

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	Hi	Low	Precip.
Tues., Jan. 4	55	42	
Wed., Jan. 5	59	39	.35
Thurs., Jan. 6	54	42	.02
Fri., Jan. 7	63	39	T
Sat., Jan. 8	48	18	
Sun., Jan. 9	48	42	
Mon., Jan. 10	55	30	

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8 PAGES

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HEPPNER, OREGON

Guest speakers give Economic Dev. Corp. advice



Tony Barnhart

Inventory your land, investigate financing and pinpoint types of businesses, and above all don't be discouraged. Those were the words of advice given to the new Heppner Economic Development Corp. by guest speakers at the first annual meeting of the corporation, held Monday night.

Joe Burns of the Hermiston Economic Development Corp., and Tony Barnhart of the East Central Oregon Association of Counties spoke to a group of about 50 people who had gathered at the Heppner Elk's Lodge, about the difficulties and possibilities of economic development in Heppner.

The Heppner corp., formed several months ago to promote growth and improve economic health in the area, now has 19 members, (five joined Monday at the meeting) and a host of ideas on improving the economic situation here.

Barnhart said Heppner should look at any possible sites for new businesses, check for proper zoning and investigate avenues of financing for expansion or new businesses.

"Look at your businesses that are already here. In Oregon 85 percent of new jobs are created by businesses already in Oregon," he pointed out.

He urged the corp. to make use of available resources; the port commission, G.E.O.D.C. and the county.

As far as the type of new businesses that may locate in Heppner, Gardner said "decide who you want and go after them." He said the corporation should make a "laundry list" of businesses from which to work.

Joe Burns, who has had 17 years experience with the Hermiston Economic Development Corporation, had some suggestions on how to

proceed.

"It's tough out there. There's a lot of competition, but you can start by making an inventory of your assets. You have a lot of assets you may overlook."

Burns urged the corporation to work with the port and check out ways to finance. "And protect what you already have," he urged.

Burns said the development should be approached in a "methodical, think tank" way.

"You have to do it yourself," he said. "You have the expertise here to do it, and don't give up."

Following the two guest speakers' discussions, president of the corporation, Jim

Hayes, of Heppner, gave an overview of how the corporation got started and what it was trying to accomplish.

He said anyone can join the non-profit corporation, and the membership fee is \$100.

Prior to the annual meeting, the corporation had 14 members; however, five more signed up at the meeting.

In other business, the corporation:

— elected Jim Hayes, Bob Abrams, Fred Toombs, Kent Goodyear, Ralph Limanen, Charles Hutchinson and Joan McDonald to three-year terms as directors on the board. Joan McDonald replaced Helen Riehl who declined to run.



Joe Burns

— heard a report from Treasurer Kent Goodyear, who reported \$1963.98 in the corporation account.

— re-elected Jim Hayes president of the corporation.

50 to 60 percent of Heppner still lies in flood plain

Heppner's Willow Creek Dam may not reduce the flood plain as much as expected. According to maps recently

released by the Corps of Engineers, much of the town will still be in the flood plain even now that dam construc-

tion has been completed. "About 50 to 60 percent of the town will still be in the flood plain," Heppner city attorney Bill Kuhn told the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday.

Some homeowners have reportedly already cancelled flood insurance which they will need to reinstate. "The restrictions won't be as great as before, but it's still more than we thought," said Kuhn.

"For \$40 million dollars I don't think we got a whale of a deal," concluded Kuhn.

Sabre Farms sale in final stages

By MARY ANN CERULLO

The sale of Sabre Farms on Homestead Road, southeast of Boardman is currently being finalized by a Korean firm, announced Deene Seeger, Morrow County Planner, last Wednesday.

Seeger, who was unable to

name the firm, reported that the sale will include 14,812.11 acres of land actually owned by Sabre Farms, plus 995.19 acres of state-leased land for a total of 15,807.3 acres.

The figures of the sale hadn't been released, but Seeger estimated it to be in the vicinity of \$15 to \$20 million.

Columbia Basin lowers increase

An increase in electrical power usage costs will be reduced from 1.5 to 1.1 cents per kilowatt hour effective with the January billing, it was announced at a Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board meeting last Thursday. Co-op Manager Fred Toombs said the reduction was due to reduced termination costs of Washington Public Power Supply System's nuclear plants 4 and 5. "Because WPPSS termination costs on 4 and 5 have been reduced, we are able to reduce the amount we have to collect from customers," he explained.

Rates were increased 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour last month to cover the co-op's involvement in the two plants, even though the co-op won't start making payments on the debt until ordered to do so by law. Funds from the increase are being held in interest

bearing accounts until them. If the co-op is not required to make payments to WPPSS, the funds will be returned to consumers either in the form of reduced rates or in cash.

Columbia Basin is one of 16 utilities involved in a suit claiming they are not responsible for the debt because the plants were not completed and no energy will be obtained from them. Toombs said a review of the suit was heard at the board meeting Thursday.

and that the first hearing was scheduled for January 10.

Toombs reported Friday that November 1982 usage was the lowest for any month in many years. "We had to go back to 1972 to find when usage had been as low as during November '82," he said.

In other business, the board:

— changed two policies concerning collecting past due accounts which put more re-

strictions and penalties on consumers who are disconnected for non payment.

— met with several local irrigators to discuss their problems caused by increases. Toombs said the board is working with the irrigators to develop a rate which will allow them to keep irrigating their crops, at no cost to other consumers.

North co. residents petition for deputy

A petition drive, requesting that a county sheriff's deputy be stationed in the Irrigon area, was started in Boardman and Irrigon last week.

Sponsor of the petition, George Kenny of Irrigon, says

the recent murder of a gas station operator here was "the catalyst" that got the drive going.

"It wasn't the only reason," says Kenny, who along with

his wife operates Kenny's Farm Market on the edge of town. "There has been a series of house break-ins and burglaries, including one here," he says, pointing to the store.

Kenny says he hopes to gather at least 1,000 signatures on the petition, which will be presented to the county court at its next Irrigon meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The petition, copies of which have been placed in all businesses in both Irrigon and Boardman, asks that the Morrow County sheriff's office give "more equitable distribution of deputy officers."

Proposed school budget up 4.3 percent

Morrow County's proposed 1983-84 school budget is up 4.3 percent over the present year; however, local taxes to balance the budget are expected to raise about 13.6 percent, the budget committee was told last week.

Meeting for the first time to start preparations for a budget election, the committee heard a report from superin-

tendent Matt Doherty who said although the total increase in the budget is modest, "outside revenue for the district is expected to be down. This will cause more money to be raised locally," he said.

"The revenue picture does not look as favorable this year. We expect to have less money from carryover funds, from federal forest fees, from prior years' taxes and from several of our smaller sources than we had available last year," Doherty said.

Doherty estimated outside revenue to be down by \$585,000 next year.

However, he did say that basic school support, the largest source of revenue outside of local taxes, may be up from the present year.

"The governor has proposed that the amount appropriated for basic school support should be increased next year." He added that the legislature will have more answers on basic school support once it convenes.

The total amount of local taxes needed to fund the budget is estimated to be \$5,894,273, up \$703,747 over the previous year.

Of the local taxes, \$700,923 is within the tax base, \$585,459 will be used to fund bonded debt, \$3,721,565 would be the maximum allowed for in an A levy (partially funded by the state), and the remaining \$886,326 would be a B levy (totally funded by local taxes).

With an estimated property valuation of \$644 million in the county, tax payers would face a rate of \$9.15, up \$1.20 from this year's rate of \$7.95 per thousand.

At the first meeting, Jan. 3, the budget committee elected Jack Stregge as chairman, Jerry Holloman vice chairman and Alice Vance, secretary.

At its second meeting, Jan. 10, the committee reviewed the budget and made several minor changes.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 24.

The election for the budget is set for March 29.

Local congregations to sponsor Polish family

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

The Rev. John S. Maas of Hope and Valby Lutheran churches has released an explanation this week clarifying the sponsoring of a refugee family by these churches. He states that the two congregations were recently told that the Hiri Cerveny Family has been resettled in West Germany. The south Morrow County congregations, along with much local help, had made all the preparations to resettle this Czech family in Heppner. The U.S. State Department errantly released the Cerveny's for sponsorship before it had approved them for immigration into the United States.

"The congregations were stunned to hear that the Cerveny family was not coming. A home had been rented and furnished, job leads had been established, and plans had been made to help them fit into their new way of life. Fortunately for the parish, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the agency they are sponsoring the refugees through, has been able to help with the rent because the family sponsorship fell through. The sponsorship costs of the refugee family is being borne entirely by the two congregations in the par-

ish and other individuals of the county area," Maas said. Upon receiving the shocking news, the Lutherans immediately selected another refugee family to sponsor. The new family is Polish and the congregations hope there will not be a long wait before they arrive.

According to Barbara Dawson of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, names of refugees come to private placement agencies from the U.S. State Department.

County's value increases

By MARY ANN CERULLO
Morrow County's assessed value has increased by \$3,236,292 since July, reported Morrow County Planner, Deene Seeger, last week.

Seeger stated that in the past six months the new building inspection office has brought in \$19,471.55 in fees

School board to meet

A regular meeting of the Morrow County School Board will be held at Sam Boardman Elementary School at Boardman on January 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The board will hear a discussion of the district's special education program and the use of non-teaching staff as athletic coaches, said a spokesperson for the board.

ment. The people that are released for sponsorship are supposed to be cleared by the State Department to come to the U.S. somehow, the Cerveny's names were released before that approval was given. She assured Maas that the Polish family has been approved.

This new family will be the Andrzej Doboszynski Family. Mr. Doboszynski was interned, or jailed, by the Polish government for seven months

with \$5,667.17 as the county's share. He said \$3,236,292 in assessed value of construction had been done, the largest being the U & I Inc. project at the Port of Morrow in Boardman. This means that the county's assessed value has increased by that same amount, concluded Seeger.

In other business, the board is expected to consider a request for attendance from an out-of-district student, the adoption of a procedure to be used to fill vacancies on the board and the district's standing committees, and directives to local committees involved in preparing local school budgets.

because of his activities on behalf of the Solidarity Movement. He had served as a treasurer of a union local since 1981. He is 32 and is a trained technical mechanic.

His wife, Barbara, is 29 and is a bookkeeper. Both have years of experience in their professions. Their two children are a daughter, Inga, eight, and a son, Wojciech, four. The family is Roman Catholic, and they have little command of the English language.

Maas said he does not know yet when this family will reach Heppner.

Reservoir could begin to fill next month

Depending on rain, spring run-off and flood conditions, Willow Creek Dam reservoir could begin to fill with water next month, the Army Corps of Engineers says.

Ken Gardner of the public affairs office of the Corps, says gates to control the flow of water out of the dam are expected to be installed by mid to late February, after which water could be collected behind the dam.

The water level in Willow Creek will have to be main-

tained at a certain level, so when the reservoir is filled will depend on the amount of rain fall, and run-off from snow in the spring, Gardner said.

He said work at the dam is now limited to grouting around the foundation where the foundation rock comes into contact with dam concrete.

"There have been no serious problems (with the dam)," Gardner said. "Everything is going right along on schedule."

New faces seen at courthouse



Mike Oths

Photo and story by MARY ANN CERULLO

Two new faces were seen at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner as they took over their new positions last Monday, Jan. 3.

Irv Rauch of Lexington was the first new face who took over the position of Morrow County Commissioner from Dorothy Krebs of Ione. According to Krebs, she will be

putting most of her efforts back into the family sheep ranching business.

The other new face can now be found in the courthouse with the title of Morrow County Counsel. His name is Mike Oths, 25, originally from Ohio and most recently from Eugene. Oths is currently settling in Heppner.

During the first meeting of 1983 for Morrow County Court, on Wednesday, Jan. 5, the court authorized Judge Don McElligott to approve the referral of cases from the district attorney's office to Oths' as independent special prosecuting attorney. The D.A.'s office reportedly has a backlog of 60 felony cases.

In other business, Al Corder and Nick Friend of the auditing firm Nieni, Holland and Scott of Kennewick, Wash., discussed the 1982 Morrow County Audit Report with the court.

"With the economic climate as it is, Morrow County is doing phenomenally well and the court has acted as good stewards of the county assets," said Corder.

The court continued with the following business:

— discussed negotiations that are being conducted between the court and Eldon Padberg of Lexington to obtain a rock pit site on his property in exchange for a compressor and an old junked engine.

— discussed the resignation of Milo Prindle of Heppner from the Morrow County Airport Committee.

— looked over carpet samples for the interior of the new Morrow County Road Dept. office in Lexington with Don Briggs, Public Works director. Briggs estimated that the department would be ready to move in by the end of January.