

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 99 NO. 53

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1981

8 PAGES

20 CENTS

HEPPNER, OREGON

Weather

By City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., Dec. 22	40	32	trace of snow
Wed., Dec. 23	41	32	.09
Thurs., Dec. 24	52	36	trace of snow
Fri., Dec. 25	44	32	3 in. snow
Sat., Dec. 26	38	28	1/2 in. snow
Sun., Dec. 27	41	30	.02 in. snow
Mon., Dec. 28	39	20	0

Man power saves water for Willow Creek

Two days of hard work by 19 area men has resulted in water being saved for Willow Creek, which may have been diverted into the John Day River, Dick Wilkinson of the Willow Creek Improvement District says.

For many years a man-made diversion ditch has been carrying water into Willow Creek at a point above Cutsforth Park.

Last Spring the Forest Service informed Morrow County that a conditional use permit allowing the Smith Ditch diversion would not be renewed, unless the stream were cleaned up and better maintained against erosion.

The Forest Service said if the permit were not renewed, about 90-acre feet of water that had been flowing into Willow Creek would be diverted into Ditch Creek, which feeds into the John Day on the other side of the mountain.

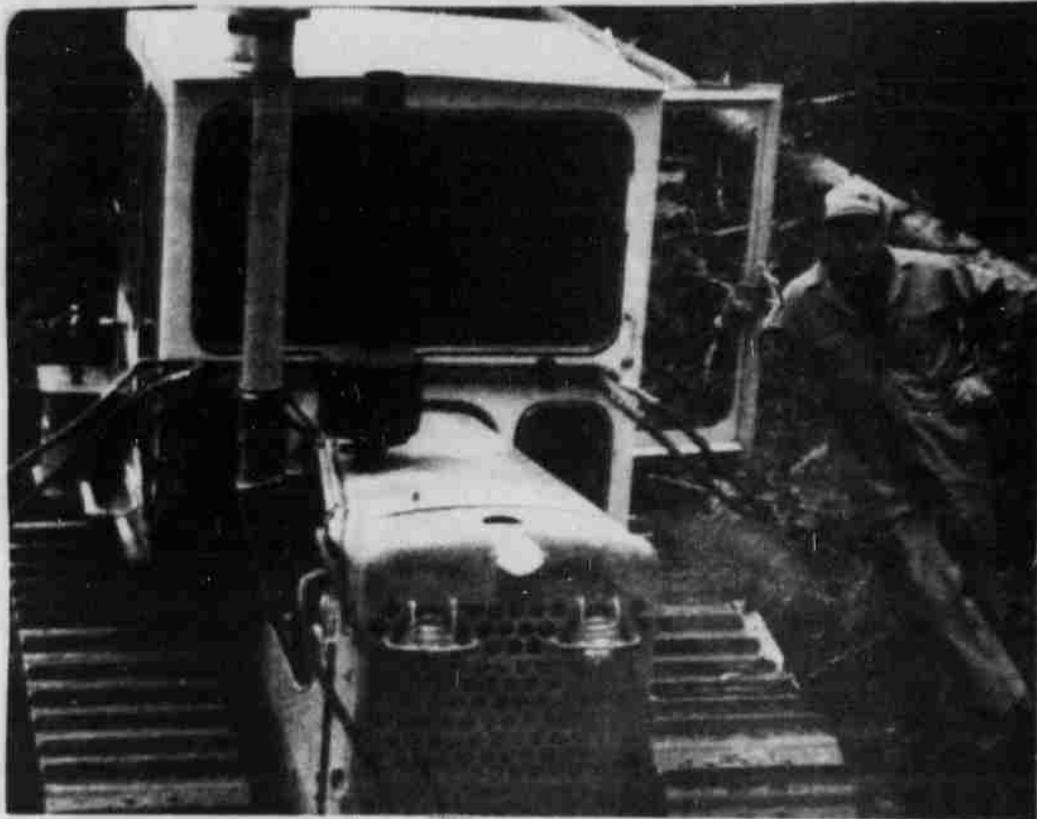
Not wanting to lose valuable irrigation and other uses of the water, the improvement district put together a work party of volunteer labor and machinery, and on October 13 and 14 went up to the Smith Ditch.

The men spent the two days clearing out vegetation, installing rip rap and cleaning the creek bed for about one mile.

Four bulldozers and a backhoe were donated for the work by area farmers, and both the Morrow County Grain Growers and Kinzua Corp. donated trucks.

Also saved by the work of the improvement district was a 340-foot waterfall, which flows near Cutsforth Park, and would have been wiped out by the water diversion into Ditch Creek.

After the work was done, a spokesperson for the Forest Service said he anticipated issuing a new conditional use permit to the county for the



Eldon Padberg with equipment used in Smith Ditch work

water diversion, but that it would be for one year only.

"We're concerned the problem (erosion) might move down (Smith Ditch). We're going to go back and look at it in a year, and we'll see what it looks like then," he said.

Men who participated in the work included: Jim Bloodworth, Cecil Jones, Sam Byrne, John Wood, Mack Hoskin, Randy Ball, Don Evans, Wayne Evans, Roger Mortimore, Gene Crowell, Tim Cheney, Dick Tarrell, Joe McElligott, Jerry McElligott, Eldon Padberg, Hank Krebs, Dick Wilkinson, Charlie Mackey and Tom Wilson.

"There were a lot of people there, but I think this was all who participated," Wilkinson said.



A cleaned up Smith Ditch

Morrow Co. Court endorses L.C.D.C. resolution

By MARYANN CERULLO
Morrow County Court endorsed a resolution presented by the Klamath County Commission, concerning the control of the Land Conservation and Development Commission (L.C.D.C.) and sent it on to Salem last Wednesday, Dec. 23.

"L.C.D.C. is no longer meeting the needs of city and county jurisdictions and their people, showing no deference to the productivity of the land, or to the economy of the area, but instead using the taxpayer's money on expensive legal actions and continual hearings at Salem in a futile effort to satisfy the philosophies of the State Commission," stated the resolution.

The resolution went on to state that as L.C.D.C. is no longer meeting the needs of the cities and counties on land issues, it should be put back under more local control.

"L.C.D.C. began as a cooperative agency, to work as a working partnership between the cities and counties on land

issues. But now they (L.C.D.C.) have become more dictatorial, telling rather than advising," said Commissioner Dorothy Krebs in a further explanation of the resolution.

In other business, Judge Don McElligott informed the court that the deadline to submit a jail proposal to the state is February 1, 1982. A regional facility is the only type which would be eligible for state funds, stated McElligott.

The study group which is currently looking into all options for a county correctional facility will present its findings prior to the deadline.

The study group was organized during a public meeting December 9 and held its first session Monday, Dec. 21. Ed Glenn of Boardman was appointed chairman of the group and Diane Brownley became secretary, reported McElligott.

Morrow County Court continued with the following business:

— received notification of a rescheduling of the meeting with Umatilla County Commission for January 7 at 11:45 a.m. in Pendleton. The original meeting was set for December 30 to discuss court financing.

— approved recommendations for six month salary raises within the assessor's office, made by Greg Sweek.

— received word from Morrow County Health Nurse Pat Wright, of her concern over her malpractice insurance. Wright requested that the court review her insurance policy and the possibility of increasing her coverage. No action was taken.

— heard the weekly Road Report from Don Briggs, director of the Public Works Dept. Twenty bids had been received from local contractors, as of December 23, for construction of a new county maintenance shop in Lexington, said Briggs, and the department still intends to publicize statewide.

New phone tax for 1982

A new tax, part of a law passed by the 1981 Oregon Legislature to implement 911 emergency telephone systems throughout the state, will begin appearing on Pacific Northwest Bell telephone bills after January 1, 1982, stated a news release from PNB.

The three percent state excise tax will be applied to the amount paid by customers for local exchange access, according to Glenn Kennedy, area manager-Community Affairs. It will not be applied to monthly charges for leased telephone sets, other telephone equipment or long distance calls.

Tax dollars are transferred to the State Department of Revenue which distributes them to local 911 jurisdictions.

Some 33 other telephone companies providing local exchange service in the state also will collect the tax through monthly bills, the news release continued.

The new 911 law will be effective through 1991, at which time the state has mandated that all local government jurisdictions must have 911 emergency telephone systems in place.

Columbia Basin board discusses service study bids at Wednesday meeting

By MARYANN CERULLO

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative was held last Wednesday, Dec. 23, to discuss three acceptable bids which the co-op recently received for a cost of service study.

Fred Toombs, manager of Columbia Basin, presented the three bids to the board, beginning with the engineering firm of Minor and Minor of Montana. Rate consultant for the company, Robert Scrivner, gave their estimated cost of the study at \$19,800.

Black and Veatch out of Kansas was listed next with an estimate of \$19,500.

The last bid came in at \$16,800 from Economic Engi-

neering Service (EES) of Seattle.

Toombs presented high recommendations for each firm. Three other companies which had been contacted declined to give estimates.

The board agreed on the formation of an advisory committee, but agreed that final decisions would rest with the board of directors.

After some discussion the board moved and seconded to meet with the rate consultant of each firm on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 7.

Following the three interviews, it was decided that the consultant for the firm chosen to do the rate study would meet and exchange ideas with the board and advisory committee.

The board recognized Har-

old Peck of Heppner who voiced a concern over the wisdom of spending the consumers' money on a rate study.

"What's the point if you're not going to follow this rate study and just compromise all over again?" inquired Peck.

Columbia Basin approved a rate increase last July 30. The increase was the result of a compromise between a rate study commissioned by the co-op and one by the large irrigators.

The board reasserted that all final decisions would lie with them.

Peck next questioned whether members of the advisory committee would be knowledgeable enough to know what to look for and what to ask.

Fred Toombs agreed to contact members of both the board and the committee to discuss what questions should be asked of each firm.

"The intent of this cost of service study is to come up with a rate increase that will be fair to all consumers involved," said Toombs.

The advisory committee for the cost of service study includes, as of Dec. 23: John Bristow and Raymond French who will represent the residential consumers; Forrie Burkenbine and Bill Flatt for small commercial; Al Osmin and Phil Wilson, small irrigators; Marvin Padberg and Brock Tucker are to represent the large irrigators; and Bob Lankford and Harry Kennison for the industrial consumers.

Proposed budget cuts could hit home hard

Budget cuts proposed by the Oregon State Legislature to reduce state department employees by 20 percent could hit home and hit hard in Morrow County, District Attorney Ann Spicer informed the Gazette-Times during an interview last week.

If passed, the proposed 20 percent cuts are to be made in all state departments in five percent increments over a two year period, said Spicer. These cuts would mean the state could lose about 184 Oregon State Police troopers, Spicer emphasized. She said from figures learned at the Oregon State District Attorneys Conference, held in Eugene Dec. 2-4, the proposed cuts would mean the dismissal of all troopers hired during the last five years.

Looking at Morrow County's crime rate statistics for the past seven years, defines Spicer's concern over the proposed cut-backs.

During 1975 through 1977 inclusive, there were 77 felony indictments through grand juries in Morrow County. In 1978 there were 15 indictments through grand juries plus 248 other criminal cases (misdemeanors and felonies on waiver of indictment) bringing the total criminal activity record for 1978 to 263 cases, Spicer illustrated.

1979 shows total criminal activity at 341 cases, with felony indictments jumping 340 percent from 15 to 51 cases over 1978.

During 1980 crime was down in the county, but in 1981 it jumped to a record high, 73 felony indictments and 318 other criminal cases.

If the proposed cuts become

reality, Morrow County will definitely be noticing some changes.

Spicer said the cuts would most effect traffic work and predicts an increase in burglaries as well as accidents.

In Irrigon alone, there were 22 reported burglaries between August 18 and Nov. 27 of this year, Spicer said. There may have been more that were not reported, she added.

Of those 22 burglaries, 10 were investigated by the OSP, the other 12 were handled by the Morrow County Sheriff's Department.

Last year, the state began releasing about 80 troopers, Spicer said. "My feeling is, we can't afford to lose any of them—not when crime is going up that fast."

What do the Oregon State Police do for Morrow County?

OSP troopers do much of the trained investigating for the county and aid the county sheriff and deputies in responding to accidents, Spicer reported.

On the average, she said, one county deputy is on duty at a time. The Arlington and Hermiston OSP offices presently have troopers available for Morrow County, if needed.

The OSP have investigated many burglaries and perform much of the major investigation work. The OSP handled almost all of the Guzman murder (Boardman) investigation the D.A. said.

"The Sheriff's Department does do investigating, but they don't have the man power to do it all," said Deputy District Attorney Harold McLean.

At present, Spicer reports, the Arlington office, whose troopers patrol the Arlington,

Condon and Boardman areas, is proposed to be closed. The Hermiston office will remain open, but with a reduced staff, she continued.

One of the major changes in services from the OSP, Spicer said would be response time.

Spicer went on to explain, for example, if the county deputy was working in the Hardman area, and someone needed help in Boardman there may not be an OSP trooper available to respond, posing a possible dangerous situation.

"After cuts, we will not have the availability of OSP troopers that we have now, if at all," the D.A. continued.

If people will get going and write letters prior to the January 11 legislative session (when the final decision will be made) maybe the cuts won't be so severe," Spicer added.

"I urge people to write their congressmen and state legislators and give support to the OSP," added McLean.

Hey big guy...



Last week's snowfall prompted many kids, young and old to get out and have some fun in the snow. As a result, snowpersons began popping up in yards all across town. This one, which stands about 7 ft. tall was built Saturday by Vince Brant 19, Hermiston, and Susy Olson, 15, formerly of Heppner, and now living in Hermiston. The snow man, as of Monday, was residing on Susy's father, Eddie Olson's lawn at Shobe Street in Heppner.

Who will be the first 1982 baby born in Heppner?

Who will be the first baby born at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital in 1982?

That's hard to say, but whoever it is will once again be showered with gifts from

many of Heppner's businesses and merchants.

For complete details of the first baby contest, see page five of this week's Gazette-Times.