

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 98, NO. 12

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1981

8 PAGES

20 CENTS

HEPPNER, OREGON

Weather

by Don Gilliam

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., March 10	57	36	
Wed., March 11	60	30	
Thurs., March 12	60	31	
Fri., March 13	60	33	
Sat., March 14	59	32	
Sun., March 15	59	38	.03
Mon., March 16	50	39	.17

Ground breaking ceremonies mark the beginning of New Christian Life Center



(l-r) John Moyer, Jr., John Moyer, Lavern Webb, Vern Nolan, Pastor Doug Thomas,

Rev. Don Craig, Rev. Al Davis, celebrate ground-breaking

Ground-breaking ceremonies for a new \$175,000 Christian Life Center to be built in Heppner, by the Assembly of God Church was held under gray skies Sunday afternoon.

The church is to be built on a 2½ acre site near the bottom of the hill on Morgan Street.

The ceremonies Sunday featured the traditional spade full of dirt turned by Heppner Rev. Douglas Thomas, pastor of the church.

Despite slight drizzle about sixty five people turned out for the ceremonies Sunday, marking the beginning of a

project "that God and the people will accomplish together," said the Rev. Al Davis, assistant superintendent of the Oregon District Assemblies of God, who was in attendance at the ground-breaking.

Following the ceremonies a reception was held at the present church building.

Construction of the 7,000 foot building which will include an assembly room with seating for 250, a kitchen, offices, restrooms, storage and a cloak room.

National Ag day Thurs., March 19

By BIRDINE TULLIS

"It's Your Heartbeat, America" is the theme of national ag day 1981...the time when all of America tip their hats to farmers and ranchers in recognition of the food and fiber production which is the basis for a strong country.

Agriculture is the heartbeat of Morrow County...with grain, potatoes, forage crops, livestock and forestry providing the dollars that keep the heartbeat going. Total gross farm sales in the county were estimated at \$90,441,000 in 1980, (a figure which does not include lumber statistics). CowBelles and cattle ranchers would be quick to point out that beef cattle provided \$7,433,000 of those dollars. Wheatheads and wheat farmers claim \$39,130,000 of the income. You can see why they are rightfully proud of their contributions to the county, for those dollars pay taxes to support roads, schools, and other needs of county and communities. Agriculture provides jobs for many in our county, both on farms and in agri-related businesses.

The agricultural heartbeat provides foods for Americans at a cost far below those of other countries. Recent information from the Agricultural

Department states "Food costs less than 20 years ago." Government figures show that despite rising supermarket prices, families are spending only slightly more on food than they did 10 years ago, and less than they did 20 years ago. The Agriculture Department notes that in 1960, food took about 17 percent of before-tax income, and just over 14 percent in 1970. A study done by the Department shows that the average family spent about 15 percent of its before-tax income for food in 1979. A surprising statement, when all costs involved in farming have skyrocketed as petroleum products, parts for equipment, replacement of farm equipment and labor have risen drastically. A far larger percentage of income is foreign countries is spent on foods.

Tip your hat to the farmers and ranchers of Morrow County on March 19! Stop a minute as you pass Gardner's Mens Wear to appreciate the AG DAY salute placed there for your enjoyment by Morrow CowBelles and Wheatheads. Enjoy the heartbeat...and appreciate the fact that you're in a rural area where you now the many individuals involved in agriculture...they are your friends and neighbors!

Arbitrator rules in favor of district

Morrow County School Superintendent Matt Doherty said Tuesday that a state appointed arbitrator assigned to an insurance labor dispute between the school district and county teachers, has apparently ruled in favor of the district.

The arbitrator was assigned to the disagreement after teachers and the district could not agree on the amount of

insurance coverage allowed married teachers both working for the district.

Teachers had alleged that their contract called for full family coverage for both members of a family working for the district. The district did not agree.

Full details of the arbitrator's decision were not available, but the decision is binding.

Heppner Lions come up with \$1,450 towards pool painting project

By MARY ANN CERULLO

The Heppner Lions Club offered the Heppner City Council \$1,450 towards painting of the city swimming pool at a special council meeting Monday night, March 16.

According to Ron Forrar, pool chairman, the Lions Club originally received the money three years ago from various merchants and patrons of the community for a pool maintenance and emergency fund. It was understood by the council that with the Lions' donation, the City of Heppner would need to raise approximately \$450.

A price of \$19.75 per gallon was brought before the council for the cost of paint. Council members questioned the quality of the paint and suggested that different paints and pools be checked out.

Forrar reported that he had been informed by a major pool company that a pool should be painted every three or four years, whether needed or not. Council members estimated that the Heppner Public Pool had last been painted nine years ago. In some places, the paint has worn down to the concrete, says Forrar.

In discussing the painting project, Forrar reported that

a minimum of \$8,000 would be required to have a Portland company sandblast the old paint off. As an alternative, it was recommended that a sandblaster be rented for the city work crew and volunteers be asked to do the painting over a weekend. The paint job would require three stages: etching, a primer coat, and a top coat. The council agreed on the color green.

The City Council unanimously agreed on a spring painting project for the public pool.

Forrar will be presenting a future solar conversion project for the public pool to

Morrow County Court and the Planning Dept. next month. The City Council also agreed to see the presentation during their next scheduled meeting.

In other business, the Council agreed to allow the Corps of Engineers to drill water monitoring sites in various locations of Heppner. The Council stipulated that the City of Heppner has the authority to fill the holes should the water sites be needed in some future date. The Corps will be drilling the water test sites at Hager Park, City Park, Morgan St. Bridge, and on Court Street.

County School Board releases one of final payments on Columbia Jr. High, Irrigon

The Morrow County School Board released \$48,000 to a Eugene Contractor Monday, one of the final payments for construction of Columbia Jr. High School in Irrigon, but voted to hold back an additional \$99,365 until numerous problems at the school are rectified.

The board had been holding the \$48,000 while a defective 16 by 32 foot cement panel in the gymnasium was awaiting clearance by the State Commerce Dept. The Dept. recently okayed the quality of the panel.

"There's a list of things as long as your arm," said Superintendent Matt Doherty

in describing what was left to be done on the Jr. high building. "But they're all small things, small electrical and mechanical deficiencies. We aren't that far away from completion," he said.

Robert Smith, architect for construction of the school, attended a Monday meeting of the school board, and reported that he has had some difficulty in getting RA Chambers Construction Co. of Eugene to finish up the small jobs at the school.

He recommended to the board that it hold back \$99,365 in payments to Chambers as a retainer until the rest of the problems are taken care of.

The school is operational

and has been in use by students since March of 1980.

In other business, the board:

- accepted a bid of \$32,183 from Thermo Products Co., Boise, Idaho, to apply acoustic spray at the Sam Boardman school, and the Columbia Jr. High gym and cafeteria.

- accepted a bid of \$23,464 each for purchase of two 53-passenger Superior school buses with 366 V8 engines, delivery to be before Aug. 15. The board indicated it may convert the buses to propane fuel use after purchase.

- voted to approve a previously negotiated three-year contract with the district classified employees.

- voted unanimously to approve a new sports and extra curricular activities eligibility policy for the school district. The new policy will take effect at the first of the school year in 1981-82.

- accepted a letter of resignation from Judy Buschke of the Heppner-Lexington advisory board.

- accepted the resignation of Heppner third grade teacher Mildred Hanna. She has taught for the district the past 28 years. "She is an excellent person and a fine educator," said Superintendent Matt Doherty. "We hate to lose her, but after 28 years a person has a right to quit."

West of Willow fixtures to be auctioned off

Appliances and fixtures will be auctioned off at the West of Willow Restaurant Saturday, April 4, at 12 noon.

The sale will be conducted by Macon Bros. Auctioneers of Walla Walla.

First Class Postage rates take increase

Saturday, March 21 is the last day mail can be sent for 15 cents. Beginning on Monday, March 23, first class postage will be 18 cents.

ECOAC representatives voice concern over Homemaker Program

By MARY ANN CERULLO

ECOAC (East Central Oregon Association of Counties) representatives expressed their concern during Morrow County Court, March 11, that some people feel they do not need the ECOAC Homemaker Program.

According to ECOAC representatives, senior citizens often confuse the Homemaker Program with Welfare and consequently don't want the help. Representatives stressed that Oregon Project Independence provides the funding.

ECOAC's Homemaker Program offers house cleaning, cooking, mail delivery, laundry and company. The area

homemaker normally pays weekly visits to every senior citizen enrolled. To qualify, the individual must be at least 60 years old.

Seventeen senior citizens in Heppner and four in Ione are helped by Gladys Jewel, ECOAC's local homemaker. Sheridan Tarnasky provides medical nursing care when needed.

Representatives pointed out to the court that the cost of a rest home for senior citizens in Pendleton is presently \$1,200 per month. According to ECOAC, many senior citizens lose interest in life when admitted to rest homes. The Homemaker Program allows seniors to remain in their own homes for a longer period of time.

Portland proposes April 1 sludge decision deadline

By MARY ANN CERULLO

An April 1 deadline on a decision whether to allow Portland sludge to be dumped in Morrow County was proposed to the Morrow County Court in a recent letter from the City of Portland.

The pending decision discussed in the letter, which was read on March 11, concerned whether Portland sewage sludge is to be dumped by which plan, CROPS or SPARS.

The CROPS' method entails the injection of the sewage under the soil of a perched bed which would separate the liquids from the solids. SPARS is a method by which the sludge is dried by solar and wind processes.

In addition to the letter, a list of 69 industries which contribute to the sludge was enclosed, as requested by county court.

The county court also discussed the possibility of the presence of cadmium in zinc fertilizers which are currently being used on Morrow County potato crops. Cadmium is a poisonous heavy metal which comes from such industries as electroplating and battery manufacturing plants. The court expressed concern that cadmium may already be in Morrow County soil.

The discussion was closed when the court restated its stand on not making a final decision until county budget matters were settled.

Lex Grange hosts coronation

Lexington Grange will host the Coronation of the Morrow County Rodeo's Queen and her Court, April 18.

There will be a potluck at 6:30 p.m., with Grange providing the meat dish, and the Fair Board, Fair Committee and

Rodeo Committee providing the dessert and salad. Last year's Queen, Lori Edwards will crown the 1981 Queen Nancy Miller. Princesses are Anita Palmer and Kathy Hansen. Delpha Jones of the

Lexington Grange has been making arrangements for the potluck and the entertainment for the evening. They also hosted last year's Coronation, which was a real success. The public is invited for the Coronation which will begin about 8:00 p.m. The Chaperones for the Queen and Court are Mary Anne Palmer and Faye Seitz. There will be a Rodeo Dance, March 21 at 9:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds Pavilion.

Two Irrigon women lose money to bogus church workers

By FRANCES ROSE WILSON

Two elderly women lost money to visitors posing as church workers, recently. Two women, claiming to be mother and daughter, with two smaller girls, children of the younger, came to the door of an 84-year old woman, in Irrigon on Friday. They were admitted when they said they were involved in getting a Catholic church started in Hermiston and would bless her.

After pronouncing a supposed blessing on her, they asked

her to go into her bedroom so they could bless her house, which she did. A few minutes later she came out to find cupboard doors and drawers partially open. They then asked her to get her money so they could bless it. When she got two one dollar bills from a cupboard she discovered that a 20 dollar bill was missing. She asked for their names and the older woman said her name was Marguerite.

In a similar incident her neighbor had lost a \$10 bill recently. Names are withheld for fear of retaliation.

Road committee signs levy petition

The Morrow County Road Committee endorsed and signed a three-year, \$12 million road levy petition presented to Morrow County Court March 11.

Fair & Rodeo news

There was a record turnout of skaters at the Fairgrounds Saturday, March 14. Most of the kids are from this area but many came from out of town.

Skating will be postponed Saturday, March 21: the Morrow County Rodeo Committee will be sponsoring a

Rodeo Dance at the Fairgrounds. The baseball season is open and the schools have been having practice daily at the Rodeo Grounds. On Sunday afternoons, two middle aged baseball teams have been using the Little League Field to play baseball.

April 6 kickoff date for 1981 Cancer Crusade

April 6 is the kick-off date for the 1981 Morrow County Cancer Crusade, says Co-chairman Reed Ringer of Heppner.

"We want to let people know that we will be coming around to see them," says Ringer, who along with Christy Lovgren are this year's Morrow County Cancer Crusade co-chairmen.

Ringer says volunteers will be going door to door to collect for the cancer crusade, which raises funds for research and education into cancer.

"Along with asking for donations in our door to door campaign, we will also be giving out information about cancer and how it can be detected," emphasized Ringer.

He said the most money ever contributed by residents of Morrow County was \$3,000 in 1979. "Our goal is to exceed \$3,000 in 1981," he says.



Reed Ringer