

# Greetings to All

85th Year

Number 44

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, December 26, 1968

Price 10 Cents

### Mustangs Win Holiday Tournament



OFFICERS OF THE Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce for 1969, elected Monday, are Jerry Sweeney (right, front), president; Judge Paul Jones (left, front), first vice president; and from left, back row, Gene Pierce, second vice president; Harlan McCurdy, Jr., secretary; and Norman Supple, treasurer. (G.T. Photo)

### Sweeney Chosen To Head Chamber; Directors Named

Jerry Sweeney, owner of Sweeney's Mortuary, was elected president of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce for 1969 at a meeting of the organization's directors Monday. He will succeed Wes Sherman, publisher of The Gazette-Times, who has served as president through 1968.

County Judge Paul Jones was reelected first vice-president and Gene Pierce, president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, was chosen second vice-president.

Harlan McCurdy, Jr., manager of Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc., was reelected secretary and Norman Supple of the Heppner branch, First National Bank, was reelected treasurer.

Judge Jones, who normally would become president in the Chamber's custom of moving up through the line of officers, asked not to be considered this year because he will be gone on business in connection with the legislature on the usual Chamber meeting day—Monday—during the months that the legislature is in session.

He is serving on a legislative committee for the Association of Oregon Counties.

Reelected to the board of directors for two-year terms were McCurdy and Sweeney. Three new directors elected are Robert Abrams, attorney; L. E. (Ed) Dick, Standard Oil distributor; and Harry O'Donnell, manager of the Morrow Abstract and Title Co.

Holdover directors, who serve until the end of 1969, are Judge Jones; Dick Carpenter, Heppner High school principal; Elma Harshman, owner of Elma's Apparel; Pierce; and Dr. Wallace Wolff, physician and surgeon.

Sherman, as past president, will serve as ex officio member of the board of directors for one year.

Officers for 1969 will be installed at the first meeting in January, Monday, January 6.

### Garrisons, Winchesters Win Decoration Firsts

With a large brilliantly-lit Christmas tree in the yard, figures of deer and snowmen, and the home outlined in blue lights, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Garrison won first place in the outdoor division of the 1968 Christmas Lighting and Decoration contest sponsored by the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce. The word "Noel" is framed in red lights on the side of the house, which is located at 245 W. Baltimore.

Winner of first place in the indoor division—decorated windows and decorations visible from the street—are Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Winchester, 124 W. Church St.

Their place has a profusion of decorations, both indoors and outdoors, with many figures included. One window has a large painting of an angel with the word, "Compassion," worked into the painting.

Both the indoor and outdoor first place winners receive \$30 in this year's contest.

Second in the outdoor contest are Mr. and Mrs. Len Ray Schwarz of 140 North Chase Street, winners of \$20, and third are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Meth-

vin, 475 Chase Street, winners of \$10.

Second in the indoor contest is Mrs. Mattie Green, 335 W. Water Street, whose window display features an open Bible and candles, and third is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Lovgren, 240 S. Court. Mrs. Green wins \$20 and the Lovgrens \$10.

Judges toured the city Sunday evening, and after reporting the results said, "The committee feels more of the people who decorated their homes should have entered the contest."

A tour of the city confirms their statement. Many beautiful displays that were not entered can be seen in all sections of town.

Of the total \$120 in prize money, \$60 is contributed anonymously, \$30 comes from the Chamber and \$30 from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

Mrs. Avon Melby is chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee in charge of the contest.

### 4-H Skiing to Start At Arbuckle Jan. 4

Members of the 4-H ski clubs will start the season at Arbuckle Mountain on Saturday, January 4, according to Dick McElligott, club leader.

Snow reached a depth of some 18-24 inches about 10 days ago, and it appeared to be packing good, the leader said. This depth was greater than any during the season last year.

More probably has fallen since, but the chinook of Monday may have cut it some, McElligott said. He said that he had not been up to see the course during the past week. However, the course might be high enough so that it was not affected by the warming winds.

No announcement has been made as yet as to whether the Jaycees will be operating the course for the general public as they have the past two seasons.

### Train Hits Car at Lex Crossing; Sailor Escapes with Cut, Bumps

Joseph Michael Burcham, 20, Lexington has seen some combat action in 2½ years' service with the Navy, but he has never experienced anything as terrifying as that which occurred within sight of his own home Saturday.

A Union Pacific freight train collided with his 1966 tudor Chevrolet at a crossing at Lexington, just after Burcham had driven away from his parents' mobile home, located just west of the tracks.

The train hit the auto almost broadside, but fortunately knocked it away from the tracks, some 20 feet to the side. Burcham received a cut on the head, which required some stitches, and a few bruises, but that appeared to be the extent of his injuries.

Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman, who investigated, said that Engineer Charles Wilson stated he never saw the car approaching from the west, nor did Burch-

### Undefeated Team Takes Fourth Title

For the fourth straight year, Heppner High's basketball team has won a Holiday Basketball Tournament championship.

Coach Bob Clough's Mustangs throttled the tall Wahtonka Eagles Friday night in the tournament, held at Wahtonka, 60 to 47, and then rolled over Condon Saturday night, 59 to 33, for the championship.

The Eagles thumped Sherman County, 66 to 44, to win the consolation in Saturday night's preliminary. Condon topped Sherman in the opening game Friday night, 63 to 47, to gain the final round.

One of the problems of the Mustangs in the Friday night game was to stop Butch Schmidt, towering 6 ft. 7 inch basketeer of the Eagles. The Mustangs used a zone and sagged on Schmidt at times to hold him in check. They limited him to four field goals, but he gained 14 chances on the free throw line, making eight of them, for an evening's production of 16.

Gary Kemp had his best night as a Mustang, tallying eight field goals for a matching 16, and he missed his only chance on the gift line.

At all the quarter stops, the margin favored the Heppner lads, 19-13, 33-28, 45-39 and the final, 60-47.

Four Mustangs were in double figures in the game—Kemp with 16, John McCabe with 14 on five buckets and four free throws, Cal Ashbeck on six and one, and Jon O'Donnell with 10 on four and two.

In the title contest Saturday night, the Mustangs, having twice defeated the Blue Devils already, were favored again, but Steve Riney, one of Condon's better players, was in the lineup for the first time this year, and it was expected that he would make a difference.

Riney did lead his team in scoring, but the Cloughmen's winning margin was greater than either of the first two meetings at 26 points—59-33.

Taking a 13-9 first quarter jump, Heppner moved to a 27-17 halftime lead and broke away for a 44-23 advantage by the start of the fourth.

Kemp's 16 matched his point production of the night before and made him tournament high for the champs with 32, all but four points of which came on field goals.

McCabe was next in line with 15 on five field goals and five free throws, getting a total of 29 points for the tournament. Cal Ashbeck had 22 points for the tourney, getting nine Saturday, and O'Donnell had 18 with eight on Saturday.

(Scores on page 8)

### County Tops State In Vote Percentage In General Election

Morrow county voters won the distinction of taking their franchise most seriously in the general election, according to figures released recently by Clay Myers, Secretary of State.

A total of 89.51% of the registered voters in the county cast ballots, thereby leading all counties in the state, Myers said. Statewide average was 84.84%.

Ironically, neighboring Grant county had the lowest percentage at 80.04%.

Republicans across the state went to the polls at the rate of 87.46% but Democrats slipped to 82.55%.

In leading the state percentage-wise, Morrow county had a rather phenomenal turnout in some precincts. For instance, Northwest Heppner had a percentage of 93.1. Of its total registration of 334, all but 23 cast ballots.

### Chinook Wipes Out White Christmas

Those in Heppner who had dreams of a white Christmas had conditions well in their favor until Monday when the warm chinook wind came and turned the "white" to gray or brown.

Several inches of snow had accumulated through Sunday but it left in a hurry Monday with the wind and warmer temperature.

A snow storm blanketed much of the northern part of the state Sunday, with blizzard conditions hitting in the Columbia Gorge and in Portland. Rains came later, though, to wipe out the snow in the Portland area.

The week brought a total of 3.7 inches of snow in Heppner and a total of .46 inch of rain. Temperature dropped as low as 11 degrees early last Friday morning. After maximum temperatures had hovered around the freezing point for four days, it warmed to 51 degrees Monday, clearing the snow cover rapidly.

Complete weather report for the week from Don Gilliam, official observer, is as follows:

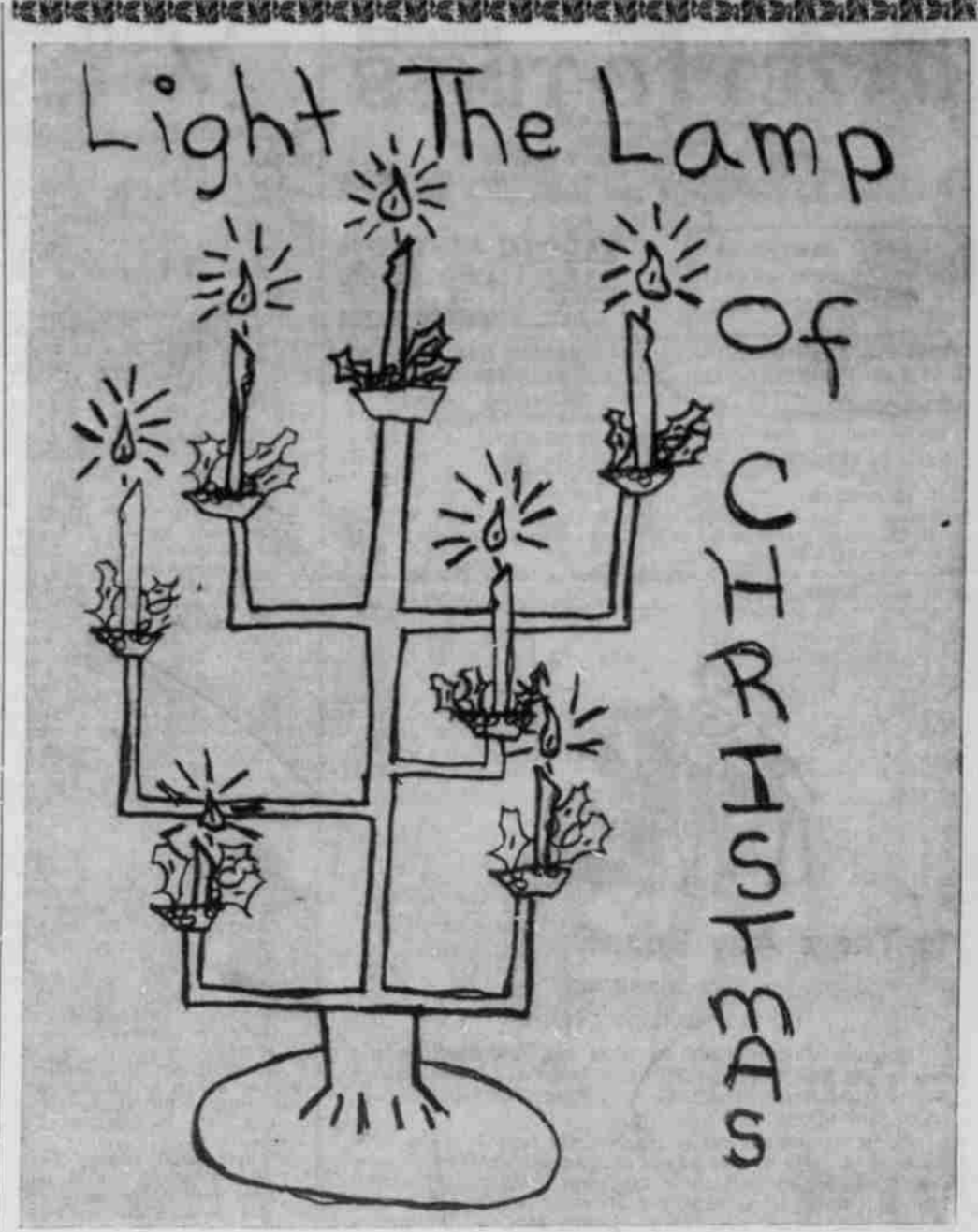
	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	40	26	.12*
Thursday	29	20	.17**
Friday	30	11	—
Saturday	33	15	—
Sunday	39	20	.14***
Monday	51	25	.03

(\* 1 inch snow; \*\* 1.7 inches snow; \*\*\* 1 inch snow)

### Breaks Hip in Fall

Mrs. Norah Rasmus received emergency treatment for a broken hip at Pioneer Memorial hospital late last Thursday afternoon, after she was injured in a fall on an icy sidewalk, while walking downtown.

Mrs. Rasmus was transported by ambulance to St. Anthony hospital in Pendleton on Friday for further treatment.



DRAWN BY CHRISTY BRADLEY, 7th GRADE

### Young Artists Again 'Light Christmas Lamp' in Greetings

As the drawing by Christy Bradley, seventh grade student, proclaims, Heppner Elementary School children are again "Lighting the Lamp of Christmas" in this issue of the paper.

Their original Christmas drawings are used again in presenting the annual greeting issue of The Gazette-Times with merchants sponsoring the drawings.

This is the third year that work of students of Terry Lincum, art teacher, have been presented in the greeting edition of the paper. Unfortunately, the student artists far outnumber the businesses available to sponsor the season's drawings, and therefore, only relatively few of them could be chosen.

Those which appear throughout this paper should be considered representative of the work done by the students. Many, many fine drawings had to be omitted.

While there is no contest in connection with the drawings, those who have their work published will receive certificates of merit from the paper.

Below each drawing used is the name and grade of the student artists. It is interesting to note the students' many different interpretations of the Christmas season as they portray it—some humorous, some deeply religious, some emphasizing Santa and his reindeer, some working in kindness to animals and other good deeds.

Most of the students' greetings are presented, along with the other traditional type greetings of the merchants, in section two of this paper.

### Relatives Hear Encouraging Information on Mike Bengé

Encouraging information concerning Michael D. Bengé, believed held for nearly a year by the Vietcong, has been received by his sister, Mrs. Matt Hughes, of Heppner. It brightens the Christmas season for Mr. and Mrs. Terrel Bengé, his parents, of Ione and all his relatives and friends.

A friend, name of whom the relatives prefer to keep anonymous, has written from the Saigon area to report that he had talked to a native who had seen Bengé in a VC jungle prison camp.

Bengé, who had been working with the Montagnards for five years in a civilian capacity, was reported missing following the Tet offensive in late January, 1968, and his relatives here received the report in early February.

They have spent a great deal of time and effort during the year trying to check out leads that would give them any information about Mike, but have had little success through either official or unofficial sources.

**Native Identifies Mike**

The friend, who was with him the night before his apparent capture, sent the recent heartening word in a letter dated December 13.

He wrote: "I just returned from Ban Me Thuet, and there is good news about Mike—the first news I've gotten about Mike. I was in Buon Ale-A where the Rhade leaders live, and a Rhade just came in from the bush reported that he had seen five Americans in a VC jungle prison camp. He could identify Mike, Betty Olsen and Hank Blood, but not the other two.

"We think that they are the people from the Leprosarium captured in 1965. He said that

Mike and Betty were in good shape but that poor Hank was very thin and couldn't walk. They are being kept in a house. It seems that they are getting better treatment than before.

"Now that the Paris peace talks are getting underway, I think it might be a good idea to write to your congressman and urge them to get things rolling for the VC to display goodwill by releasing some of the civilian prisoners. They are allowing Christmas gifts to be sent to the military prisoners in North Vietnam.

"I'd like to wish you and your mother a Merry Christmas and the best of the New Year. Hopefully, next year Mike will be with you to celebrate."

The friend, who is a civilian in Vietnam, is considered a very reliable source of information.

**Blood Brother**

The Rhades are of the Montagnard people. The Montagnards thought so highly of Bengé that they made him a blood brother in a ceremony. Betty Olsen and Hank Blood, named in the letter, are believed to be among missionaries who were captured in the same offensive that resulted in Bengé's capture, Betty Olsen being a nurse.

Bengé was to complete his tour of duty there in April, 1968, after serving for five years. He had been home the previous November on leave, flying on the same plane as Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.