

Juvenile problems — statistics show a rise in Morrow Co.

By MARY ANN CERULLO

According to recently compiled statistics, there is a continuing rise in juvenile crime as well as crimes committed on young people in Morrow County. Carolyn Holt, Juvenile Services director, recently finished compiling statistics for 1980 to be submitted to the state. The following shows the number of crimes committed by juveniles in Morrow County, broken down by area.

Area	1979	1980
Boardman	31	44
Irrigon	46	92
Heppner	48	28
Ione	12	10
Lexington	40	3
Out of County	5	22
Out of State	22	7
Hardman	1	0

The high number of crimes in North Morrow County according to Holt, reflects the number of low income families and transients in the area.

A total of 206 crimes were committed in 1980. Some juveniles were from out of the county. One hundred forty one were handled informally and 65 were taken to court.

The crimes committed by juveniles in 1980 are broken down as follows:

Rape	1
Burglary	22

Auto Theft	8
Shop Lifting	5
Violation of	
Drug Laws	7
Disorderly Conduct	1
Theft, Vandalism, Criminal Mischief	76
Runaways	37
(includes juveniles entering the county)	
Ungovernable behavior	5
Minor in Possession	17
Traffic Violations	12

The average age for the perpetrators of these crimes was 17 years, although they ranged from 14 to 17.

When questioned on the worst crimes committed by juveniles, Carolyn Holt stated it was, "A total lack of respect for other people's property." Holt clarified by listing the crimes of vandalism and criminal mischief.

What is the number one juvenile problem in Morrow County? According to the district attorney's office, it's the physical and sexual abuse committed on juveniles.

When asked what was the result of abuse in the home, Ann Spicer replied, "Runaways."

Out of a total of 37 runaways, 21 were girls and 16 were boys.

According to Ann Spicer, district attorney, her office handled a dozen cases for prosecution of sexually molested children since October 1980. The child victims ranged in age from seven to 12 years. Spicer also reported that two cases have come in since February of this year.

When questioned on statistics, Spicer said that "perhaps a fourth of the abuse crimes are reported which is only scratching the surface. Only one in four to one in 10 sexual abuse crimes are reported."

Spicer confided that her most difficult abuse case to deal with involved a man who sexually molested a seven-year-old girl. Ann spent several hours coaxing the story out of the little girl in the presence of a caseworker for the Children's Services Division and a police officer. When the questioning was over and the child was about to leave the office, she turned and ran up to Ann and shyly said, "I like you."

There was no question in Carolyn Holt's mind that abuse and neglect are serious crimes committed on juveniles.

In 1980, 10 abuse cases came through the Juvenile Services office. Seven of those went to court. Of the 10, the majority of the abuse victims ranged in age from six to 11 years.

The answer? Carolyn Holt's response was to the young people themselves. "Don't be afraid to come in and talk. You will be protected. If you're afraid to go home after you've spoken to me, you don't have to. At the same time, if you want to stay with your family, we will do everything in our power to work with your parents to solve the problem."

Ann Spicer replied, "We should be open with the children and encourage people to report sexual or physical abuse crimes. It's the reporting of these crimes that keeps the potential abusers from committing the offense."

Film 'Jesus' to be shown at Nazarene Church

The Church of the Nazarene will be showing the film "Jesus" this Sunday March 15. The film tells about the life of Jesus, his ministry on earth and the influence he has had on the world.

This film will be shown after our monthly fellowship dinner which is the third Sunday of each month. The dinner and film will follow the morning worship service which begins at 11 a.m. Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend.



Irene Anhorn shows off newborn pigmy goats. The new kids had just visited kids at the Heppner Library story hour.

I want to thank the people of Heppner for their esteemed friendship. Now that I'm available for work, please call 676-9234 WILSON BUILDING & MAINTENANCE REPAIR. NO JOB TOO SMALL.

Area Elks honor Jones, many long-time members



Old Timers gather for Elks' recognition dinner



Dave Barnett, Exalted Ruler, honors Alva Jones

Over 48 Heppner area Elks with 30 years or more of membership, including Alva Jones with 64 years, were honored with a dinner last Thursday at the Elks Club in Heppner.

Alva, who will be 90 March 31, was the honored guest and he received a pen set for his many years of membership in



Claude Graham

the Elks. He has the longest membership of any present member in the Heppner Elks club.

Claude Graham was also honored at the dinner, which was attended by over 145 people, for being past Exalted Ruler and past District Deputy.

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