

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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The Campfire Girls celebrate their 68th birthday this week and the first grade Sunshine Blue Birds put up a display of their original art in the window of Kroll's Department Store on Monday to celebrate the occasion. From left Kim Kroll, Susan Plocharsky, Stephanie Henderson and Benji Pearson arrange the display. Seven Blue Bird and Campfire groups in south Morrow County—three in Heppner, one in Lexington and three in Ione are observing Campfire Girl Week, March 12-18.



March
12-18

City, County will support construction of dam, if...

Officials want assurance of flood plain elimination

City of Heppner and Morrow County officials decided this week to send letters of support to Senator Mark Hatfield, urging him to secure funding for the construction of Willow Creek Dam.

During a special session Monday night, the Heppner City Council decided to send Sen. Hatfield a letter assuring him of the city's support of the dam with the condition that the city be assured that if the dam is constructed, the flood plain through Heppner would be eliminated.

The County Court took similar action during their regular meeting Wednesday afternoon, however details of the meeting were not available by press time.

Discussion at the City Council meeting centered around construction of the dam to eliminate Heppner's flood plain.

Councilman Bob Jones stated, "If it wasn't for the flood plain, I'd be against the dam." Councilman Larry Mills echoed Jones' sentiments. "The only thing you're talk-

ing about is building the dam to eliminate the flood plain," said Mills.

If Heppner's flood plain remains where it is currently designated, it is almost certain there would be no new construction in the business district and much of the existing residential area.

Councilman Cliff Green asked rhetorically, "Why wasn't the dam available five years ago?" "Unless I see a written guarantee on this desk saying

the flood plain will be eliminated, I'll vote no," Green continued.

At a public meeting March 6, Ron Barrett, Chief of the flood plain section for the Corps of Engineers, showed a photograph of the city's flood plain if the dam were constructed. With the exception of a four-block area at the base of Shobe Canyon, it showed no flood plain in Heppner.

At the suggestion of Don Cole, Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce president, the council agreed to send a

letter of support to Sen. Hatfield if the city was assured the flood plain through town would be eliminated.

Details of the County Court meeting will be reported in next week's Gazette-Times.

Weather	HJ	Low	Pre.
Wed., Mar. 8	53	43	.17
Thurs., Mar. 9	53	40	.07
Fri., Mar. 10	52	31	
Sat., Mar. 11	47	34	
Sun., Mar. 12	47	34	
Mon., Mar. 13	49	33	.04
Tues., Mar. 14	50	32	

Voters OK \$4.8 million bond issue

Morrow County voters Tuesday approved a \$4.8 million bond issue to allow new construction and plant improvements for the school district. The county-wide vote was 764 in favor and 428 opposed.

Voters in both the Boardman and Irrigon precincts turned out in force to support the bond issue, nearly two-thirds of which will go towards financing a new elementary school in Boardman and a new junior high school in Irrigon. Forty-nine per cent of the 600 voters in the Boardman precinct showed up at the polls while 41 per cent of Irrigon's 673 eligible voters cast their ballots.

Ione showed a 43 per cent turnout of its 405 eligible voters, 28 per cent of Lexington precinct's 365 voters were counted and the combined Heppner-Hardman precinct showed a 29 per cent turnout of its 1,175 voters.

School District Supt. Matt Doherty said he was "tickled to death" with the results, which he said were "better than he anticipated".

"The results show that the voters in the district really understand the problems we are facing," Doherty said.

	yes	no
Boardman	274	19
Irrigon	221	54
Heppner	172	178
Lexington	18	83
Ione	79	94
Total	764	428

Peterson resigns Port of Morrow Commission seat

With a lifetime of public service behind him, Oscar Peterson tendered his resignation as a Port of Morrow Commissioner last week.

"I kind of regret pulling out now, but there are so many other things I have to do," said the 84-year old Peterson.

Born and raised on his father's homestead in the Eightmile area, Peterson plans to devote more time to the family farm operation, himself and his family.

Peterson first became involved with the Port of Morrow during his seven-year stint as County Judge in the late 50's and early 60's.

"I've always felt that Morrow County was destined to go places because of the waterway potential of the Columbia River," said Peterson. "In that respect, myself and a lot of others pushed hard and



Oscar Peterson

were instrumental in forming the Port of Morrow."

After Peterson retired his judgeship he was appointed to the Port Commission and has been there since.

Looking to the Port's future Peterson said, "We have room

for future development and we can be selective in what industry locates here. The Port has some of the finest large tracts of waterfront property on the whole river."

Forefront told Peterson that one day the Columbia River would be important to Morrow County and it was over 30 years ago that he joined the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association. A lifetime member of the organization, Peterson said the Association has been instrumental in making the Columbia a major commercial artery in river transportation for the Inland Empire.

Making the taxpayer's dollar provide the maximum in benefits has always been a goal for Peterson, since the time as a young man when he

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Clean up week starts Saturday

City will pickup trash

The city government is behind it. So is the Heppner Garden Club, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Forest Service, Bluebirds, Boy Scouts, Junior Garden Club, Future Farmers of America and the students at both the grade school and high school.

But it will take even more than that if the goal of a clean city of Heppner by Easter Sunday is to be reached. It will take a total community effort, and that's the word the cooperating organizations of the Heppner Spring Clean Up campaign are hoping to get across.

The week of March 18-25 has been designated official city-wide clean up week by Heppner Mayor Jerry Sweeney and all house owners and renters are asked to cooperate in the campaign by cleaning up yards and side walks and generally sprucing up their outside living area. Help will also be needed in picking up litter in the city parks and other public areas.

The city crew will be available both Thursday and Friday of next week to haul away garbage. Residents are asked to place their yard refuse near their driveway in easily handled garbage sacks and should not expect household or garage items to be picked up.

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Kenneth Smouse named 1978 Conservation Man



Kenneth Smouse... 1978 Conservation Man of the Year

At first glance, it appears such a neat, orderly package. Arrow straight fence rows surround the 1,880 acre parcel, only 20 acres of which are wasteland. A single jog in the northwest corner adds a little character to an otherwise perfect square property line. Everything is in its place.

Even at second glance, you can't detect the most pressing problem faced by Ken Smouse on his Baseline Road farm. You can only reflect on the possible results—destroyed topsoil, choking dust and plenty of headaches—all brought on by strong winds out of the south and west.

Realizing that the winds are a constant factor that have to be dealt with by farmers in the Baseline area, Smouse spent several years in the mid 1960s converting his land to a series of wind strips designed to

provide maximum protection from wind erosion. His efforts have not only brought added security to the 59-year-old family farm but also earned Smouse the distinction of being named 1978 Morrow County Conservation Man of the Year.

Smouse was honored on his selection at Monday's annual meeting of the Morrow County Wheat Growers' League.

The farm, located five miles northeast of Ione, is divided into thirteen 1,000-foot strips running on 45 degree diagonals. On alternate years, Smouse has 925 and 933 acres in production. He lists several advantages to having the wind strips, including, basic protection from wind erosion, winter protection from the cold northeast winds that hit the area, fire protection to stop possible grass fires that could spread from surrounding lands, as well as allowing farming and harvesting without stirring up bothersome dust from tailwinds.

Smouse opted for the wider 1,000 strips to cut down on the number of edges required between fallow and cropland.

He said there is always the problem of weed control between the strips, and with only 13 strips to contend with, the weed difficulties are easier to deal with. Also, the wider strips keep him from having to run farm equipment in the same tracts time after time and allow him to cross cultivate.

The strips were added to the farm over several years beginning in 1962 and Smouse took advantage of the federal farm program during the period to eliminate any loss of production, despite having to double summer fallow some of the land during the transition.

"Now that the strips are in, I think they could take care of any blow that could start here," Smouse said. "They really help out with fire protection too, since any fire starting in the grass around Ione would have run clear across this place."

The Smouse family has been in Morrow County since the turn of the century when Smouse's parents moved from Nebraska to homestead in the Ella area. Henry Smouse first farmed south of Ione on what

is now the Milt Morgan farm and later purchased the present farm in 1919.

While his father worked the farm, Smouse worked for the Department of Interior as a hydraulic engineer, performing stream gauging work throughout Oregon. A year after he married his wife Frances in 1942, his father died, prompting a return to the farm. The Smouses have raised three children, Kenneth, now living in Salt Lake City, Utah; Cheryl, of Portland and Carl, still living on the farm.

The farm is owned jointly by Ken, two sisters and a sister-in-law, and Smouse rents the farm from the partnership known as H.V. Smouse Estate.

With other family members involved in the farm concerns, Smouse says he tries to maintain accurate records of the operations to keep the other partners informed. That includes marking minimum and maximum temperatures as well as rainfall and other indicators. Rainfall on the Smouse ranch comes to about nine inches annually and

Smouse sets his wheat yield over the past 15 years at about a 30 bushel per acre average.

Smouse has a soil test made each August by the Pendleton Grain Growers and he fertilizes in August or early September according to the PGG recommendations. Usual fertilization ranges from 0 to 45 pounds of nitrogen with sulphur added occasionally.

"In the past we've gone over the strips twice with chisel plows and now we're using a Calkins Cultivator the first time over and then using the chisel plows once," said Smouse, who since 1975 has employed Leo Crabtree to help with the work. "It's kind of a borderline situation between a one-man and two-man farm but I'd be hard-pressed without Leo now."

The wind strips on the Smouse ranch would have been greatly appreciated back in the early 1930s when Smouse said "about 700 acres of this place started blowing one day". After the ordeal, Smouse's father, along with other area farmers made a trip to the dry areas of

Eastern Washington to observe their farming practices. The trip led to a big push to get

wind erosion measures through the Oregon legislature in 1937 and later to the formation of the Lexington Blow Control District.

Smouse has served on the District's board of supervisors since 1944 and is currently the chairman. He has been active in other farm groups including a year as president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League in 1955 and a five-year term on the Oregon Wheat Commission.

Smouse says he has no major changes planned for the operation of his farm although he is keeping a close eye on the development of minimal and chemical tillage practices. He also said he might give the recently released Stephen wheat variety a try as a change of pace from his current McDermid variety.

Other than that, it's business as usual on the Smouse ranch, except for reserving a spot on the mantle for the 1978 Morrow County Conservation Man of the Year award.