



Jail facilities driving sherriffs out of town

By Wil Phinney

The city of Heppner and the county of Morrow are between a rock and a hard place. Really hard.

It is obvious that a two man sheriffs department can't adequately cover all of Morrow County. But couple that with indecent, even pathetic jailing facilities, and you have even worse possibilities.

Acting Sheriff Larry Fetsch works days, long days. Kip Morris, the lone deputy, works nights in North Morrow County. Long nights, too.

"If both men work 60 hours a week, it's still falling short of full time police coverage," Dennis Doherty, Morrow County district attorney said. "That's when they just do police work."

But with no jail in the county, much, possibly half or more of the officers' time is devoted to transporting the people that are criminally charged. The county sheriffs rely on the jailing facilities in Wasco County at The Dalles, the Hermiston Safety Center and the Pendleton jail.

Two weeks ago, a man Morrow County was holding in the Wasco County jail was subpoenaed to court in Heppner. He traveled to The Dalles and brought him back to Heppner... about five hours on the road. When he got here, after his appearance in court, there was no place to hold him legally except in the sheriff's office. The sheriff had to feed and watch him all day. For the night, he was transported to Hermiston. The sheriff came back to fulfill his duties here. The next day, he had to appear in court again. A trip to Hermiston and back, the appearance in court, then back to The Dalles.

The transportation time just chopped the sheriff's day into mince meat.

At the least, Doherty says, the county needs some sort of lock-up facilities. Some sort of adequate lock-up facilities.

The rock and steel building behind the courthouse is not adequate, according to anyone that sees it and according to the minimum jail standards bill of 1973.

That bill provides that a local jail has to maintain 24 hour supervision; it must maintain personal inspections each hour; it provides that three meals must be served every day inside the jail; it provides that the county must adopt rules and regulations that govern correspondence, visiting, discipline and prisoner behavior; it provides that the facility must be safe and secure according to the uniform building code of the International Confederation of Builders; it provides that the county must formulate and publish plans to meet emergencies such as in the case of possible escape, riots, assaults, fires, rebellions and any others; it provides that the county must formulate policies and regulations for operation; it provides that the county officers are not permitted to administer any physical punishment to any person at any time.

That's what the bill says. Morrow County's facsimile of a jail doesn't come close to meeting these standards. And Doherty knows, Fetsch knows it... anyone who has been through the jail knows it.

The county can't maintain 24 hour service. A thick concrete wall stops anyone from seeing into the jail. Personal inspections are a risk. "You're walking in cold," Doherty said.

Two big doors open into the main portion of the cell. It's wide open and there are many chances for a hostile prisoner to take revenge.

A safe building? The cell doors have no view panels; there is no workable segregation to separate a pair of hostile prisoners, except to lock them into two small rooms, only big enough to turn around in.

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—\$1200 needed—

Center faces closure

Tear filled eyes lit up a bit late Tuesday afternoon when officials of the Heppner Child Development Center learned that Kinzua Corporation would put up \$600 and Murray's Drug \$200 to help the center find \$1,200 by October 29 to keep its doors open.

Linda Johnson, Anne Doherty and Monica Swanson appeared Monday night before the Heppner Common Council, seeking some financial relief for a perplexed child care budget.

Ms. Johnson told the council that the center was "hurting right now in our budget" and were "hoping to find financial help from the city."

The center has slipped to \$5,423 below its budget. It needs \$1,200 by October 29 if it plans to continue operation.

At present, the center has a total budget of \$33,983. Averaging 20 children a day at \$4.50 per child, the center is coming up with \$23,760 annually. Add \$4,800 that the United States Department of Agriculture grants them and it still leaves the center short of their budgeted total by over \$5,000.

Almost 50 per cent of the children at the center have been from families that live inside the city limits of Heppner. Thirty-one per cent are from families that work at the mill, 44 per cent are from government and merchants' families.

The center's \$4.50 charge is among the highest in the area. An increase, according to Swanson, coordinator of the program, would make the center "unaffordable."

Many people believe the center is totally funded by federal grants, but that is not true. The federal aid that the center gains through Community Coordinated Child Care (4Cs) only pertains to low income families.

Parents must prove their income, Swanson said, and very few qualify for the funds. The total check from the federal government last month was only \$273, not even enough to pay a part time employee for a month.

Private sitters in the area are charging \$4 a day, Swanson said, but noted that the center provides a more in-depth care program.

Swanson told the council that the staff was "grossly underpaid" and said they make a "little better than

minimum wage."

"They are so dedicated," Swanson said, that "without them, we would have been closed a long time ago."

Swanson maintained that the center was an "important asset to the community." The council agreed, but could not find any way to help the center out with funding.

The council said the only possible chance would be for the center to apply for a supplemental budget in January when federal revenue sharing monies are available.

Swanson said the center was trying "to tap everybody in town. I believe so strongly in the center that I don't want to see it close."

Tuesday morning, the same reply came from the courthouse after the center's hopes were aroused last week by budget figures.

Last week, the center spokespeople said, the county was prepared to recommend a \$12-1,500 supplemental budget for the center through federal revenue sharing money.

But Tuesday, after four hours of lengthy discussions, the answer was a crisp "no." The budget committee voted 5-2 against any donation.

Swanson told the Gazette-Times at noon Tuesday that \$1,200 had to be raised by October 29 or the center would shut its doors. Even if the money is raised, rates will increase, she said.

She said the county came up with excellent suggestions, but that they would only be applicable if the \$1,200 is raised.

Swanson said the center expected a large population of children this summer, but blamed poor harvest and mill vacations for the poor attendance.

At noon, one of the center's officials was prompted to term the center's chance of gaining the \$1,200 as "zilih." But Kinzua came through and Murray's Drug was close behind.

The center is asking for immediate community support. Swanson said the doors would be closed November 1 if the money is not gained and the center would hold a yard sale to pay all its debts.

The center sent out 77 letters of appeal earlier in September. Only one came back.

Anyone willing to contribute, Swanson said, is urged to do so immediately.

Fatality

A 26-year-old Boardman man was killed late Monday night in a car accident immediately east of the city near the junction of I-80N and Hwy. 730.

Leopoldo Flores Spain was pronounced dead at the scene. He was an employe at Gourmet Food Products, Inc.

Two other persons in the car received neck and internal injuries. They were Francisco Cobaruby Madrano, 24, Boardman, and Thomas Navarette, 22, Boardman. They were taken to Good Shepherd Hospital by Hermiston ambulance.

All three were passengers in a car driven by Sabino Recendis Macias, 24, P.O. Box 1461, Umatilla.

U-turn stays

'Dragging gut' to continue in Heppner

Young Heppner motorists will continue to "drag the gut."

A proposed no-U-turn sign to be put up at the junction in front of the courthouse was squelched by the Heppner Common Council Monday night.

Dean Gilman, Heppner police chief, asked the council to consider placing a no left turn sign on S. Court. Students, the council was told, travel up and down main street: to the north, turning around near the Union 76 station, back up main street, turning left at E. May Street. They then travel up to the tri-street junction, turning right onto S. Court before flipping a U-turn and heading back north on E. May to start the trek all over again.

The councilmen agreed that the turn around spot was a hazardous one, but also agreed that it is probably still the safest.

"I think we should live with the traffic

problem," Jim Rogers said, making the first move for the student drivers. But all the other councilmen joined in.

They agreed that the turn around, although not particularly safe, would be safer than channeling traffic up N. Court and turning near the grade school or up into residential areas.

"It's a mess, but it's not the kids' fault," Larry Mills said. "We're better off the way it is than having them drive by the grade school. We're not going to pass an ordinance keeping the kids from cruising the streets."

"Let it be," Ray Boyce said. "It's part of growing up."

Students do the majority of their "dragging the gut" in the mornings, at lunch, after school and in the evenings. Saturday night, one councilman said, is an especially good evening for cruising.

No-host dinner

Candidates fair slated 19th

The opportunity for local voters to hear and talk with many political candidates at a Candidates Fair is set for Tuesday evening, October 19, in Heppner.

The American Association of University Women has arranged a no-host dinner and a public appearance and question period for county and state legislative and judicial candidates which will begin at the new Roger's restaurant, West of the Willow, at a 6 p.m. dinner.

At 8 p.m. at the Junior High Auditorium each candidate will be allotted two minutes to speak. Then a list of predetermined questions will be presented for the candidates to answer. Finally questions from the floor will be permitted.

A.A.U.W.'s legislative chairman, Kathy Peck, Lexington, will moderate the fair. She will be assisted by Anne Doherty as timekeeper.

The speaking and question part of the fair will be followed by a coffee time hosted by area A.A.U.W. members which will permit informal visiting with the candidates.

The names of those candidates who will attend the dinner and speak at the fair at the Junior High will be announced ahead of the October 19 date.

Mustangs remain first

A slim, double overtime victory over Riverside, 26-20, insured Heppner of their first place stand in the Columbia Basin Conference, still tied with also undefeated Umatilla at 4-0.

The Riverside clash left Dave Allstott, senior quarterback, sidelined for the remaining season with a dislocated shoulder.

Bruce Young will take over tonight at Weston-McEwen. Umatilla toppled Condon in Blue Devil territory, 35-6, to maintain their undefeated



HEPPNER
Dave Allstott

ranking. In other contests, Weston-McEwen blasted Wasco County, 30-6; and Sherman County stomped Pilot Rock, 50-6. Oregon Trail was dumped by Burbank, WA, in a non-conference game, 15-6.

Heppner faces Weston-McEwen this week. The game tonight could either leave Heppner and Umatilla knotted at 5-0, providing Umatilla takes Oregon Trail, or it could leave Umatilla alone in first with Weston-McEwen, Heppner and possibly Sherman County, tied at 4-1.

The game time is 8 p.m. tonight in Athena. Columbia Basin Conference

	W	L	Pct.
HEPPNER	4	0	1.000
Umatilla	4	0	1.000
Weston-McEwen	3	1	.750
Sherman County	2	1	.667
Oregon Trail	1	2	.333
Condon	1	3	.250
Pilot Rock	1	3	.250
Wasco County	1	3	.250
Riverside	0	3	.000



Heppner dance team entertained impressively during halftime of the Riverside triumph Friday (G-T Photo)