

Morrow County's Newspaper

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 92, No. 51

Heppner, OR, Thursday, Feb. 5, 1976

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Heppner City Police Chief Dean Gilman stares at two of the twelve marijuana plants recently confiscated in Heppner. At the base of the plants are some marijuana seeds used to cultivate the plants.

3 jailed in cow killing

A faulty muffler triggered a string of events here Saturday that landed two young men in jail charged with driving with a suspended drivers license, cow-killing and growing marijuana.

It all started early in the morning when Chief of Police Dean Gilman was making a routine check of the town and noticed a car with a faulty muffler. He stopped the car with the intention of issuing the driver, Michael John Palmer, 18, Hermiston, a warning citation to repair the muffler.

Gilman noted blood on the

vehicle and on Palmer's trousers. He asked for Palmer's operating license, which he found to be a suspended one. Gilman checked the trunk of the car and found the freshly butchered front and hind quarters of a cow.

Gilman and an Oregon State Police Officer said Palmer admitted killing the cow. He and a friend had intended to kill a deer, but not finding one, they killed a cow belonging to Terry Thompson in Lunchford Canyon, south of Heppner.

The officers and the suspect returned to the scene of the cow-killing to find that Thom-

pson had just discovered the remains of the butchered cow.

Later the same day Palmer implicated another youth as his accomplice. Shortly after noon the officers arrested Joseph Donald Mattison, 18, Heppner, in his apartment on W. Willow St. An investigation of Mattison's apartment revealed 12 small pots, each containing a marijuana plant. Mattison admitted to officers his role in the butchering of Thompson's cow.

Palmer was taken to Umatilla County jail charged with theft in the first degree and for driving with a suspended

operators license. Mattison is charged with theft in the first degree and cultivating drugs. He is free on bail. Both the men are to appear for arraignment Tuesday in justice court.

Monday morning Oregon State Police were called and further information given on the slaying of the cow. Implicated was a third suspect, Michael James Pine, 22, Heppner. Pine is charged with shooting the animal and is charged with theft in the first degree. He is lodged in the county jail in lieu of \$2,505 bail.

They call it money

Why criminals aren't caught or imprisoned

"Why aren't more criminals going to jail?"

That question is asked on every street corner and coffee shop every day in Morrow County. The answer is money—or rather, the lack of money.

Morrow County has \$7,500 budgeted for taking care of jail prisoners. Since the county jail has been condemned it has been necessary to transport prisoners to Pendleton for confinement. The daily rate for keeping a prisoner recently went from \$7.50 to \$15 a day. Last Friday a felony case was reduced to a misdemeanor. The judge sentenced the man (who had been charged with rape but had his case reduced to sexual molestation, a misdemeanor) to one year in jail. There went \$5,475 of the county's annual budget just to house and feed one convicted of a misdemeanor crime. Had the charge of rape stuck in this instance the state would have shouldered the expense rather than the county. Only two cases of this kind could wipe out a year's budget for prisoner jail care.

District Attorney Dennis Doherty told the Gazette-Times Tuesday that increased costs of keeping prisoners has Sheriff John Mollaban "shopping around" for better jail rates. He found a bargain at The Dalles, where Morrow County can house its prisoners for \$7.50 a day.

"This lack of funds inhibits law enforcement and the courts," said Doherty. "It doesn't make for the best in law enforcement and the dispensation of justice when both the lawmen and the courts know that in some instances the amount of justice to be meted out depends largely upon how much money is left in the budget."

He said this results in plea bargaining (reducing a charge in exchange for a plea of guilty).

Doherty said it costs \$450 just to bring a jury into the court house. The justice court has a budget of \$1,000 for jurors and witnesses; the circuit court is \$3,500.

"And if people want to know what the sheriff is doing instead of chasing criminals," Doherty said, "take last Friday as a good example. The 4-man sheriff department kept busy shuttling prisoners from Heppner to Pendleton and The Dalles, and return. Then the sheriff must go either to The Dalles or Pendleton jails to take the prisoners out to see their attorneys, which saves the county money because the lawyers charge \$30 an hour to visit their clients in the jail, and it's much cheaper when the sheriff takes the prisoners to the lawyers' offices. Then he has to go back and pick up these prisoners for arraignment, and then returns them to their cells in Pendleton or The Dalles."

And that's why the sheriff isn't out chasing criminals, Doherty said.

And the reason more people aren't going to jail is because there isn't enough money to put them there.

A total of 59 felony cases were prepared and filed by the district attorney's office for the 1975 year ending Dec. 31, 8 of which involved juveniles. Most of them involved property crimes; except for 6. There were 19 burglaries and 19 thefts in the total of 59 charges. Of the 59 crimes committed 36 were committed by persons residing in Northern Morrow County. Five of the convicted felons were sent to state prison. 17 of the cases involved transients or persons from other counties. About 52 cases for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor were reported to the DA's office; and of this number 15 went to trial and the rest pleaded guilty. 14 cases involved bad checks and 10 were habitual traffic offenders.

Doherty said the average criminal case, with a full court trial, costs an average of \$4,500. Two such cases a year would exhaust the funds set aside in the budget to prosecute them.

Annual meeting at Lexington

The 4th annual meeting of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District will be held Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Lexington School district office.

Following the introductions and a business meeting featuring Dan Wilson, Oregon State extension economist, project coordinator of the Stanfield-Westland project will address the members.

Area engineer Elwin Ross will also speak on soil loss in Morrow County versus quality standards.

Jernstedt honored

State Sen. Ken Jernstedt, Dist. 28, was named Hood River County's First Citizen of 1975. The presentation was made at the annual Hood River County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet, Jan. 29.

A resident of Hood River for 30 years, Jernstedt was cited for his many diversified community services, for leadership in his church and for his work in the Lions Club. His Lions Club activities have included club president and deputy district governor for eastern Oregon.

Jernstedt was a Marine Aviator and served in China under General Claire Chennault and the Flying Tigers (AVG). He was Oregon's only Flying Tiger pilot, one of the groups top aces, Oregon's first ace and the recipient of two decorations from Madame Chiang Kaishek for bravery in action.

Now in his second term as state senator, Jernstedt previously served as a Hood River Councilman, Hood River mayor and state representative. He was especially commended for humanitarianism including his continued interest in legislation to benefit Oregon's handicapped citizens.

CC Guest speaker

Bob Addleman, district conservationist, will be the guest speaker at Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce Monday. He will present a slide program entitled, "In Touch With The Land."

Morrow County has achieved the lowest unemployment rate of any Oregon county during December with 5.9 per cent.

This figure was only 0.4 percentage points above November, but considerably below the reading of 8.9 in December 1974. The civilian labor force, although down 90 from November, was 850 above the corresponding level of a year ago.

Non-agricultural wage and salary employment for Morrow County increased slightly, to 2,060 workers in December. A slight increase in food products; transportation and utilities; finance; insurance and real estate more than made up for the declines in trade and contract construction. The total is 530 above a year ago.

Much of the yearly job increase occurred as expected in food products, lumber and wood products and trade.

Latest reports indicate that Portland General Electric Company is expected to begin ground site preparation for construction of its coal fired generating plant near Poverty Ridge in Morrow County by mid-February. Water storage for plant cooling and irrigation purposes will be developed by construction of the Carty Reservoir at the site. Up to 70 workmen are expected to be on the site after the first three months.

PGE has indicated it hopes to eventually have a cluster of six generating plants at Carty, possibly four of them nuclear. The proximity of the U.S. Navy's Weapon System

Training Facility, however, prevents development for nuclear reactors at Carty now. If and when the Navy moves its bombing range out of Morrow County, PGE officials hope to expand the power complex in this technological direction.

Although minor revisions are still to be made to 1974-75 labor force statistics, it now appears the annual average for Morrow County will be in the neighborhood of the figures given below:

Morrow County Labor Force Summary by place of residence for 1975: civilian labor force, 3,190; unemployment, 180; per cent unemployed, 5.6; total employment, 3,010.

Recently the Center for

Population Research and Census of Portland State University released its July 1975 population estimates for Oregon's 36 counties and 240 incorporated cities. These estimates are used by state agencies in establishing distribution levels to county and city governments for revenues derived from liquor profits, gasoline and cigarette taxes. Population for selected municipalities in Morrow County are given below along with county totals.

Morrow County	5,190
Boardman	685
Heppner	1,600
Ione	405
Irrigon	370
Lexington	245

\$9 billion gas line project outlined

"The proposed Arctic Gas Transmission Pipeline will be larger than the oil line in both length and cost," Ross Woodward of Pacific Gas Transmission Co. told the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

The proposed gas line will begin at Prudhoe, AK, and continue to Calgary, picking up the gas at the MacKenzie Delta. The transmission line will split at Calgary with mains going to California and another the East Coast.

Throughout the area of permafrost, north of 60 degrees latitude, the gas will be refrigerated at each compressor station to maintain a temperature below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. This chilled gas line concept will allow the pipeline to be fully buried along its entire route without risk of damage to high ice-content permafrost.

Compressor stations, using jet aircraft type engines, will be located at 50-mile intervals when full capacity is reached.

The surface over the pipeline will be revegetated to provide thermal insulation for the permafrost and to arrest alluvial erosion.

The Arctic Gas decision to build the pipeline follows more than five years of technical and environmental studies costing more than \$70 million. Pure environmental studies alone cost more than \$12 million, resulting in publication of 29 volumes of original research, with more to come.

Experts on mammals, birds, fish, soils and other areas were employed to make extensive and comprehensive studies.

The information was used to plot the route and design the pipeline and ancillary facilities. The studies also served as a basis of the monumental environmental report submitted to the Department of the Interior and the Federal Power Commission and counterpart agencies in Canada.

(Continued on Page 2)



Gary McKinney, left, area superintendent and Ross Woodward, right of way agent for the Pacific Gas Transmission Company.

Who has the plans?

The loss of numerous sets of approved sewer plans appeared to be the main topic of discussion at the Heppner City Council, Tuesday night.

Builder Randy Lott asked Mayor Sweeney why the common council had not approved plans for a sewer he had installed. Mayor Sweeney replied that neither he nor any member of the council had seen the plans, nor had the council given their approval of the plans. Lott remarked he originally had six sets of plans made of the proposed sewer line and that after having them signed by a registered engineer he had sent two sets of plans to the State for its approval. Upon the approval of the plans, Lott claims one set was forwarded to the city

for approval. Awaiting approval of the plans, Lott claims one set was forwarded to the city for approval. Awaiting approval of the city council, Lott installed the sewer line and connected the main to an existing manhole.

After the project was completed the city notified Lott that his plans have never been approved by the council and if a set of plans can be produced the city will accept his line, otherwise, according to the city engineer Steve Anderson, the sewer line will be considered a private line.

Lott appeared before the city council Tuesday night and told the council that of the six sets of plans one can be found.

While claiming the city has

(Continued on page 6)

Contract rejected

The Morrow County school advisory committee met Tuesday evening at the Heppner Elementary School to discuss the renewal of the teachers contracts for the coming year.

Approximately 60 persons attended the meeting, some with petitions asking the contract of Dean Naffziger as athletic director and as basketball coach, not be renewed. Lee Padberg, presented a petition containing 38 signatures requesting the dismissal of Naffziger.

Head football coach Chuck Starr presented a petition in favor of Naffziger bearing less than 10 signatures.

The school advisory committee then called an executive session and interviewed all of the people who had signed the petition. The interviews were thorough with the executive session lasting more

than three and one-half hours. Following the executive session the committee returned and the motion was made and seconded that Dean Naffziger's coaching contract not be renewed for the coming year. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

A spectator asked the following question from the floor, "Does this mean that Naffziger will still continue as athletic director?" The committee replied, "There was only one petitioner interviewed during the executive session who asked for the resignation of Naffziger as athletic director."

The advisory committee will present its recommendation to the school board for the final decision. The next regular meeting of the school board will be held Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School.

School budget wins approval

LEXINGTON—The School Budget Committee of Morrow County Monday night approved a 1976-77 budget of \$2,859,540. This represents an increase of \$368,338 over last year's budget and includes the bond issue.

Cost to the taxpayer would be an added 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation over last year's \$9.10 tax rate, or \$9.60 per \$1,000 for the 1976-77 period.

After three meetings the original proposal of \$2,631,361

was increased by \$18,179. These increases are the result of the new Social Security rate increases recently announced by President Ford. Morrow County School Board of Trustees will now receive the budget proposal.

The budgets for each section of school operation are as follows: A.C. Houghton, \$333,181; Heppner Elementary, \$381,878; Heppner Junior High, \$153,252; Heppner High, \$445,684; Ione Elementary, \$169,391; Ione Junior High,

\$66,795; Ione High, \$174,639; Riverside Junior High, \$123,330; and Riverside High, \$314,623.

Transportation of students for the coming year will cost \$230,933 if the school board and the voters approve the budget as presented. Operating costs for the district office are projected at \$265,836.

After study and approval by the school board this budget will be presented to Morrow County voters for approval.