

Will be missed...

On this week's front page there is a news story about Oscar Peterson retiring from the Port of Morrow Commission.

The man's record speaks for itself...a life of public service spanning many areas of government and concern, and nearly all 84 years right here in Morrow County.

More than 30 years ago Oscar joined the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and from there he worked many hours bringing a Port District to life in Morrow County. Finally, in 1959, as Morrow County Judge, Oscar was the guiding force behind formation of the Port of Morrow. He rightly earned the title of "Father of the Port of Morrow".

Oscar saw what was available and through his attitude and efforts we can all see the results. Therein lies a lesson for all of us.

Spring's here

Heppner area residents are invited to be participants in a week-long activity fitting of spring.

Numerous groups and organizations are hoping to beautify the city before Easter...riding streets, alleys and yards of trash.

Become a participant.

Letters to the Editor

AAUW supports solution to overcrowded classrooms

Dear Morrow County Citizens,

In the past we citizens have taken pride in providing uncrowded classrooms for our children in the Heppner schools. As an organization we are writing this letter with the hope of informing you the public that the growth in Heppner has increased our school enrollment to the point that the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade rooms at Heppner Elementary are overcrowded. The situation is expected to become worse next year.

If enrollments remain the same as they are now there will be from 24 to 29 students in each of the 5th and 6th grade rooms. Each of these four rooms has an average maximum capacity of 19.5 students.

On the Junior High level the rooms have a maximum capacity of 20 students per room but these rooms will and presently have, from 26 to 32 students per room. One of the rooms in use actually has a maximum capacity of 15 students.

This situation of overcrowding raises several questions. How much individual help can be given any student? Isn't the teacher limited to spending a large percentage of her time in lecture-type teaching? In the case of an emergency can students be evacuated from an overcrowded room safely? Our ultimate question is, are our tax dollars being used



Portland General Electric again showed its concern for the community this past week with the donation of \$14,000 toward the purchase of an x-ray machine for the medical clinic in Boardman. Accepting the check from PGE's Bus Clough is Judge D.O. Nelson. Commissioner Homer Hughes looks on.

Reps offer death penalty petition

To the Editor,

Several years ago Oregon voters eliminated the death penalty in our state. We have found from letters to us and conversation with people all over Oregon that there is a growing concern about the need to return to capital punishment.

The Oregon Legislature has not allowed the voters an opportunity to determine for themselves if they want the death penalty reinstated, therefore, we have filed with the Secretary of State a preliminary initiative petition for a statutory measure to restore capital punishment in Oregon.

The petition will require 46,235 signatures prior to July 7, 1978 to place it on the November 7, 1978 General Election Ballot. The petitions will not be available until about April 1, 1978, at which time we plan a 90 day intense campaign to obtain the signatures.

The effort to secure the signatures will be taken to the people. During March thousands of letters will be mailed to Oregonians asking their help in gathering the necessary signatures. We hope we will get a good response from people requesting petitions which they will circulate.

If any of your readers want to receive petitions we ask that you write to anyone of us. We can provide the content of the measure upon request.

Jack Sumner State Rep. Route 1 Heppner, OR 97836	Cecil Johnson State Rep. 3513 Upper Riv. Rd. Grants Pass, Oregon 97526	Bud Byers State Rep. 3221 S. Main Rd. Lebanon, OR 97355
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Appreciates support

To the Editor,

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Gazette-Times for the excellent presentation of our annual report in the March 2nd, issue.

We appreciate your continued support in promoting our informational program to the public. We hope that through your effort Soil and Water Conservation is recognized as a benefit to all.

Rudy Bergstrom
Chairman, Morrow SWCD

BMCC strike explained

Editor,

As a taxpayer, former BMCC student, concerned citizen, and spouse of a faculty member, I feel it is absolutely essential that some facts regarding the strike situation be explained.

I am a former student who worked very hard during the early sixties to promote the growth and expansion of BMCC, so I feel a great kinship with the students who are concerned with the fate of their educational programs. For many students, as it was for me, BMCC offers the only opportunity to attend college. Many students simply do not have the resources to go elsewhere, nor do all other colleges offer the same benefits as does BMCC.

The faculty DID NOT vote to strike simply because they were seeking higher SALARIES. The issues of most concern to the faculty are those of academic freedom and the continuing integrity of the profession of teaching. The faculty voted to accept the results of the impartial factfinder's report sight unseen. The board voted no. The faculty voted to accept the finished report. The board voted no.

The board meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 1978, was certainly an eye opener. So many people attended that the meeting had to be moved to the theater. Worried students

sought answers from an unresponsive board. The directors declined comment about their intentions until they could meet again in executive session. The chairman explained that the letter regarding the strike vote by the faculty had been officially received only that day, and they wished to make no comment. Gad! The negotiations have been going on for fourteen plus months. Surely, the board has some opinions. These men were elected by and are accountable to the people, but it was not apparent Wednesday night that they thought it was necessary to explain anything. The Faculty Association president read a list of items rejected by the board negotiator. Some items rejected by the negotiator were so ludicrous that the audience laughed out loud.

The strike vote did not occur because of union influence. The decision was that of the faculty alone, and faculty members who are not paying OEA members were permitted to vote on the issue.

The proposed strike can have serious consequences. I urge all concerned citizens to find out all the facts. Citizens should ask question, demand answers, and take a role in matters which are relevant to the well being of our area.

Sincerely yours,
Carole L. Innes
Pendleton

Sincerely,
The Heppner Branch of
The American Association
of University Women




THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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and the County of Morrow

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Letters Policy

ALL LETTERS of general interest are welcomed, providing they are in good taste and not libelous. 250 WORDS IS about the maximum length we can accept, however, if you need more space, please use it.

ALL LETTERS MUST be signed to be considered. If you wish to have your name withheld—for good cause—we will do so after contacting you for an explanation.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS should be included. The number will only be used by the Gazette-Times to confirm it was you who wrote the letter.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES reserves the right to refuse any letter it deems unfit for publication.

LETTERS SHOULD BE addressed to Editor, Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Ore., 97836.

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