

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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10 PAGES

20 CENTS

HEPPNER, OREGON

## Weather

BY THE CITY OF HEPPNER

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., July 14	86	52	
Wed., July 15	90	53	
Thurs., July 16	92	54	
Fri., July 17	91	55	
Sat., July 18	86	52	
Sun., July 19	87	53	
Mon., July 20	88	52	

## Verduzco convicted of murder in Guzman slaying

By PATTI ALLSTOTT

At 12:01 p.m. Wednesday, after about three hours of deliberation, a jury of six women and six men found Jose Mario Mendoza Verduzco, Boardman, guilty of murder, reports Morrow County District Attorney Ann Spicer.

Verduzco was charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the shooting death of Antonio "Tony" Delgadillo Guzman also of Boardman. The charge of conspiracy to commit murder was subsequently dropped.

The shooting took place the night of April 25 near the H Bar W Tavern in Boardman.

Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth said the Guzman murder was the first, other than one case involving a juvenile, in Morrow County since June, 1955. The twenty-six year-old incident occurred June 4, 1955, when a Heppner woman shot a Portland lawyer, at O'Donnell's Cafe in Heppner.

Verduzco will be sentenced in about six weeks, according to Spicer.

Following is a report of the Verduzco trial:

The trial of Jose Mario Mendoza Verduzco, Boardman, which began Thursday, July 9 continued Monday morning, July 13, at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner.

One witness, John Childers, owner of the H Bar W Tavern, said he saw both Guzman and the defendant in the tavern the night of the shooting. He also stated he could not remember if the defendant had a drink or not. The defense attorney maintained that Verduzco seldom drank, was a peaceful man and fearing for his life, shot Guzman in self defense.

Childers told the jury he heard no arguments or fights in the tavern the night of April 25. He also said Verduzco and Guzman both frequented the tavern and couldn't recall any disturbances from either man. When asked if he had seen a knife or other weapon on Guzman the night of the shooting, Childers said he hadn't noticed any.

Later Monday morning, Pio Savala (Pablo Diaz) took the witness stand and testified by means of a translator, that he too had been in the tavern the night of the shooting and that Mario (Verduzco) had entered the tavern about 8:30 p.m. and left a short time later. He said Guzman was at the tavern when he arrived and later left alone. Pio said he didn't see that Guzman had a knife.

Pio then stated that he had seen Verduzco in the parking lot with a gun as he was leaving the tavern but did not see the shooting or pointing of the gun.

The next witness to testify was Jose Barajas, who said he had sold a gun to Pedro Ortiz about 1-1/2 months before the shooting but had not heard Mario and Pedro talk about killing Tony.

The prosecuting attorney maintained that Verduzco had discussed killing Guzman before the incident.

Ruberto Chavez, who is employed at Oregon Potato Inc. with both Mario and Tony was called to the stand and

stated that he hadn't seen Guzman with a weapon the night of the shooting either. He further stated he did not see any weapons on Guzman's body, or any being removed from his body. Chavez also stated that Mario was "over" Tony at work but he never knew Tony to be upset about it. He said that Tony had gotten a gun because he was afraid of Pedro.

Later, Spicer called Mario Avilas, a friend of Verduzco's, to the stand. Avilas stated he had been at the H Bar W Tavern the night of April 25 with Mario Verduzco. He said he and the defendant had one beer, that the defendant and Tony had "words" and then

they (Verduzco and Avilas) left the tavern. The witness also stated that Tony did not threaten to kill Verduzco but wanted to fight him and that Verduzco wouldn't fight. Avilas also said he hadn't heard Tony threaten to kill Pedro.

Rafael Alvaras was later called to the stand to testify. Alvaras, another friend of Verduzco stated that he and Pedro had driven to the tavern together in his pickup while Verduzco and Sebero (Berduzco) left for the tavern in Verduzco's van. He said Tony and Pedro were fighting as Verduzco and Sebero were parking at the tavern and that Verduzco then jumped out of the van with the rifle. Then,

said Alvaras, Sebero took the gun, ejected the shell and gave it back to Verduzco and then headed for the back of the parking lot. Alvaras stated he then got back in his pickup and was backing out of the parking lot when Verduzco came running up to the pickup with the gun and said he wanted to get out of there fast. The witness said Verduzco didn't tell him what had happened. He said he did not see Tony with a knife and hadn't seen Pedro with a weapon either. Alvaras said Verduzco came running from the pharmacy - post office area but did not see what had happened and did not hear a shot.

Officer Jesse Villareal took

the witness stand and told of the interview he had conducted with Mario Verduzco after the shooting. The officer said Verduzco stated he had killed the deceased with a gun he had obtained from a friend who owed him money. Villareal related accounts from the interview concerning events before, during and after the shooting. He also stated that Verduzco had told him he was afraid Tony was going to beat him up, but could not recall if Verduzco was afraid Tony would kill him. Villareal appeared to be in a great deal of pain during his testimony and was released directly after questioning. He later submitted a written account of

the interview with Verduzco, which was entered as an exhibit for evidence.

Officer Ronald Hosek was recalled to the stand and testified that he had received a phone call from Verduzco's wife, who told him Verduzco wanted to talk to him. Hosek stated Verduzco later phoned him and confessed to shooting Guzman.

Court was recessed until 9 a.m. Tuesday morning and members of the jury were excused. At this point, F.E. Glenn, attorney for the defendant, asked that Judge Wells dismiss Count II -

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## Sidewalk Sale features food, sales & more sales



Ralph Limanen of the Coast to Coast store in Heppner displays some of the merchandise to be on sale at the Sidewalk Sale this Saturday.

The annual Heppner Sidewalk Sale gets underway this Saturday, July 25, with more to offer than just good buys from local merchants.

Many groups will be out on the downtown sidewalks with food booths and other services for your entertainment.

Included in the Sidewalk Sale activities are: a ham and egg breakfast in the parking lot of Central Market first thing Saturday morning, put on by the Heppner Firemen.

The breakfast will begin at 8 a.m., last until 11 a.m. and will include hashbrowns and English muffins.

Other activities include a pie and food booth by the Rebekah Lodge, balloons and

cook books for sale by the Hospital Auxiliary, a pie sale by the local Elks, hot dogs and pop by the local Cub Scouts, a pie sale by the Soroptimist Club, cook books for sale by the CowBelles, custom jewelry and food for sale by the Heppner Mineral Club, popcorn balls, burritos, monster cookies and cinnamon rolls by the Christian Life Center, crafts and knickknacks by the Neighborhood Center, Mexican burgers by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, cotton candy, pop and popcorn by the Lions Club, a food sale by the Heppner High School Dance Team, and a food sale to raise money for the solar heating system at the swimming pool.

## Several wheat fires reported in Heppner, Lex., lone areas

Several wheat fires have been reported in the Heppner-Lexington-lone areas during recent harvest.

A fire at the farm of Tony

Doherty at Blackhorse Canyon took about 50 acres of wheat Monday afternoon. The fire, which began around 4 or 5 p.m., burned until around 7:30

## City will only sell surplus water

A spokesperson from the city of Heppner told the Gazette Monday that the Willow Creek dam crew is being sold water from the Thorpe Well, not the city water supply. The city will sell the crew water only if the city has an excess.

The spokesperson said that many area citizens mistaken-

ly believed that the water is presently being sold from the city supply.

The spokesperson stressed that the recent water restrictions are being enforced to ensure that enough water remains in the reservoir for fire protection, and not because water is being sold.

## Berduzco not guilty

Sebero Andrade Berduzco, Boardman, charged with murder by aiding and abetting in connection with the death of Antonio Delgadillo Guzman, also of Boardman, was deemed not guilty, according to Morrow County District Attorney Ann Spicer.

The trial of Berduzco, who was represented by Heppner attorney Herman Winter, got underway at 9:15 Monday morning and concluded around 1 p.m. Tuesday after about 2 1/2 hours of deliberation by the jury.

Circuit Judge Jack Olsen, Pendleton, presided.

Jose Mario Mendoza Verduzco, Boardman, was tried and found guilty of murder last week in the April 25 death of Guzman.

The charges against a third man allegedly involved in the slaying, Pedro Cisneros Ortiz, have been dismissed, according to Spicer. Ortiz, originally charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder, was to have been tried at the Morrow County Courthouse August 3.

## OEPBS activates new translator near Heppner

A UHF-TV translator carrying the program service of the Oregon Educational and Public Broadcasting Service was recently activated near Heppner, announced Robert Hinz, OEPBS director of operations, engineering and radio programming.

Operating on UHF Channel 63, the translator is designed to serve the Heppner, Lexington, Monument, Long Creek and Dale areas. It is located at Black Mountain approximately 19 miles southeast of Heppner, at an elevation of 5,950 feet.

The newest OEPBS translator operates with a power of 100 watts and utilizes a non-directional antenna which transmits its television signal in a circular pattern. Receiving UHF antennas should be pointed directly at Black Mountain. A clear view of the

mountain, normally referred to as "line-of-sight" will provide the best signal.

The translator installation is another element in an Oregon Commission on Public Broadcasting and OEPBS project designed to extend public television service to communities unable to receive the main OEPBS TV stations - KOAP - Channel 10, KOAC - Channel 7, KVDO - Channel 3 and KTVR - Channel 13. Eighteen other translators are in service at various points in Oregon.

The Black Mountain station will carry the full schedule of programs as they originate at KOAP - TV, Portland. For the summer, sign-on time is 4 p.m. On September 14, OEPBS TV stations and translators will return to a full daytime schedule of programming.

p.m. Neighbors resounded to the call.

A fire at the farm of Max Barclay burned only stubble, according to Mrs. Barclay.

Mrs. Barclay said that the fire neared the family's grain elevators, but that the quick response of neighbors prevented further damage.

## Fair and Rodeo News



## Court captures 2nd out of 20 courts at Elgin

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court captured second place at the Elgin Stampede held on Sunday.

Facing stiff competition and extensive judging, Morrow County's court came in second out of 20 courts behind Walla Walla with a five-member court.

Accompanying Queen Nancy Miller to the Elgin rodeo were her parents, Tad and Melba Miller, and her brother, Steve, Princess Kathy Hansen

and her mother, Cathy Hansen, and Princess Anita Palmer and her parents, Lee and Mary Ann, Pennant Bearer Shelley Stroeber and her parents, Don and Jan, and sisters, Cindi and Christy, and Lori Fetsch and her parents, Larry and Donna Fetsch.

The Court has scheduled a dance on August 1 at the Morrow County Fair Pavilion and will appear at the Umatilla County Fair at Hermiston August 8.

## Board, Chamber support parade

The Morrow County Fair Board will again fund the major portion of expenses to present the Main Street Parade this year, according to a fair spokesperson.

Each year the fair board budgets these funds and turns them over to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce who dispenses the funds as they see fit. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce works on preparations for the parade all through the year and such

preparations take time on the part of this organization, plus they plan the Queen and her Court's luncheon each year.

"The fair board has always felt our annual parades are a major event to look forward to and along with the Heppner Chamber of Commerce wish to continue to support the annual event, therefore these organizations should be commended for serving the community this way," concluded the spokesperson.

## Art sale to coincide with Sidewalk Sale

Some 30 members will have oil paintings, tile painting, China painting, silver jewelry

and other arts and crafts for sale. Morrow County Creative

Arts and Crafts will have a show and sale at Heppner City Park on July 25 along with Heppner Sidewalk Sale.

## Chappells' home Ione Yard of Month



Roby and Ethel Chappell

The Ione Yard of the Month for July has been presented to Roby and Ethel Chappell, newcomers to town, having moved to Ione this past March.

In selection of the Chappell's yard, the selection committee commented that "neatness and showy blooms caught their eyes while driving past this attractive yellow home on the corner of 'D' and Third streets. On close inspection, we found the yard and vegetable garden virtually weed-free and thriving in spite of the heat at the end of June

"The attractive yard," continued the committee, "has a nice selection of perennials and annuals for continuous bloom, fruit trees and a large vegetable garden."

"The gardeners milieu as to where to put these necessities - structures and equipment - is taken care of neatly and inconspicuously by the Chappells in a back corner of their lot.

"We want to welcome the Chappells to our community and thank them for making their yard so attractive to passers-by," concluded the selection committee.