

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 98 NO. 25

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1980

10 PAGES

20 CENTS

HEPPNER, OREGON

## Weather

by Don Gilliam

The weather report was not available this week since Don Gilliam has been admitted to Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Best wishes to Don for a speedy recovery from the Gazette-Times staff.

# Research needed on county sludge dumping says judge

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott says he wants to see some more research done before he'll give his OK to a proposal that would see thousands of gallons of sewage sludge dumped in Morrow County near Boardman each year.

Commenting this week after attending a special meeting July 22 in Boardman, McElligott says he's still not convinced dumping the waste here would be healthful or beneficial to the county.

Under the proposal the city of Portland wants to barge 80 million gallons of sludge from its sewage system up the Columbia to a site near Boardman. The sludge would be dumped, with some treating, onto a large area of ground.

"I have questions about the whole thing," McElligott said in an interview with the Gazette-Times Monday. "The cadmium content (of the sludge) is a little heavier than normal. Cadmium is the most dangerous of the heavy metals; it can hurt your kidneys."

He also said he is worried about disease or virus which may be transmitted along

with the sewage waste. "I don't know if there will be any viruses coming out of this (treatment process) into the ground water or not," he commented.

Two separate private companies have bid with the city of Portland for disposal of the waste sludge, and both proposals were presented by company officials at the meeting in Boardman.

One proposal would have the sludge dumped at a 640 acre site east of Boardman within the Boeing Agri-Industrial site boundaries. The sludge would be unloaded at Castle Rock on the Columbia.

A perched bed covering 40 acres of land would handle the major portion of the sludge during the first five years of the twenty-year dumping project. The perched bed is designed to separate the liquids from solids. The asphalt and cement lined bed would also provide biological treatment of the sludge.

In addition to the treatment, a 100-acre agricultural experiment station would be set up nearby to test for possible use of the sludge as a fertilizer.

McElligott stated that because of the high levels of

metal in the sludge, which comes from industrial waste, the material may not be suitable as a fertilizer. "It all depends on the load (amount of concentration)."

He stated that the main reason engineers are interested in dumping the waste in Morrow County is the High Ph rating of the soil. Cadmium and other heavy metals bond easily with this type of soil, he said.

He also said that the Castle Rock unloading site will not require a large amount of pumping, thus keep costs for the city of Portland down.

In a second study, also submitted to the city of Portland for consideration, the sludge waste would be stored at a site east of Boardman. The waste would be dried and bagged and sold for fertilizer.

"There are some good aspects and some bad aspects to this (sludge dumping in the county)," McElligott said. He said he and the county court plan to travel to Portland sometime in August to look over the waste facilities there. "We would like to get some independent analysis of this

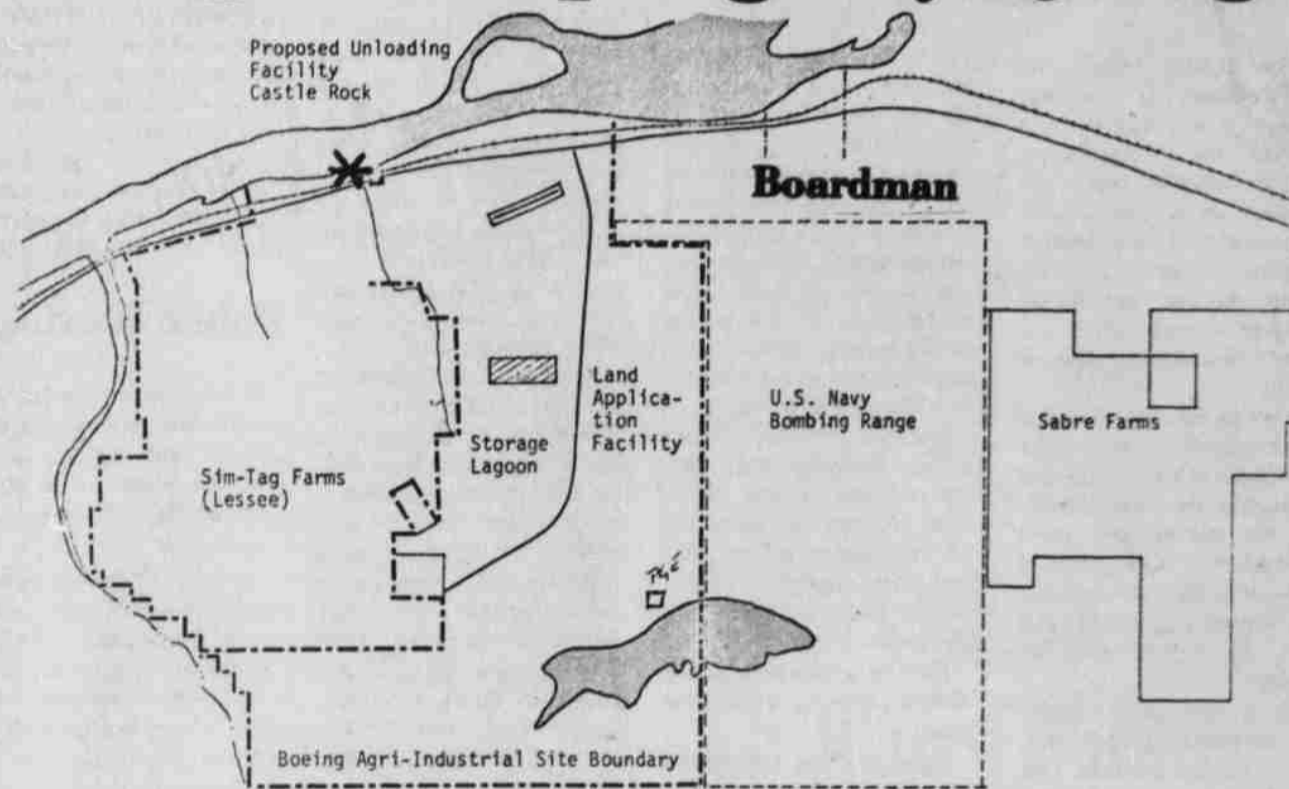
(sludge dumping) data," he said. "We are exploring the possibility of getting an EPA grant to hire an independent consultant."

McElligott added that, at present, there is no way Portland could legally dump the sludge in Morrow County without approval of the county court. But he seemed to feel that the dumping may eventually proceed with or without the county's approval.

"The first thing we have to do is find out if either of these systems has any merit," he said. "If we were to accept their (Portland's) deal, the county would have to be reimbursed and have a positive check on the operation. We would have to be able to monitor it."

McElligott did not say how much the county would demand from Portland if the sludge project went ahead, but he did say there are plans to charge for the dumping. "I have some figures kicking around in my head," he said.

But, he said the first thing is to determine if the dumping project is good or bad for Morrow County. "What the long term affects are, I don't know," he concluded.



Proposed Unloading Facility-Castle Rock

## Largest amount in history

# County schools to receive \$28,549.52

Morrow County schools will receive \$28,549.52 in earnings from investments of the Common School Fund, State Treasurer Clay Myers announced recently.

"That amount is by far the largest in the county's history," Myers said.

The Common School Fund is administered by the State Land Board, whose members are Governor Victor Atiyeh, Secretary of State Norma Paulus and Myers.

The State Treasury invests nearly all the funds, and earnings are distributed annually by the Division of State Lands.

"Our Common School Fund

earnings multiplied nearly 6 1/2 times over the last ten years, equalling \$11.98 for each student aged person in Oregon," Myers stated.

"Because inflation continues to be a heavy burden, substantially higher investment earnings are more important than ever," according to Myers, "and the money also helps to offset dependence on property taxes."

The basis of the Common School Fund is the land grant at the time of statehood by the federal government to Oregon of two sections out of each township for the use of the common schools. Money from the sale and lease of these

lands, from navigable waterways of the State, and from abandoned and escheated personal property, forms the principal of the Common School Fund.

This distribution to school districts is in addition to the Basic School Support from the State General Fund.

The distribution, depending on population, ranges from a low of \$6,661.61 to Wheeler County, with a 560 population between ages of four and twenty, and Multnomah County's \$1,587,730.70, with 133,470 youth in that age category, based on Portland State University's official estimates.

## Former Heppner man arrested

A 27-year-old former Heppner man, Gordon Lewis Cecil, was arrested by the Heppner police last Thursday, July 24, and charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and assault.

Police say Cecil was causing a disturbance at Cal's Restaurant in Heppner at about 11:50 p.m. City police responded and then asked for assistance from the Morrow County Sheriff's department.

Police said Cecil is a former resident of Heppner, but that

they did not know Cecil's present address.

In other police news, the Sheriff's Department reports that John Coen, Irrigon, reported his motorcycle missing Sunday, July 27, at 11:12 a.m.

The motorcycle was a 1979 Suzuki DS 100.

The Sheriff's Department also reports that a truck overturned on Highway 74, milepost 42, on July 25 at 4:09 p.m. The Oregon State Police responded to the accident.

## Ullman slates Heppner stop

Oregon Congressman Al Ullman will conduct a public meeting in Heppner on August 9 and has invited all residents of the area to attend.

The 7 p.m. meeting will be held on the back lawn of the Morrow County Courthouse, following a 6 p.m. picnic to which everyone is invited. At 4:30 p.m. Congressman Ull-

man will be at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital open house.

Ullman will make brief remarks about recent Congressional activity, then answer questions from the audience.

Heppner is one of a number of stops Ullman has scheduled on his two-week tour of the 2nd Congressional District.

## Currin meets sig requirement

A former Heppner resident who now lives in Pendleton has announced his candidacy for the newly formed Umatilla-Morrow County District Judge position presently held by John Smallmon.

Ralph Currin, who graduated from Heppner High School in 1934, and then moved to Pendleton to practice law in 1949, says he has gathered enough signatures to have his name placed on the ballot in November.

Currin will be running against at least one other candidate, Smallmon, who

announced last week that he also gathered the necessary signatures to have his name on the ballot. Smallmon was appointed to the newly formed court by the governor in July.

"Morrow County has been good to me and my family," Currin told the Gazette-Times Monday, "and I want to give Morrow County the service it deserves." "I think I have the welfare of Morrow County in mind," he added, "in excess of that of Mr. Smallmon."

Currin, who was district attorney for Morrow County in 1949, practiced law in Pendleton until 1978.

## LaVerne VanMarter, III named to hospital board



LaVerne VanMarter, III

A twenty eight-year-old Heppner man, LaVerne Van

Marter, III, was recently appointed to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

Van Marter replaces Frank Pearson who resigned after taking a job with Publisher's Paper in Portland. He served only several months on the board.

Van Marter is a native of the Heppner area, and, except for four years spent away at school, has lived all his life here.

A personal and safety director for Kinzua Corp., Van Marter lives at 275 Main, Heppner.

He was appointed to the hospital board at the board's last meeting July 15.

## Nominating petitions due in to city soon

Residents of Heppner who wish to run either for one of the four city council seats or the mayor's chair, up for election this fall, are reminded they must have their nominating petitions into the city clerk by 5 p.m. Tuesday, August 26.

Of the four council positions up for election, one is a two year term and three are four year terms. The mayor's term is for two years.

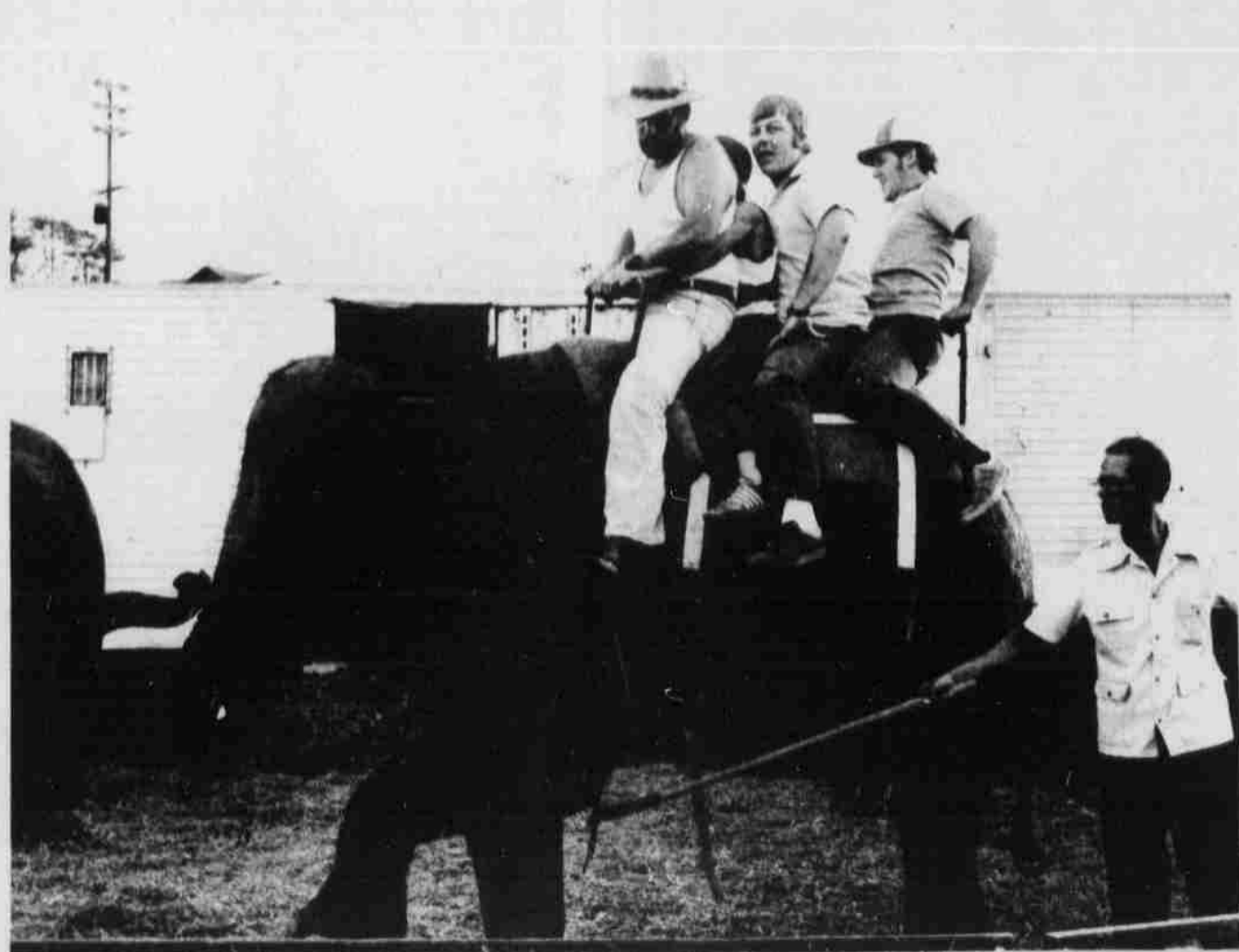
The mayor's position is now

held by Jerry Sweeney; the four-year council seats are held by Cliff Green (council president), Warren Plocharsky and Ronald Forrar.

The two year position on the council is presently vacant, however, a replacement is expected to be named at the next council meeting. The person appointed to serve on the two year term may run for election in November.

There is no fee for filing for election.

## AW...give me a break, fellas



Heppner "youngsters" enjoy a ride on Peggy, the elephant, a member of Circus U.S.A. which stopped in Heppner for two performances on Monday, July 28.

The circus, which packed the stands at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, was sponsored by the Heppner Lions Club.

## Timberman joins Ullman campaign

Allen Nistad, vice president of Kinzua Corporation in Heppner, has joined Timber Operators for Al Ullman, a committee for the re-election of the 2nd. District Congressman.

"I am delighted to join the campaign," Nistad said recently. "It is imperative that the voters of the 2nd. District understand the importance of keeping Al in Washington."

"Al has worked hard for the families in Oregon whose livelihood depends on the health of the wood products industry," he said.

Nistad noted that much of the federal legislation important to the timber industry is handled by the Ways and Means Committee. "Al's chairmanship is vital to Oregon."

"A lot of people just don't realize that Al is one of only four members of Ways and Means who represent rural

districts. The other 32 all represent big cities.

"We get legislation through Ways and Means because Al Ullman is chairman," he said. "It's that simple."

Ullman said he was delighted to have the help of Nistad. He said he has worked with him for years and that Nistad is a credit to the timber industry and to his community.

Nistad also said that his support of Ullman has not diminished even though he recently accepted a position as one of three Oregonians on a Denny Smith tax advisory group. Smith is Democrat Ullman's Republican opponent for the Second Congressional District.

"I've always supported Al Ullman, he is a real friend of the timber industry," said Nistad. Nistad said he has not contributed money to the Denny Smith campaign.