

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Irresponsible

To the editor:
Recently the Morrow County School Board took the responsible action of supporting the Associated General Contractor's (A.G.C.) request to repeal the Oregon State Prevailing Wage law, more commonly referred to as "The Little Davis-Bacon Act." Subsequently, upon the initiative of Mr. Kenneth Broadbent, a former board chairman, the board rescinded their previous action. Mr. Broadbent's reasoning was that the School Board should not be taking sides on this issue. To the contrary, the board has the responsibility of prudent stewardship of the taxpayers' dollars, and to waffle on such an issue of this nature is irresponsible.

Wage Law was enacted in 1913. ORS 279.348 specifically states the "prevailing rate of wage means the rate of hourly wage including all fringe benefits, under subsection (4) of this section paid in the locality to the majority of workers employed on projects of similar character in the same trade or occupation, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industries.

Under State Statute, then, the Commissioner of Labor is charged with determining trade specialties (crafts) in a predetermined socio-economic area determined by statute, and then surveying the trades to establish a "prevailing wage."

The statute further provides that such survey will "be made upon forms furnished by the bureau" and that the bureau is charged with performing said survey every

year on or about July 1. Why is all this necessary? Who knows? No preamble to the statute exists. Any reason has long since been lost to history. However, it has adopted its moniker from the Federal Prevailing Wage Act, introduced in 1931 by two senators, named, appropriately enough, Bacon and Davis.

The act was a blatant piece of special interest legislation, introduced at the behest of Northeast Atlantic State Contractors, who at the beginning of the Great Depression, were suffering from the greatly reduced Federal Public Works budget. Its intent was to protect these contractors from the use of "cheap," presumably unskilled labor by "itinerant" contractors (i.e. Southern), bent on winning federal construction jobs by underbidding usually local competition. Lacking any minimum wage rates, which

the Fair Labor Standard Act addressed in 1938, the legislation was embraced to shore up the construction industry, particularly hard pressed in the Depression.

Why, after a Minimum Wage law was enacted seven years later, does the construction industry continue to enjoy its own "Minimum Wage Law?" And how do these "prevailing" (minimum) wages sound?

Landscape laborers - 15.97 hr., roofers - 19.40 hr., soft floor layers - \$13.56 hr., bricklayers - \$19.40 hr., plasterers - \$18.38 hr., painters - \$15.89 hr., and tile setters - \$16.60 hr.

The above sampling includes the lower paid crafts and is from a one-year old wage determination. Contrary to a number of people who have accepted pay cuts or freezes, one can be assured that many of the "prevailing" wage rates have gone up.

How is the Oregon taxpayer assured these rates are, indeed, prevailing? When a number of us in the industry attempted to scrutinize this statute in the mid-70's, the bureau responded by introducing legislation that states, paraphrased, "notwithstanding the Freedom of Information Act, the bureau's survey and findings are confidential!" I submit they are more than confidential - they are non-existent! Nowhere in the administrative rules does a sample of the survey form, that by statute has to be supplied by the bureau exist. How then, does the bureau survey? Very simply, by picking up the phone and calling the trade unions, then publishing the latest collective bargaining agreement.

Besides determining artificially high wages to be the "prevailing" rate, other infla-

tionary costs of this law result from unreasonable work restrictions, featherbedding, show up time, standby time due to trade jurisdiction, ad nauseum, all inherent in the law. Of course, it goes without saying these costs are passed onto the construction user, who in the end is the taxpayer.

Isn't it ludicrous that our public servants bury their heads in the sand on this issue?

The Morrow County taxpayers should be indignant at the lack of the board's fortitude while bending to Mr. Broadbent's demands. And all Oregon State taxpayers should be indignant at the cavalier way this law is administered.

Sincerely,
Douglas A. Anderson
General manager
Maintain, Inc.
P.O. Box 1711
Beaverton, Ore. 97075

Obituaries

Amanda S. Duvall

HEPPNER - Amanda S. Duvall, a longtime Heppner resident, died at her home Thursday, Jan. 20, 1983, at the age of 90.

She was born July 20, 1892 at Aurora, Mo., to James and Thersy Waid. The family came to homestead in the Stanfield area in 1906.

She married Harry Duvall in 1910 at Echo. The couple raised wheat in the Black Horse area near Heppner beginning in 1916. When her husband's health failed in 1952, they moved to Heppner.

As a young girl, Mrs. Duvall joined the Methodist Church, and was active in the United Methodist Church in Heppner. She also took active part in the Democratic party, was an honorary member of the Soroptimist Club and a lifetime member of the Order of Eastern Star.

Mrs. Duvall was preceded in death by her husband, Harry, in 1955, and a daughter, Erma, in 1957.

In memoriam to her husband and daughter, the Morrow County Museum was created and built in 1960. Since 1958, she served as chairman of the museum commission.

For many years, Mrs. Duvall displayed a large nativity scene in her front yard on Terrace Dr. in Heppner, which was enjoyed by the entire community.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 24, at United Methodist Church, with the Rev. S. Michael Sheridan officiating. Musical selections were by Carley Drake, organist and Ron McDonald, soloist.

Casket bearers were Doug Drake, Cliff Green, Burke O'Brien, Steve Rhea, Larry Kennedy and John Ledbetter. Honorary bearers were Jim Thompson, Herman Green, Dr. L.D. Tibbles, Arnie Hedman, Howard Bryant and Dr. Wallace Wolf.

Concluding services and interment were at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Survivors include a brother, Vernon Waid, and a grandson, Loren Wickersham, both of Portland; a granddaughter, Lois Oringduiph of Lake Oswego; and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions, for those who wish, may be made to the Amanda Duvall memorial fund, through the United Methodist Church in Heppner. Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

Betty A. Lieuallen

HERMISTON - Betty A. Lieuallen of Hermiston, a former Heppner resident, died Saturday, Jan. 22, 1983 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner, at the age of 81.

She was born Aug. 27, 1901, in Oklahoma Indian Territory, the daughter of Robert E. and Mary Wardwell Allstott. She moved with her family to the Eightmile area near Heppner when she was three years old. She and her husband were owners of the Victor Cafe in Ione during the 1940s and 50s. She had been a resident of Hermiston since 1966.

Mrs. Lieuallen was a member of the Hermiston Eagles Lodge.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Heppner Masonic Cemetery, with the Rev. John Maas officiating.

She is survived by a daughter, Aloha DeSpain, Heppner; a son, Fred Painter, Berkeley, Calif.; sisters Tessie Wilcox, Gladys Burnside, and Mary Bray, all of Hermiston, June Meek, Portland, and Doris Spencer, Brookings; brothers Robert E. Allstott Jr. and Donald Allstott, both of Hermiston; and Otis Allstott, Stanfield; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions, for those who wish, may be made to a charity of their choice.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

Former priest to return

Monsignor Raymond Beard has been assigned as pastor of St. Patrick's and St. Williams Catholic churches in Heppner and Ione, it was announced in a Catholic news bulletin. The Rev. David Hazen, who had been serving the churches, will serve a church in Wasco.

Monsignor Beard, presently of Wasco, is not new to the Heppner area, as he served the two local churches for more than 14 years, beginning in 1959.

Bertha's Busy Bakers meet

By KATHLEEN BRAZELL

Bertha's Busy Bakers 4-H Club held its second meeting on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by President Jana Marquardt. Bertha Sager of Lexington is club leader.

Members Kim Sager, Kathleen Brazell and Jana Marquardt enjoyed making chocolate chip cookies.

The meeting ended over cookies and milk. The next meeting will be held January 29.

Senior News

Leo Crabtree of Ione will present a movie on Mt. St. Helens following the noon meal at the Heppner Senior mealsite on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Also at the mealsite on February 2, Tri-County Home Health Agency nurse Karen Thomas will conduct free blood pressure testing beginning at 11:15 a.m.

Family and friends are cordially invited to an Open House Sunday, Feb. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Robert Harrison's Ranch, to celebrate the 75th Birthday of Alice Harrison. No gifts please.

Justice Court

Morrow County Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following cases during the past week:

Linda Sue Rigby, Boring - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (67 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Todd Wayne Harrison, Lexington - Operating Snowmobile on Public Road, \$14 fine.

Paul Peter Peek, Portland - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$34 bail forfeited.

Joe Lewis Halvorsen, Ione - Truck Speeding (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$24 bail forfeited.

Jessie Aaron Whitmore, Ione, Expired Vehicle License, \$24 bail forfeited.

Hugh Davidson Harris, Baker - No PUC Permit, \$28 fine.

Joseph D. Morris, Wasilla, Ark. - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$24 bail forfeited.

Harley Bruce Young, Heppner - No Taillights on Trailer, \$24 bail forfeited.

Wallace Delbert Terry, Hermiston - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (68 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Keiwayne Oliver Hague-wood, Heppner - Defective Equipment, \$6 fine.

Wade Merle Padberg, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$12 fine.

Helen Mary Veenkent, Boardman - No Operator's License, \$55 fine.

Luke Padberg, Heppner - Violation of the Basic Rule (46 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$55 fine.

Charles Leroy Dillon, 33, of Boardman - Public Indecency, \$525 fine and 30 days in jail - all but \$207 suspended and one year probation on the condition that he have no further violations of the law (excluding traffic), or must serve remaining sentence.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County sheriff's office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following calls, cases and reports during the past week:

On January 16, Maryanne Bateman, 25, of Boardman, was arrested (citizen's arrest) for alleged Fourth Degree Assault and Second Degree Criminal Trespass after an incident occurring at Desert Springs Estates, Boardman.

On January 17, Thomas Marvin Maechtle, 30, of Boardman, was arrested by Boardman Police for allegedly Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He was lodged at the Umatilla Police Department.

On January 19, Charles L. Dillion, 33, of Boardman, was arrested by Boardman Police for alleged Public Indecency.

On January 21, Calvin Clay Papineau, 20, of Lexington, was arrested by a Morrow County sheriff's deputy on a Hermiston Police Department warrant for failure to pay fine on a Driving While Suspended charge. He was transported to Hermiston.

Also on January 21, a 17-year-old escapee from the Oregon State Correctional Institute was taken into custody by Boardman Police on a felony escapee warrant. Arrested at the same time were two Boardman juveniles, ages 14 and 17, for alleged Probation Violation, First Degree Criminal Trespass and Hindering Prosecution.

M.C.G.G. to honor customers

Local farmers will have an opportunity to meet individually with representatives of four different chemical companies on Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, during the Morrow Co. Grain Growers' Customer Appreciation Day. The chemical dealers will be at the head office in Lexington.

4-H sledding party a success

By BIRDINE TULLIS
Morrow Co. Extension Service

More than 90 4-H members, leaders and family members enjoyed fun in the snow Sunday, Jan. 16, at the sledding party sponsored by the 4-H leaders council.

While snow is scarce on the lowlands, ample white covering was found at Cutsforth Park to provide fun and excitement for all involved. Snowmobiles, sleds and tubes were included to make it a successful frolic in the snow.

Topping off the afternoon, everyone enjoyed a cook-out before returning home.

Maker Bakers meet, prepare dinner

By CARRI BROWNFIELD
At the last meeting of the Maker Baker 4-H Club, members made beef corn dandy. For dessert they ate chocolate chip cookies.

Before dinner, a business meeting was held and it was decided who would bring what to the next meeting.

Mrs. Pearson, the club leader, gave the girls their new books and discussed them.

The next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m.

D.A.'s Report

John Paul Johnson, 18, and Randy Sterling Greene, 18, both of Irrigon, pleaded not guilty to charges of alleged Second Degree Burglary and First Degree Theft in Morrow County Circuit Court on January 20, reported a spokesperson from the Morrow County district attorney's office.

Hospital Notes

The following patients have been admitted and released from Pioneer Memorial Hospital during the past week:

Jana Scott, Heppner - admitted January 18, released January 20.

Nadine Bailey, Heppner - admitted January 18, released January 19.

Donna Troxell, Heppner - admitted January 19, released January 21.

Marjorie Wright, Lexington - admitted January 19, released January 21.

James Jewell, Monument - admitted January 21, released January 22.

The following patients were still receiving care at the hospital as of Monday, Jan. 24:

Roby Chappel, Ione - admitted January 19.

Alvira Landwehr, Lexington - admitted January 20.

Martha Stockton, Spray - admitted January 21.

Heppner woman honored on 80th birthday

Doris Ball of Heppner was honored on her 80th birthday Sunday, Jan. 23, at the LaVerne Van Marter home in Heppner.

Guests included Annie Schaffer of Pendleton, Frank and Hazel Hamlin, Bob, Sheri, Tara, Trisha and Mike Mahoney, Archie, Diana, Andrea and Duane Ball, Gene and Harriet Hall, LaVerne Van Marter III, Mary, Marie, Jackie and Kenny Lane, Paul Van Marter and Abbie and

Sherie Carmargo, and the hosts LaVerne and Laurel Van Marter, all of Heppner; Herb, Nancy and John Ekstrom, Cindy, Travis, Truit and Tony Greenup, all of Ione; Herb Ekstrom III and Brenda, Marc and Katy of LaGrande; Jim and Beth Zimmerman of Echo; Scott and Donna Wilson of Boardman; Kent, Rene, Dustin and Joey Gutierrez and Dave, Doreen and Amber Doran, all of Hermiston.

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