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THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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Sweeney appointed

Mike Sweeney was introduced as a new member of the Morrow County Planning Commission Monday night at the Morrow County Courthouse. Dorris Graves, Roy Lindstrom and Fritz Cutsforth were re-appointed to the commission for another term.

Keeco Inc. presented a variance requiring a setback in M-1 zone, located at the southwest corner of Highway 730 and Patterson Ferry Road. Keeco Inc. also presented an application for a condition use permit for contractor equipment yard and an office on the same property.

The application for the equipment shed and the office was approved, however when it was discovered that Kenn Evans was seeking the variance because of difficulties with the Boardman Telephone Co., as he wanted his office to be served by Pacific Northwest Bell, some discussion followed. It was later discovered the county road had not been built on county property, and this was the reason for the variance. Evans wanted a variance of 14 ft. however, the planning commission approved a two foot extension.

The commission approved the final plat for Greenwood Estates Subdivision.

The subdivision includes 17 building lots of more than an acre per lot. Bob LaRue, Irrigon and Bob Lagier, engineer of LaGrande presented the final plat to the planning commission. The County Court must approve the final plat prior to construction.

Employees honored for 3 year record

An awards dinner for the employees of Eastern Oregon Logging Company, Kinzua Corporation was held Jan. 17 at Kinzua.

The dinner was held to honor construction employees and their wives for having no lost time accidents over a three year period.

Construction employees and wives honored were: Richard Mortimore, Cleburne Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cook, Glen Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Munger, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cline, Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick Dunlap, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Medlock, Otis Cody and Sherron Mangum (sister), Mr. and Mrs. Doyal Hubble, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Warren, Henry Geer, Mr. and Mrs. Don Stanton and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Howell.

Lee Wilson, Safety Compliance Officer, Accident Prevention Division, Workmen's Compensation Board and Bill Bolender, Safety Consultant State Accident Insurance Fund presented the crew with merit awards from their respective offices.

Representatives from Kinzua Corporation, Heppner, and their wives attending the dinner to congradulate the employees for their fine record included Mr. and Mrs. Darl Hagey, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lankford, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Vader, Mr. and Mrs. Guy VanArsdale and Milo Prindle.

Progress report on irrigation project

By Dan Wilson, Project Coordinator

The irrigation project for North Morrow County and Western Umatilla County, now known officially as the Stanfield-Westland project, is making rapid progress toward providing enough information for the landowners so they can decide if they want to participate in an irrigation project from the Columbia River.

At the most recent meeting of the Stanfield-Westland Project Coordinating Committee, reports were heard from lending institutions as to the importance of a financial consultant to advise the committee and assist them in finding sources of financial support for this project.

Also at the meeting were representatives from Vitro-Boyle Engineering Firm who explained seven conceptional ideas on how to bring water from the Columbia River to the nearly 95,000 acres now signed up in the project. They discussed pros and cons of each alternative and asked the coordinating committee for feedback.

The coordinating committee, at the suggestion of the engineering firm, voted to re-open the sign up for the project so landowners within the existing sign-up area, or landowners adjacent, either on the east side, east of Buttercreek, or on the west side south of the bombing range, and Boeing land, could participate in the irrigation project.

Additional lands will carry a 10 per cent late charge so they will need to make a contribution of $2.20 per acre. The new deadline for additional acres is Feb. 5, 1976. Interested landowners should contact the Stanfield Irrigation office in Stanfield.

The coordinating committee stated that additional lands will help the overall feasibility of the project, because the larger the project area, the smaller the per acre development cost. Approximately 9,000 additional acres has already requested permission to join the project.

The coordinating committee, a 12 man board includes: Larry Campbell, farmer, chairman; Gaylord Madison, farmer, vice-chairman; Dan Wilson, O.S.U. Extension Economist secretary and official spokesman for the committee; Robert O'Rourke, Attorney and irrigation districts representative; Bill Penney, manager, Port of Umatilla; Ken Turner, farmer; Chester Prior, farmer; Stafford Hansell, farmer; Darrell Maxwell, Umatilla County Extension Agent; Hadley Akins, Ag. representative, U.S. National Bank, past project coordinator; Bill Gilbert, manager, Stanfield & Westland Irrigation Districts and Tom Harper, city manager, City of Hermiston.

The coordinating committe, on Nov. 21 authorized the Stanfield and Westland Irrigation District to enter into a contract with Vitro-Boyle Engineering firm to complete an engineering feasibility study of the area to be completed by Aug. 1, 1976. This completion date coincides with the completion date of an economic feasibility study being done by Oregon State University Extension Service.

The three major questions that the two studies will answer are:

1. What kind of legal organization is necessary to administer the project, the pricing policy and a recommendation on how the financing should be arranged.
2. The cost of delivering water to the different areas of the project.
3. The ability of the lands within the project to pay back the cost of development and the cost of operation, based upon several cropping patterns, crop yields and price variations.

County equipment needs repairs

Nine employees of the County Road Department were temporarily laid off Jan. 5 by the Morrow County Court until the equipment operated by the employees can meet State Safety Standards.

Prior to their dismissal, the men notified road master Doc Sherer, that some of the present equipment did not meet safety standards. Sherer took the list and asked the courts advisement on the matter. The County Court decided to contact the State of Oregon Accident Prevention Division, Pendleton to have the equipment checked, regarding the necessary safety features.

After the Accident Prevention Division inspected the equipment, they listed some 20 faulty features with the equipment. Some of the necessary corrections include the replacing of all broken or cracked glass within the vehicles; installation of seat belts and roll bars; bleepers must be installed on all equipment that has a reverse gear; safety guard rails must be installed when large equipment is in operation to prevent anyone from entering the area where the equipment is working; the electrical panel on the rock crusher has to be rewired and safety equipment installed.

When the county purchased most of the equipment in 1969 safety features were not installed as it was not deemed necessary.

Judge Paul Jones has stated that as soon as the safety equipment arrives for the machinery it will be installed by the mechanics Dick Sherer and Glen Irby. He further stated the cost of installing the safety equipment and repairs to the rock crusher will probably cost the county thousands of dollars.

The equipment cannot be put into operation until all repairs are completed and meet state standards. Failure to comply with the law could result in severe penalties to the county.

All snow equipment has been equipped with the safety factors and the equipment is ready for any snow emergency.

The County Court does not forsee the men being able to return to work prior to March 1.

Juveniles apprehended

Three youngsters ages 7-9 years of age were apprehended by Heppner City Police and remanded to juvenile authorities, on charges of theft.

The youngsters were seen entering a vacant home and police investigated the youngsters activities. It appears the youngsters had been ripping off miscellaneous items from parked vehicles in the neighborhood and placing them in the vacant house.

Among the items recovered were plastic glasses, windshield scraper, can openers, billfold, an instamatic camera, 5 eight-track tapes, check book, cement weight and three sets of mounted antlers.

Three Heppner teenagers were arrested by Heppner City Police and charged with criminal activities in drugs. Police reported the juveniles had been smoking marijuana.

They have been remanded to juvenile authorities.

NFO meeting tonight, Ione

There will be a National Farm Organization meeting, tonight, Thursday at the Ione Grange Hall. The meeting will be preceeded by a crab feed starting at 7:30 p.m.

Following dinner speakers will include Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Schulz. Mr. Schulz was recently elected Washington State president of NFO. Prior his recent appointment he has been active in both community and Grange affairs and joined NFO at the start of organizing in the northwest. He has held various offices from bean chairman, district director and 4th district president.

His wife Oryissa M. Schulz, has worked as a columnist and free lance writer and is a legislative consultant to the Washington State Legislature. She is a chairperson on agriculture workshops, state conference on food and nutrition. She is a lay member of the Select Committee on preservation of agricultural land, Washington State; Member of the Policy Council, Hunger Action Center and is listed in the 50th edition of Marquis' Who's Who in the West (and America).

PGE awards contract

Portland General Electric Company announced recently it has awarded Peter Kiewit Sons' Co., Omaha, NE, the approximately $18 million contract for preliminary site earthwork and reservoir construction for the utility's Boardman coal-fired generating plant.

Peter Kiewit Sons' Walla Walla Area office has responsibility for supervising the operation.

Primary work to be completed under the contract will be excavation of material from the power block and coal handling areas at the site. This material will be used by the contractor to construct a dam, a divider dike and a saddle dam for the 1400 acre cooling reservoir.

During February the contractor will develop a construction water supply system and build shop and office facilities in the reservoir area.

"We anticipate the majority of work involved with this contract will be accomplished in 1976, but the contract will extend to the end of 1977," said Ad Starner, PGE's manager of generation construction. He said the contract will involve a peak construction force of about 190 workers.

PGE expects permanent foundation work for the 550 megawatt, $450-500 million project to begin in late 1976.

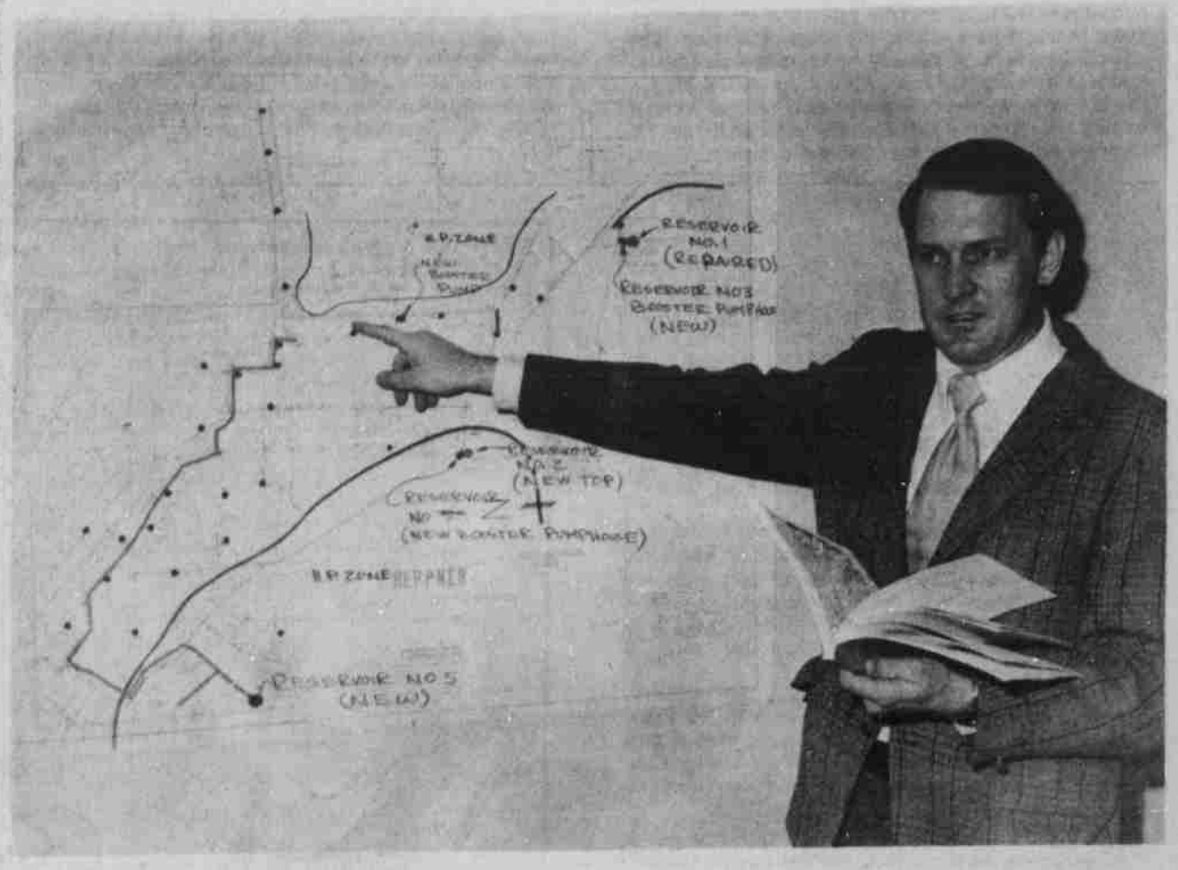
5 DAYS TO WIN $10

The Morrow County Fair Committee is offering $10 for a theme for this year's Fair, Parade and Rodeo.

Entries must be submitted by Feb. 3. Entries may be sent to Delpha Jones, Lexington, Liz Curtis, Heppner or Larry Mills, at the Morrow County Grain Growers. Because of the limited time, phone calls from entrants will be accepted.

The winner will be selected Feb. 4, at the regular meeting of the Fair Committee.

City Water System Completed



City Engineer Steve Anderson points to a map showing the various modifications made to Heppner's new water system.

"The City of Heppner now has enough water to serve 2,500 residents, or until 1995 if the population increases at the rate of the predicted one per cent annual growth," said City Engineer Steve Anderson, speaking before the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

"I have done a lot of things in the past two and one-half years," said Anderson, stating he was hired by the City of Heppner in June, 1973. By November, 1973 he had completed his study on the existing water system and presented his report to the Chamber of Commerce asking for its support in the passage of a $450,000 water bond issue to revamp the existing water line. In March 1974, he and Orville Cutsforth went to Washington, D.C. and testified before the Senate in hopes of securing federal funds for the proposed water line with the building of the Willow Creek Dam. However, in 1975 President Ford vetoed the construction of the dam and new plans had to be designed by Anderson.

Some of the existing reservoirs, thought to be obsolete by the City had to be repaired and used in the project. With the usage of these reservoirs there is now ample water for the city as well as sufficient water for any fire hazard.

At present the city has four zones of water pressure, better circulation within the city due to the looping of some of the existing mains and additional fire hydrants, and additional water pressure.

While the pressure varies from 30 to 90 pounds per square inch (psi), due to the surrounding hills, all areas within the present city limits now have an ample supply of water.

The city of Heppner is now rated 7-B by the state for fire protection and in the near future the city should be rated at least 7-A which should mean a decrease in the fire rates. It is doubtful if the City of Heppner will ever increase beyond 7-A as the city has a volunteer fire department and the rating is given by the state.

New hydrants were added in the area of the Elementary School and at Heppner High School and the existing stand pipe hydrants were replaced.

Should the City of Heppner expand beyond the predicted growth rate, the present water system could be expanded due to the existing work completed in the field. The city now has two automatic booster stations that are virtually vandalism proof.

"I feel confident that Heppner now has a modern water system, one that will provide for the growth of the area," said Anderson.

Mothers march Thursday night

Volunteers for the March of Dimes will be knocking on the doors of homes in Morrow County towns on Thursday evening, Jan. 29. People in Boardman, Irrigon, Ione Lexington and Heppner will be asked to contribute to the 1976 campaign.

The Morrow County chapter of the national foundation uses part of the money collected to sponsor Mikka Lou Evans, 14 month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Evans, Irrigon. Mikka was born with two birth defects of the windpipe. She has spent three months of her life in the Oregon Medical School Hospital and has had several corrective surgeries. Mikka will also need another operation at the end of January. She requires two large machines to help with her breathing and catheter replacement supplies are used constantly. The Morrow County March of Dimes has paid for these machines and supplies.

Pat Gentry, county chairman and coordinator of the Mother's March, stated, "We have a large turnout of volunteers this year and are looking forward to exceeding the amount of money we raised last year." The fund grossed $1,044 in the 1975 march.

MIKKA LOU EVANS

Wheat seminar

A one day wheat and production seminar will be held at the Willows Grange Hall, Ione, Feb. 2, starting at 9:30 a.m. to bring growers abreast of current developments in the wheat industry.

Project coordinator, Norm Goetze, an OSU extension agronomist said the meeting is designed for growers, but should be of interest to suppliers and trade people.

Topics to be covered include: changes in wheat grading procedures, performance of new wheat varieties in Eastern Oregon, winter hardiness of wheat, foot rot of wheat, how to sell wheat and a report from the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Others on the program with Goetze are Robert Powelson, OSU plant pathologist; Charles Rohde, Columbia Basin Research Center at Pendleton; Al Plummer, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Portland; Don George, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Pullman, WA; and Wes Grilley, executive vice president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, Pendleton.

School committee meets

Boardman—The Morrow County School Budget committee met at Riverside High School Jan. 26 in the second of three scheduled meetings.

A lively discussion, with the music department of the Heppner High School revealed that the participation in the program has increased dramatically. In 1974 approximately 20 were involved in band in Heppner High. This has increased to 43 and is projected to involve more than 60 students.

The Elementary School is experiencing the same type of growth and the involvement is expected to reach 90 to 100 youngsters.

This activity has resulted in a need for more instruments and equipment to carry on the program. Presently the instructors are using a number of their own amplifiers and electrical instruments. As a result a higher than usual request was made in the budget.

The budget committee recommended that some form of rental program be worked out to offset the costs of new or replacement instruments.

Four budget items were approved by the committee: (1) approved capital outlay of $34,448; (2) approved replacement outlay of $21,404; (3) approved capital outlay of major improvements to buildings $12,720 after deleting $2,014 for a hot water heating coil at Ione, and (4) approved additional staff costs of $89,816. These will be passed to the school board with the budget as a whole after the next meeting.

Pet Rock Show

The Oregon Agate and Mineral Society will sponsor a series of exhibits and lapidary demonstrations at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Jan. 31-Feb. 8, including its "Firs tAnnual Pet Rock Show."

Vying for attention with pet rocks of all breeds will be a special Bicentennial display of stones from each of the 50 states. Oregon's state rock, the thunderegg, will be a focus of interest and visitors will have the opportunity to purchase an Oregon thunderegg and have it cut open at no charge. A wide variety of rocks, minerals, and jewelry will be on sale, and rock hunting location maps of Oregon will be available.

On weekends during the show, Oregon Agate and Mineral Society members will give actual working demonstrations of faceting, rock cutting and polishing, carving, jewelry making, silversmithing, and the art of making pictures from crushed stone.

Awards will be handed out in the "First Annual Pet Rock Show" at OMSI on Feb. 8. The public is invited to bring in favorite pet rocks on any day during the two-week Agate and Mineral Society exhibition. These will be registered, identified and put on display until judging at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8. Pet rock expert Mr. Ralph Mason of Oregon's Department of Geology will be among the judges handing out awards in categories ranging from "Best of Breed" to "Best Trained."

The Oregon Agate and Mineral Society show will be held at OMSI Jan. 31-Feb. 8.