

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

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
U.S.P.S. 246-420

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.
Office at 147 West Willow Street, Telephone: (503) 674-9228

Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 237, Heppner, Oregon 97531

Subscription rates: \$10.00 elsewhere, \$8.00 elsewhere. Single Copies \$1.00

Jerome F. Sheldon, Publisher
Steven A. Powell, News Editor

Step Forward, Heppner!

Generally, any community wants to attract industry in order to establish a stable tax base. At least two key factors should be considered: The availability of land and the existence of a labor pool from which to draw.

These points are of importance in the Heppner area because of the recent closure of the Kinzua plywood mill that put about 150 people out of work. If other industries could be developed to utilize these people and their skills, what site and facilities would be available? If a substitute industry were secured, those affected by the Kinzua closure might remain, continuing as part of the basic economic support for retail businesses and services.

With business growth come the social and cultural aspects that keep people in the area for reasons other than employment, such as schools, hospital and medical services, and recreation.

All of this was the subject of an informal give-and-take session held at the West of Willow Restaurant in Heppner last week, involving a group of business people, at least one farmer, and Harold Kerr, the Morrow County agent for the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Mr. Kerr's ostensible purpose was to obtain local participation in the updating of a periodic planning study for the county that considers various economic conditions. The last such study report was published in 1971.

But the meeting was as much to spur business spirits here as to obtain information for another study to be published in Corvallis. As such, it served a useful purpose. So—the plywood mill closed. What can the community do now?

In this sense, we use "community" to mean not Heppner alone but all of south Morrow County.

One thought was that the area needs an "action" person, one who could expedite matters in the way of industry recruitment and capital development. Who would pay his salary? Apparently there are government grants available that are intended to aid community development. Indeed, there are so many sources of money authorized by Uncle Sam that the Extension Service in Corvallis requires a computer print-out to identify them and their specific purposes.

This was brought out because a serious effort to develop an additional and substantial industrial base here would seem to require professional coordination.

The farmer in the group stressed that his fellow agricultural producers are as interested as the townspeople in preserving the community's economic well-being. As a trading center, Heppner provides goods and services. The farmers could drive to Hermiston—the mileage isn't so great they couldn't do so—but to come to Heppner often is more convenient.

Several ideas for economic development were discussed. Many of them centered on using wood products. There may not be a market for locally produced plywood but how about a furniture factory? Or using wood waste to generate power?

With the hundreds of people who come to the Heppner area to hunt, could tourism and outdoor recreation be a factor in the future?

Gasohol production was mentioned. Considering the times, this seems to be the proposal of almost every agricultural region that produces grains that could be distilled into alcohol.

In over a century of existence, Heppner has known prosperity as well as depression. Now is the time to step forward!!



About 150 national forests are administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

SALEM SCENE

New law cracks down on shoplifters

A growing number of Oregonians are learning the hard way about a new law on the books that deals rather severely with shoplifters.

And those same Oregonians are discovering the meaning of a Latin legal phrase, "Ignorantia legis neminem excusat," specifying that ignorance of law excuses no one.

The new law is the result of Senate Bill 893, enacted by the Legislature during the 1979 session and is detailed in Oregon Revised Statutes 30.870 and 30.875. It became effective on Oct. 3 last year and results of its application are beginning to surface.

"Although the law has been in force four months, many merchants are just now becoming familiar enough with its provisions to put it to practical use," reports Otto J. Wilson, director of the Oregon Retail Council division of Associated Oregon Industries.

The law, patterned largely after a similar statute in the State of Washington, permits retail victims of shoplifters to seek damages and penalties from shoplifters.

"The civil law is not meant to be a substitute for criminal prosecution," Wilson said. "The criminal law remains on the books and is another weapon against shoplifting."

Together, both procedures are available in the continuing fight against a crime that costs Oregonians as much as \$80 million a year.

Wilson, whose statewide organizations of retailers sponsored and supported passage of the anti-shoplifting civil procedures statute, said it is apparent larger stores with professional security personnel were first to begin using it.

"One statewide retail chain that also has stores in Washington and was familiar with the law in that state, reports significant results in application of the Oregon law," Wilson said.

Its policy is to seek civil damages and penalties from every apprehended shoplifter. Information from 20 of its stores shows that some 400 apprehended shoplifters have been sent demand letters requesting damages equal to the price of the stolen merchandise, plus a \$100 penalty.

Seventy percent of apprehended shoplifters have been

minors and demands for damages and penalties have been sent to their parents, in accordance with provision of the law.

"It appears to be parents of

minor shoplifters who are learning about the law for the first time," Wilson said. "and records from this particular chain indicate although surprised, about 70 percent ex-

press support for it."

Another retailer with nine outlets—primarily in the Portland metropolitan area—is having almost identical experience in its application of the civil procedure.

Seeking damages and penalties from 320 shoplifters apprehended so far, its records show about 54 percent are minors whose parents had no idea there was such a law.

In the cases of both businesses, the vast majority of shoplifters or their parents are paying damages and penalties in response to demand letters from these merchants. But both firms have had to submit a few claims to small claims court.

Wilson expressed little surprise at the numbers of people professing ignorance of the law.

"Our experience over the years in combatting the shoplifting problem has proven widespread ignorance about both the crime and its magnitude," he said. "It will take a great deal of time and experience before the new civil statute achieves widespread understanding."

In view of this knowledge, the Oregon Retail Council and others have been working diligently to furnish information about shoplifting and existing laws to the public, retail merchants, police and the courts. More than 50 seminars have been conducted statewide since October by ORC people through auspices of local Chambers of Commerce.

Public service announcements on radio and television, along with advertisements in newspapers have concentrated on explaining the new law.

"So far our efforts really have only scratched the surface however," Wilson said, "and the educational program will be a continuous project."

ORC has published a 24-page handbook, entitled a "Retailer's Shoplifting Prevention Guide," and two sizes of posters calling attention to the new law carry endorsements by the Crime Prevention Association of Oregon, Oregon Law Enforcement Council and Oregon Crime Watch.

Booklets and posters are available at nominal cost through most Chambers of Commerce and ORC's office in Salem.

BY JACK ZIMMERMAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'If irrigation rates go down, we should recall board'

Editor: Regards article last week about the delayed increase in Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative rates in order to make a new survey as requested by irrigators.

If the board changes the percentage upward for domestic and commercial and lowers the irrigation rates, the people of the cities of Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Condon and Fossil should get up in arms and recall the board.

Rural customers already enjoy the same domestic rates as the cities although it costs much more to build and maintain the service to the ranches and outlying areas than it does in the cities (where in a small area there are lots

of transformers with several meters on each, as opposed to rural lines being long with one meter at the end.)

It is much more profitable to serve the cities, that is why ranches and farms were the last to get electric service in the first place.

The board is composed of mostly ranchers so the rates are influenced by that.

We outnumber the irrigators, by far, so let's not let them do it to us.

Contact your board members and let them know how you feel before it gets worse. This Co-op belongs to all of us and anyone with a meter can vote.

Vern Wilson, Heppner

'Board has not yielded to pressure...rates complex'

Editor: In regards to the letter concerning the proposed rate increase printed in this week's issue, I would like to comment for information purposes only.

1. The Board of Directors has not yielded to any pressure from one group of customers to benefit that group while causing additional increases to any other group.

2. Rate studies are very complex and require the expertise of the finest professionals in the business to provide proper equity for all classes of customers.

3. In the undertaking of a cost of service and rate study, all factors of the operation are taken into consideration, (i.e. rural customers, town customers, industrial customers) as well as the facilities required to serve them and their location on the system.

Extreme care must be taken to create rates that are equitable to all customers regardless of their location and size.

4. It is simply not the case that rancher influences dominate the Board. Representatives of Condon, Fossil, and Heppner are members at present and in accordance with the by-laws, will continue to be members.

As always in the case of cooperatives, the lack of informed members is the single item that creates more controversy than any other.

Board meetings are open to all consumers and it is the desire of the Board and myself that if you wish to become informed, please attend these meetings.

The best asset we can have for any of us is an informed membership.

The interests of all consumers are the only goal of the cooperative and different viewpoints are welcomed.

Respectfully,
Fred R. Toombs, Manager
Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, Inc.
Heppner

Sifting through the TIMES

1930

Fifty years ago Lions President C.L. Sweek said, "One should feed butter to his children to make them bigger and give the butter substitutes to the rats to make them smaller." That was the concluding statement made at a Lions meeting with the discussion on butter. There was surplus of butter at the time because more people in the country were using butter substitutes. The discussion brought out that there are more vitamins in butter so it should be fed to the family.

School superintendent William Poulson was called in the middle of the night by some irate parents who thought a party their students had gone to was under the supervision of the school. He assured them it was not a school party but a private one and that anytime a student asks to go to a school function, call the superintendent to make sure it will be under the school's supervision.

The Heppner grade school was staging an athletic circus with the youngsters performing gymnastic tricks.

Heppner was the site of the sub-district basketball tournament.

A Lexington motorist received bruises on his head and

his car was badly damaged when he slid on a wet road and ran into a horse. The horse was so badly crippled that it had to be killed.

An advertisement telling how to darken gray hair said to make a mixture of a half-pint of water, add one ounce of bay rum, a small box of Barbo compound and one-ounce of glycerine. Apply to your hair twice weekly with a comb.



Editor's Notebook

BACK TO TRADITION—

Retail merchants in Heppner have decided to schedule their monthly promotional sale on Friday, Feb. 22, the traditional Washington's birthday date. The event would carry over the weekend as well, for the local Elks will have their "annual" celebration the next day and the Kinzua Mill pay day will be Monday, the 25th.

The merchants chose Feb. 22 in preference to a promotional sale on what has come to be known as "President's Day." This year it falls on Feb. 18—a Monday—and satisfies the apparent need of many people to have a three-day weekend. It is a legal federal holiday, which

1955

Twenty-five years ago the Heppner City Council gave 30 days notice to lessors of buildings at the city park to vacate the premises because a city crew was going to tear down the old buildings. The city voters approved a special tax levy to remove the buildings and update the park.

The city council also voted on a city ordinance in an attempt to control the dog

problem in Heppner but state law required that the control of dogs must be voted on by the people of the city.

Approximately 50 cars were at the site of the TV antenna outside of Heppner to watch the reception there. The city was looking into the possibility of channeling the waves to the city. The Heppner TV Cooperative was in charge of the plan. Cost was \$135 hookup fee and a monthly fee of \$3.50.

1975

Five years ago sales of Oregon farm products went over the \$1 billion mark for the first time which was \$125 million more than the previous year. Production costs also set record highs.

A snowmobile race for the benefit of the cancer society was taking place in Morrow County. The race was 24 miles long.

Heppner High School's student body sponsored a benefit dance for one of its classmates, Jon Ekstrom, who was listed in critical condition in a Portland hospital after an automobile accident.

Murray's Drugs in Heppner was robbed of \$600 in cash and checks. It was taken from the state liquor department section in the store and none of the other registers were tampered with and no merchandise was taken.

Denny Smith circulating petitions for candidacy

Congressional candidate Denny Smith says he is taking the petition route in filing for a spot on the election ballot.

Candidates for federal office can either pay a \$100 filing fee or get the signatures of at least 1,000 registered voters.

Smith, a Salem businessman, is running against Representative Al Ullman in the second Congressional District.

The signatures on petitions must be certified in each county by the county clerk, before the Secretary of State will accept them.

Business Directory

Auto Parts



Heppner Auto Parts

234 N. Main Heppner 676-9123

Floor Covering



M & R FLOOR COVERING

Carpet, Linoleum, Ceramic Tile, Kitchen Cabinets, Rapco Insulation
422 Linden Way Heppner 676-9418

Furniture

CASE FURNITURE

Heppner
Carpet, Linoleum, Counter Tops Installed
Beauty Rest mattresses, Fabrics and Accessories,
Sherwin Williams Paint

Insurance



For all your Insurance needs

Telephone 676-9113
LAVELINE VANMARTER, JR.
HOWARD BRYANT

Home Repair

Home Remodeling

Specializing in Aluminum Siding and repair of old siding
Storm Windows and Doors Prime Windows Small Remodeling Jobs
Ken Ffield in Business For 12 Years 676-5051

Medical Supplies

MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

Free Mailing Service On Prescriptions Hospital Supplier
Mon.-Fri. 9a.m. Sat. 9-1p.m. Located in the Medical Center
1100 Southgate Pendleton 276-1531

Monuments

SWEENEY MORTUARY

Cemetery, Grave Markers 676-9600
Granite, Marble, Bronze or 676-9226
Serving Ione, Lexington & Heppner p.o. Box 97

Office Equipment



Service calls every Wednesday in Heppner, Ione and Lexington

332 S. Main St., Pendleton Telephone 276-6441
811 N. First, Hermiston Telephone 567-2731

Petroleum



GLENN DEVIN
Chevron USA, Inc.
Commission Agent
676-9633

Title Insurance

Heppner Boardman
Morrow County
Abstract & Title Company
Title Insurance & Escrow Service
676-9912 481-9261