

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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8 PAGES

25 CENTS

HEPPNER, OREGON

## Weather By City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., Feb. 9	31	9	
Wed., Feb. 10	40	20	
Thurs., Feb. 11	49	30	
Fri., Feb. 12	53	38	
Sat., Feb. 13	56	50	.01
Sun., Feb. 14	60	46	.06
Mon., Feb. 15	64	42	.01

## Both sides represented in Neighborhood Center dispute

### Krebs clarifies Rev. Sharing Comm. actions

By MARY ANN CERULLO

"I would like to state and hopefully clarify some things regarding the Revenue Sharing Committee's recent decision to withdraw funds from the Heppner Neighborhood Center," Commissioner Dorothy Krebs said last week.

On February 3, the county made the decision to withdraw their support of \$10,000 for the Heppner Neighborhood Center. Up until now, the center's budget has been dependent on the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council and Morrow County.

According to Morrow County Court, the Neighborhood Center should be a place where low income people are helped to become self sufficient, as stated in the 1981-82 contract with B.M.E.D.C.

The Blue Mountain Economic Development Council states in the new 1982-83 contract that the center should be a social-recreational place for activities.

"B.M.E.D.C. changed the goals on us. We (County Court) asked for a list of those goals which Rick Gay did not provide," stated Dorothy Krebs, referring to the operational contract for the Neighborhood Center.

"The Center has been providing free meeting space for local agencies and organizations," said Krebs. "We (the County) have trouble with that. This is not being consistent. The county charges Mental Health rent for its office, charges Dr. McCoy and Dr. Gifford for their space and the Heppner senior meal site for the use of their space at the

fairgrounds."

The 1982-83 contract for the center states, "in providing a site, the Heppner Neighborhood Center brings services to those in need. This often facilitates the opportunity to receive a service and save clients gas money, which can be utilized for their basic needs.

"This is not valid for the county," responded Krebs. "It is limited only to Heppner."

"That \$10,000 of county money should be spent on a county project and not centered in one locality. The center should be funded by local people because it serves local people," she continued.

Krebs stated that one time services such as fuel assistance and the food baskets can easily be handled by other groups, such as A.A.U.W., the

Lions, Elks Club, or Boy Scouts.

According to Krebs, the federal government has pulled the weatherization, Loan, and CETA programs out of the center within the last year and a half.

"There are alternatives," she said. "The county, since it doesn't agree with the (center's) present programs, asks that some other agency pick up the slack; or the county could pick up the entire program."

"Next Wednesday the court will be meeting with Bob Ehmann, president of the board of directors to B.M.E.D.C. to discuss the entire problem," concluded Commissioner Krebs. "Perhaps a meeting like this should have happened in the very beginning."

## Save the Neighborhood Center comm. meets, takes action

The committee now calling itself "Save the Neighborhood Center" held its first meeting last Tuesday, February 8, said Neola Mackey, a co-leader of the organization. About 30 people attended the meeting where it was decided that the group would continue a petition campaign, distributing posters and writing letters to the editors of local newspapers. Mackey is a volunteer at the center. John Canaday, the second co-leader of the group is vice chairman of the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council.

Mackey said she had encountered very few who support the Revenue Sharing Committee's action to withdraw funding from the center.

Mackey and Canaday spoke to members of the Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's weekly luncheon last Tuesday. Mackey campaigned in the north end of the county on Wednesday.

When asked what residents in the north end of the county thought of the recent action, she said that most of the

people she talked with didn't realize that services they were receiving were through the Neighborhood Center. She said they thought that the services were through Welfare, since services are handled through the Boardman Adult and Family Services office.

She further stated that the Heppner center had sent canned food, clothing, dolls, toys and other items to a volunteer from Irrigon to be used in Christmas baskets in that area. All money donations given to the center from north Morrow residents were returned and more, she stated.

Mackey said a large number of the newly formed group's members attended the county budget hearing at the county courthouse last week and more were to attend the Thursday, February 18 hearing.

The organization will hold open meetings each Tuesday, 2 p.m. at the Heppner bowling alley, she stated, anyone interested is invited to attend, she added.



Services at Heppner's Neighborhood Center will be curtailed as the result of funds being withdrawn by Morrow County.

## B.M.E.D.C. director denies being uncooperative

"The Heppner Neighborhood Center has been a joint venture (between Morrow County and the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council) for eight to ten years now," Richard Gay, executive director of the council, stated during a recent phone interview. "I'm kind of at a loss as to exactly what happened," he said.

According to Gay, the Neighborhood Center conducts the following services: emergency assistance with food and clothing; an information-referral service for those who don't know where to turn; mediation with various agencies such as Internal Revenue Service; food glean-

ing; winter fuel assistance and the Christmas baskets; provides a gathering point for people, especially the seniors;

classes preparing for General Educational Development (G.E.D.) tests are held there; and Adult and Family Services Division and Social Security representatives use the center to meet with clients.

Last year the center worked with Public Works and CETA to clean up the county parks and provide wood for needy seniors, added Gay.

"It's a general focusing point for those in need," he said.

"Since we've (the council) been informed that the funds

won't be provided, my view is that if the people in Morrow County feel the center is a viable program, they will convince the decision makers to change their minds," stated Gay.

"I've read the reports that I've been uncooperative and I don't feel I have been," Gay said. "I've been requested to provide some things which I have done."

"The council has provided monthly reports (to the county) which are fairly detailed," he continued.

"Many of the center's services are not realized to the public, but we can't exactly go out and advertise every time we provide a service," said

Gay. "Some feel there is a duplication of services, while the center serves a very different clientele."

"I do not want to add fuel to the fire," stated Gay. "but in a way, all this may be beneficial, in that a lot more people have become more aware of what the center does. It's become an education."

When asked if he knows what is going to happen to the Neighborhood Center, Gay stated that the center is in jeopardy. "There would have to be some curtailment of services. We'll just have to see what the board (of directors) decides when they meet."

According to Gay, the next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23.

## Co. Budget Comm. reschedules meeting

The Morrow County Budget Committee meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, has been rescheduled to Friday, February 19, said a county spokesperson. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m., county court room at the Courthouse in Heppner. The first item on the agenda is Pioneer Memorial Hospital's budget, she said.

The Revenue Sharing Committee is also scheduled to meet Friday, February 19. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. at the county court room.

## H.H.S. reunion planned

Heppner High School graduating classes of 1946-48 are planning a reunion June 26 and 27.

Members of the class of 1947 are trying to locate the whereabouts and addresses of Bob Mollahan and the former Carolyn Bauman. Anyone having these addresses is asked to call Jo Pettyjohn, 676-9157.

## Legal technicality causes Court to reject bids

By MARY ANN CERULLO

Morrow County Court met last Wednesday and rescinded a motion to accept the bid from Bootsma Construction for the county maintenance shop because of a legal technicality.

The court then moved to reject all previous bids and agreed to resubmit new specifications.

According to Don Briggs,

director of the Public Works Department, the new specifications will be sent to all the contractors who sent bids in before.

Bid opening day for the county shop will be held at the Public Works office on Wednesday, February 24, said Briggs.

County Court continued with the weekly Road Report, presented by Don Briggs.

"I just want to say," said Judge Don McElligott, while

discussing the county road department, "that I'm real pleased with the Kinzua log truckers in going easy on the roads, for keeping light loads and watching their speed."

In other business the court: — learned from the County Clerk's office that Merlin Cantin filed a petition to run for Morrow County Commissioner on the Republican ticket.

— set an appointment with Bob Ehmann, president of the

board of directors for Blue Mountain Economic Development Council. The meeting was set for Wednesday, February 17.

— granted Richard Knack leave of county service with agreed conditions.

— read the January reports for the Health Department and Juvenile Services Department.

— viewed a demonstration of a copy machine.

## Two Morrow County men sentenced, two arraigned

Two men, both from Morrow County were sentenced Tuesday January 26 in Morrow County Circuit Court, reports District Attorney Ann Spicer. Two other Morrow County residents were arraigned.

Patrick John Nelson, 20 of Boardman was sentenced to three years probation, must have a mental health evaluation to determine if he has an alcohol or drug problem and he must submit his person, residence and vehicle to a search at any given time by a parole officer upon reasonable suspicion for Delivery of a Controlled Substance and Possession of a Controlled Substance (LSD).

Allen Keith Tompkins, 19 of Irrigon was sentenced to three years probation, 90 days in the Umatilla County Jail with credit given for time previously served, must make \$368.25 restitution to Morrow County for attorney fees, must make \$577.65 restitution to Earl Isom, Irrigon (victim), must make \$300 restitution to Brown's Truck Stop for another burglary, must submit his person, residence and

vehicle to a search at any given time for the persence of stolen property by a parole officer upon a reasonable suspicion.

Arley J. Hamilton, 23 of Boardman, indicted by a grand jury January 19 on Assault in the second degree charges, was arraigned January 29 and was continued on bail previously posted. Richard McNeerney was appointed as Hamilton's attorney.

Steven Keith Ball, 24 of Heppner was indicted and charged with felonious possession of a game animal. He was arraigned January 26 and pleaded not guilty. He was released on his own recognizance pending trial.

John Thomas Findley, 22 of Boardman entered a not guilty plea after being charged January 19 with Criminal Mistreatment.

## Mustangs assured tourney spot

With victories over Weston-McEwen and Stanfield last weekend, the Heppner Mustangs have assured themselves a spot in the District 7A basketball tournament, getting underway next week in Pendleton.

The Mustangs beat Weston-McEwen 76-67 on Friday, and came back Saturday to dump Stanfield 74-67.

## BMCC budget hearing set

A public budget hearing on the Blue Mountain Community College 1982-83 proposed budget is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, in the boardroom of Pioneer Hall.

The hearing is for the purpose of taking testimony from any interested party about the budget, according to College President Ron Daniels. The BMCC board of education will meet in regular session that same evening to formally adopt the budget figure to be put before the voters March 30.

The budget figure currently set for the college's operation next year is \$5,417,027. This represents a 6.2 percent increase over the current year's

The Mustangs will meet either Wasco or Sherman County in the first game of the tournament.

The game will be played Friday, February 26, at 3 p.m., said Head Coach Dale Holland.

The Mustangs will be taking a 17-1 record and a third place ranking in the state into the tournament.

loss of state funds and other resources, it will require a property tax levy of \$3,118,177 to balance the budget.

If the levy is approved at the March election by the voters of Morrow and Umatilla counties, the cost to a homeowner would be \$1.60 per \$1,000 true cash value. An owner of a \$50,000 home would be assessed \$80 to support the college for the year. The levy per \$1,000 true cash value is up 18 cents from the current year's levy of \$1.42.

Also at the February meeting, the board will review the college's quarterly financial report in addition to conducting regular board business.

## M.C.G.G. Appreciation Day draws large crowd Saturday



Morrow County CowBelles Sharon Harrison (L) and Pat Gentry prepare taco filling for pocket bread at the Morrow County Grain Growers Appreciation Day held last Saturday. Representatives from the Oregon Wheat Commission and Oregon State University Extension Service also gave demonstrations to after breakfast viewers.

About 550 people attended the free breakfast, said Judy Osmin, M.C.G.G. clerk. Winners of the adult door prizes included: Irvin Rauch - pressure washer, Dennis Papineau - tool box, Joel Engelman - food dehydrator, Chuck Adams - blender, Scott McMillan - pots and pans, John Ledbetter - wrench set and Harold Klienback - battery charger.

Children's door prize winners were: Aaron Heideman - 2 + 2 tractor, Susie Heideman - Steiger tractor and Robyn McRoberts - IH tractor.