

Driving...and drinking



Morrow County Sheriff Larry Fetsch demonstrates the "Intoxilyzer" machine.

With the holiday season approaching many people will be attending parties and going out to restaurants and taverns to celebrate.

Drinking alcohol has always been part of this festive time of year, however, the Morrow County Sheriff's Department will remind you that drinking and driving your car is not a good idea.

Not only is it very dangerous to get behind the wheel after you have had too much to drink, it may also mean you run the chance of being picked up on a drunk-driving charge.

How much and how fast you drink will determine whether or not you are legally drunk if the police do pick you up.

If your alcohol blood level is .10 percent or over when tested you will be judged drunk and arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants. According to a chart at the Sheriff's office, a one hundred pound person, for example, will exceed the .10 percent after drinking three mixed drinks (1 oz. of 100 proof) or one 12 oz. beer.

The percent goes down the more a person weighs or the longer apart he spaces his drinks.

If you are picked up by the police for suspicion of drunken driving you can expect to be asked to take a breathalyzer test. The test is given on a machine in the Sheriff's office at the County Courthouse. A

person is asked to blow into the device which then registers in printing and on a digital display what the alcohol content of his blood is.

If a person refuses to submit to the test the Sheriff says his license will be suspended for 120 days.

The machine is more sophisticated than the older ones used by the various police agencies, and there is less chance of mistakes. Once the computer card is inserted into the machine it may not be removed until the process is completed correctly.

The chance of a serious auto accident should be enough to convince most people not to drive after they have been drinking, but the embarrassment and inconvenience of taking a breath test and possibly being arrested is another consequence to consider when you get behind your wheel after imbibing this New Year's eve.

What if.....

If you have been drinking, the first thing a police officer may notice is erratic driving.

Other clues are dilated eyes, the smell of liquor on your breath, clothes in disarray, the manner in which you get out your driver's license and the manner in which you get out of your car, says Morrow County Sheriff Larry Fetsch.

If the officer determines that you have been drinking, and may be intoxicated, he

will give the "field sobriety" test on the spot (touch your nose, walk a straight line).

If you don't pass the test, you will be advised of your rights and transported (in this case) to the Sheriff's office. You will wait at least fifteen minutes without any eating, drinking or smoking. It takes at least fifteen minutes for the "Intoxilyzer" machine to warm up and for paper work to be completed.

Then you breathe into the machine, which will register two digits on a small computer screen. If the level registered is below .10 you will be released.

But, if the level is .10 or above charges will be brought against you and you will be required to post \$355 bail.

If you are local, a police officer may call the judge, who, in his discretion, may release you in the custody of your family or friends.

If you do not live locally, you will be transported to Hermiston to the holding facility, where you may post bail or be held until the following judicial day.

On your day in court, you will make your plea - guilty, not guilty or no contest. If you are judged guilty you will probably be fined somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200.

Of course, this doesn't take into account your embarrassment, or your insurance costs or your prior driving record.

Mitchell replaces Jepsen as Homemaker

by Justine Weatherford

The Rev. Clarence Franke, Mitchell, is the new supervisor for the Tri-County Homemaker program. Franke assumes the leadership of this program in Wheeler, Gilliam and Morrow Counties. The position was held by Suzanne Jepsen who resigned the end of November.

Franke will be aided by his wife, LaVerne, who was an early worker in this state-funded program. Clarence has been working with the program in Wheeler County for several years and is very active in senior citizen affairs, being chairman of the Wheeler County Senior Citizens Advisory Council and vice-chairman of the Area Agency on Aging Nutrition program, working under Sue Comrie, Pendleton, who coordinates the five-county nutrition program.

The Rev. and Mrs. Franke have lived in Mitchell for 18 years. They have four grown children. They will work with the eight homemaker helpers who are working in the 10



The Rev. and Mrs. Mitchell

communities in the three counties. In Heppner, Lexington and Ione, Gladys Jewell helps in 16 homes each week with chores that are difficult for the residents. Her work is greatly appreciated by her clients.

The homemaker program is totally funded by the OPI (Oregon Project Independence) to make it possible for elderly or handicapped persons to stay in their homes and

not be institutionalized. Many of those receiving homemaker aid are concerned that this state program may be cut in the coming budget and are very hopeful that it will long continue.

Smythe named safety coordinator at Boardman

Larry Smythe has been appointed safety coordinator for Portland General Electric Co.'s Boardman Power Project.

In his new position, Smythe is responsible for administering the company's loss prevention program, including industrial safety and fire protection at Boardman.

A graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in architecture, Smythe spent three years in the Navy and two years at Nevada Power Co. before joining PGE in 1977 as equipment operator at the utility's Beaver combustion turbine project near Clat-



Larry Smythe

skanie. He came to Boardman in 1978 as a control operator.

Smythe, his wife Judy, and their four children live in Boardman.

PMH Nursing Home News

(Editor's note: starting this week, the G-T will feature news from the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home.)

A new resident has joined the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home.

Geatta Cox joins her husband, Dee Cox Jr., who is also a resident at PMH.

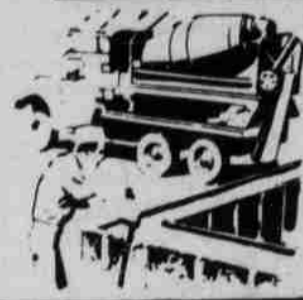
BMCC ski classes offered

Ski classes sponsored by Blue Mountain Community College begin the week of Jan. 5, according to Ellsworth Mayer, dean of research at the college and organizer of the ski program.

This year four different sections of downhill or Alpine skiing will be offered as well as one section of Nordic or cross country skiing. Interested skiers may register by mail for the classes. Details of the ski program and a registration form can be found in the BMCC winter term schedule of classes mailer.

Umatilla Ready-Mix is Still in Business in Heppner

Cement deliveries scheduled twice weekly to South Morrow County. Regularly on Wednesdays and Fridays



for dispatch call collect 567-6173

BEECHER'S NEW YEARS EVE BASH

At The Ione Legion Hall WED. DEC. 31 8 P.M.-2:30 A.M.

Live Music By Dwane & The Plainsmen

Party Favors—Fun—Dancing BRING IN THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

BEECHER'S FINE FOODS & LOUNGE CLOSED DEC. 25 & 26 CLOSED 4 P.M. DEC. 24



Ione United Church of Christ carolers "light up" Ione streets with song.



THE 15¢ CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR LAST-MINUTE SHOPPERS.

This Christmas, there's a Dickens of a savings on long distance.

On Christmas morning, from 12 midnight to 6 am, you can dial without operator assistance between any two points in the state and talk up to fifteen minutes for 15¢ - the same price as mailing a

Christmas card. If you talk longer, additional minutes will be charged at the low night rate.

It's just out way of reminding you to remember family and friends this Christmas. And one example of how inexpensive long distance really is.

So this year, reach out and jingle someone's bell. After all, at these prices, you can be a Scrooge and still come off like Santa Claus.

REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE.

Pacific Northwest Bell

This offer does not apply on credit card, person to person, third number and collect calls, nor on calls from hotels and coin telephones.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST
For Boys & Girls
8-13 yrs. old
Sat. Jan. 10
9-11:30 a.m.
IONE HIGH SCHOOL GYM
HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL GYM
Bring Proof Of Age
676-5514 or 422-7162
For More Information

50% OFF
All Hallmark Christmas Decorations & Assorted Other Christmas Decorations
SAVE SAVE SAVE
Murray's Drug
676-9158