any more danger than in the large American cities. I have never been shot at, or hurt."

Mike, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Bengé of Ione, flew to Washington, D. C., Sunday for further training before his return to Vietnam. While on his week's visit here, he spoke to both the grade and high school students and showed his slides in the homes of friends.

Chamber's Annual Banquet Dated For February 15

Warne Nunn, assistant to Governor Mark Hatfield, will be the speaker at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet to be held Monday, February 15, at 6:30 p. m. in St. Patrick's parish hall, Hillard Brown, banquet chairman, announces.

Certificates of recognition will be awarded at the banquet to those in the community who have made important service contributions, and a plaque will be presented to Al Lamb, chamber president for last year.

Mrs. Ola Mae Groshens will have charge of the musical portion of the program.

Soroptimist club will serve the banquet, and admission will be \$2.00 per person. Tickets will be on sale by Monday at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, First National Bank, and Turner, Van Marter and Bryant.

School Budget To Be Presented

Morrow county's school budget for the year 1965-66 will be presented to the budget committee for its consideration at a meeting Monday night, February 15, in the county courthouse, David Potter, school superintendent, states.

A budget meeting will then be held on February 25 in the courthouse. First publication of the budget in the Gazette-Times is tentatively scheduled for March 4, and the second publication is due March 11.

Final budget hearing is dated for March 22, according to the present schedule, and election is planned for April 13.

Burns and Pilot Rock Due Here in 'Crucials'

This is the do-or-die week-end for the Heppner high school basketball team.

The boys take on two teams that have previously defeated them in Greater Oregon League play, Burns and Pilot Rock, but this time they have them at home.

Friday night the Hilanders will face the Mustangs on the Heppner court, with the Jayvee game starting at 6:30. Burns holds one of the season's three wins over Heppner.

Saturday night the Pilot Rock five, now topping the western division with John Day, will come for a doubleheader. The Rockets thumped the Mustangs

earlier this season on the Pilot Rock floor.

Coach Bob Clough's boys figure they have to beat Burns if they are to wind up high enough to go to district tournament. Of course, they would like nothing better than to knock over Pilot Rock, too. While their three league losses have them pretty well down the ladder, they haven't given up hope on an outside chance for the championship.

Big crowds are expected for both of these contests, Athletic Director Pete Glennie says. It is a chance for the home folks to see the Mustangs at their peak against some top teams in the league in games that are crucial for the Blue and Gold.

An added feature Saturday will be the Pilot Rock frosh against the Heppner frosh at 2:30 p. m., making three games for this day. Next Thursday the Heppner frosh go to Condon for a 5 p. m. game.

At Ione, the Cardinals, having turned the corner at the halfway mark in Umatilla-Morrow B play, hope to avenge their loss to Weston this week-end, but they have to travel to Weston for the Saturday night contest. It was back on December 19 that Weston beat Coach Gene Docktor's boys in their league opener, and this was one of but two losses that the Cardinals have suffered in the league.

On Friday night, the Cards entertain Riverside at Ione and they are favored to defeat the north end club, having once previously turned the trick at Boardman.

Collections Due On PTA Program

Every town has persons, young and old, with favorite hobbies or collections of articles, arts or crafts, and enjoy sharing them with others. This is the feeling of the committee that is planning the Hobbies and Collectors Show in conjunction with the PTA meeting Wednesday evening, February 10, at the Heppner High school multipurpose room.

A wide variety of entries is urged. Tables will be set up for displays during the afternoon between 3:00 and 5:00 o'clock. Committee chairmen, Mrs. Clint McQuarrie and Mrs. Lowell Gribble, may be contacted if there are questions.

A short business session will open the meeting at 8:00 p. m. and observance of Founder's Day is planned. The public is urged to support the organization by participation and attendance.



THIS MIGHT be called "Rodeo Lake," and could have been used for a Morrow County Water Carnival last week when Hinton Creek flooded and made a big lake out of the rodeo grounds. Water washes around the fair pavilion in background (left) and county shops (background right) but little damage was done to either of them. (G-T Photo)



THE SIGN says, "Entering Echo," but some wag might have struck out "Echo" and inserted "Venice" Saturday. A gondola might have come in handy here. The flooding Umatilla River inundated the highway for some 500 yards and surrounded many homes in the area. The Echo bridge did not go out, but was seriously threatened. (G-T Photo)