

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES VIEWPOINT

*Some good news....  
and some bad*

The \$10.2 billion water project compromise bill passed by Congress last week remains unsigned on President Jimmy Carter's desk—at this writing—but political observers feel sure that he will sign it within the near future.

After Carter's veto of the bill, Congress went back and cut substantially more than the President requested—including all that he requested—and the Willow Creek Dam project survived the cut.

When President Carter signs the bill, \$500,000 will be appropriated for the Willow Creek project. The Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla told us this week the money would be used for partial land acquisition, relocation of a county road and design and construction of a bridge crossing Willow Creek.

With construction of the Willow Creek Dam, Heppner's flood plain—which without the dam promises to make future commercial and residential construction in Heppner difficult, if not impossible—would be virtually eliminated. At least that's what the Corps and Flood Insurance Administration officials have said in meetings held here during the past year.

Now some different news, but in the same vein, follows on the heels of the Willow Creek project news and it won't make any friends for the Corps of Engineers.

A Corps study on the flood plains for Ione, Lexington and Heppner is about completed and, although figures aren't available for Heppner and Lexington yet, the Corps has come back with an outlandish flood plain for Ione—covering more area than the existing flood plain map. Indications are that increases in the Heppner and Lexington flood plains can be expected.

No one in this area puts much truck in the Corps figures that exist now regarding a 100-year flood, figuring the Corps is over-estimating the potential rainfall that would make it to the channel of a creek.

While the Willow Creek Dam will probably still eliminate Heppner's flood plain if constructed, increased and unreasonable flood plains for Ione and Lexington will only serve to hamper those towns and all of Southern Morrow County. We hope the East Central Oregon Association of Counties can challenge the Corps figures.

Everyone knows the Corps of Engineers can't stand the sight of water flowing unstopped down a creek bed, but now it appears that if there isn't enough water already there to build a dam, they will create the water.

## Where to write Federal

Following is a list of Oregon and Eastern Oregon public officials for the information of readers who want to communicate with them:

U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Member of Appropriations Committee, Interior Committee, Rules Committee and Indian Policy Review Commission. Portland office, Pioneer Courthouse, Rm. 107, 520 SW Morrison, Portland, Ore. 97204, phone 221-3386.

U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Member of Finance Committee and Commerce Committee. Portland office, 1002 NE Halladay, Rm. 700, (P.O. Box 3621), Portland, Ore. 97208, phone 233-4471.

U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, of the Second District, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Member of Ways and Means Committee. Salem office, 530 Center St. N.E., Rm. 330, (P.O. Box 247) Salem, Ore., 97308, phone 399-5724.

## State

Gov. Robert Straub, State Capitol, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-3100.

State Sen. Ken Jernstedt (Morrow, Gilliam and other counties), 311 Pine St., Hood River, 386-1393.

State Rep. Jack Sumner (Morrow, Gilliam and other counties), Route 1, Heppner, 676-5364.



## Sifting through the TIMES



Carl McDaniels of Heppner was faced with an unusual and compelling problem during this week 30 years ago: How to disengage his hand from a wounded coyote's mouth.

While checking a trap line he had set on the Sam Turner property along Sand Hollow, McDaniel came upon the animal, snagged by the leg in one of the traps. McDaniel didn't realize that he had used more chain than usual in setting the trap, so when he approached the quarry to make the kill, the animal lunged at him. The trapper's thumb happened to be the body part nearest the coyote, so the animal seized it in its mouth and clamped down with a vise-like grip.

"His knife was in his trousers pocket on the right side," the Gazette-Times reported. "To get the knife out of his pocket and complete the job of killing the animal before he fainted from excruciating pain was uppermost in McDaniels' mind, for he knew well if he keeled over, the brute would be at his throat with those vicious teeth. But he finally extricated the knife and did some throat slashing in self-defense."

After a brief battle, McDaniels prevailed, although the Gazette-Times reported that "he is nursing a mighty sore thumb."

Fifty years ago this week, Ferguson Chevrolet in Heppner was selling used, two-year-old 1926 Ford coupes for \$200 to \$235, including 25 gallons of gas free with every purchase. During the same week in 1928, Heppner Stone's Modern Food Store was selling bacon and ham at 33 cents per pound, coffee for 49 cents a pound, and five-pound tins of jam for 79 cents.

All Heppner businesses shut down for the afternoon 45 years ago this week, when the "Fighting Irish" of Heppner hosted Arlington's football team to determine first place in eastern Oregon high school football standings.

Both Heppner and Arlington were undefeated and untied when they met on the gridiron in Heppner on that October afternoon, after five games of league play. But Heppner prevailed in the 1933 showdown, tromping Arlington 44-7.

The Gazette-Times cited the hometown squad's Floyd Jones for "beautiful broken field running," quarterback Cleo Hiatt for his "pivoting and twisting," and Lewis Gilliam for his "line plunges."

Floyd Jones, Heppner's left halfback, ran for four of the seven touchdowns tallied by the "Irish," logging an amazing average of more than 30 yards per carry.

Fifteen years ago this week, Art Dyck held the grand opening of Fiesta Lanes, Heppner's first and only bowling alley.

Morrow County lawmen 10 years ago were puzzling over how a 300-pound office safe happened to turn up along the roadside at the junction of Sand Hollow Road and the Hinton Creek highway. The back of the safe had been cut open with a torch. The cracked safe was found in an upright position just off the roadway. Checks with state police throughout the area failed to turn up any reports of a missing safe.

One year ago this week, the Morrow County Fair Board and the Heppner Child Development Center signed a pact allowing the Center to use the 4-H Annex at the fairgrounds as a day care facility.

Karmon Bjella began his first week of service as Pioneer Memorial Hospital's director of nursing during the same week in 1977. The Minnesota native had recently received a B.S. degree from Montana State University in nursing before moving to Heppner with his wife and daughter.

## Picture Credit

Ruth Fletcher of Ukiah displays a sampling of hand-woven gift items during the Extension Service sponsored "Christmas Potpourri" held last week at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Annex at the fairgrounds was jammed with Christmas handicraft idea seekers during the event. Mrs. Fletcher, sister of Morrow County Clerk Sadie Parrish, uses cattail reeds and pine needles in her weaving.

## LETTERS Class offerings may hamper students going on...

Editor:

Everyone recognizes that these are difficult times for the Morrow County School District. The north end of the county has severe growth problems which we have acknowledged and voted to rectify with as much haste as possible.

The south end of the county has problems also which need to be acknowledged. Charges have been made that Heppner High School has "extra" curriculum. This is not only untrue, but actually the reverse has transpired.

When my daughter went to Oregon State University 10 years ago she had to take a course requiring a background in calculus concurrently with her first course in calculus. Students that find themselves in this situation have a great deal of catching up to do. This is true of all students in fields such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, chemical engineering and other related science courses. Some of them make it and some don't in this catching up process. You are merely one more statistic if you fail to make it for lack of background in certain areas.

My nephew goes to Newberg Union High School, which is not a large school by Willamette Valley standards, nor a large town. Yet his school, and many others in the state have curriculum as follows: Freshman, Algebra I; Sophomore, Algebra II and Geometry concurrently; Junior, Trigonometry; and Senior, Calculus. Our children wishing to enter specialized fields face the prospect of going to a school such as Oregon State and competing with these students for places in limited classes picked on the basis of grade points achieved in the preliminary courses. Our students are supposed to achieve a highly superior grade point while playing catch up in courses that they have not had but their competition has had. And the competition is getting more severe all the time because other schools elsewhere have seen the need more clearly than we have to remain competitive.

The high school at Heppner has excellent facilities for shop classes, but one of my neighbors was told that her son could not take Shop 4, which I presume is Construction. Why? In our farming area, and in these days of high construction costs, the shop program would be serving our students admirably if we elaborated our construction program, not telescoped it. The Agriculture program also should have much emphasis placed upon upgrading it to meet our needs. We have the facilities. Why are we not using them to the utmost capacity?

In the case of the very small schools, the vastly superior student is not the student that has the most problems with a limited curriculum. It is the average student who is not routinely exposed to curriculum which might stimulate his interest, and who is overlooked for special advanced help, who suffers the most.

With the facilities that the south end of the county possesses I find it appalling that any one of our students should have to go without what should be available to all.

Meg Murray

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to say?

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# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Published every Thursday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.

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