

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather  
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., Jan. 25	52	43	.08
Wed., Jan. 26	58	44	.0
Thurs., Jan. 27	52	27	.0
Fri., Jan. 28	51	29	Fog
Sat., Jan. 29	40	31	.0
Sun., Jan. 30	51	32	.10
Mon., Jan. 31	44	36	Trace fog

Total precip. for Jan. was .89". Normal precip. is 1.41"

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HEPPNER, OREGON

## P.M.H.'s 1st baby is here!



Pioneer Memorial Hospital's first baby of 1983, Talia Caitlin Sweek, with her mother, Marsha.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital's first baby of 1983 finally made an appearance. Talia Caitlin Sweek arrived last Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 9:02 a.m. Her parents are Marsha and Gregory Sweek of Heppner. Talia tipped the scales at 7 lbs., 15 oz. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ned Sweek and Bill Sowell, all of Heppner and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Grace of Veneta.

Great-grandmothers are Verna Howell of Heppner and Daisy Ziegler of Prineville. Talia joins a brother, Ian, two years.

Local merchants have donated gifts to 1983's first baby, including: \$10 worth of baby food from Central Market, a \$10 gift certificate from Peterson's Jewelers, a \$10 gift certificate from Coast to Coast, a \$10 gift certificate from S & J Market, a \$5 gift certificate from Pettyjohn's

Farm and Builder Supply, \$10 in a savings account at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner, a \$5 gift certificate from Morrow County Grain Growers, \$10 cash from Ray Boyce Insurance, a \$10 gift certificate from R & W Drive-In, one day's basic service charge for mother and baby from Pioneer Memorial Hospital, a \$10 gift certificate from the Shoe Box, a \$5 gift certificate from Cole's House of Fashion and Posy Patach, a \$5 gift certificate from Murray's Drug, a \$5 gift certificate from Court St. Market, a \$5 gift certificate from Lexington Lumber, a \$5 gift certificate from Case Furniture, a \$5 gift certificate from Lebusch Shoppe, a \$10 gift certificate from the Heppner Gazette-Times and appropriate gifts from Sears and Heppner Auto Parts.

## Co-op examines Chapter 11 bankruptcy as financial solution

Working toward a solution, or to find the "lesser" of many evils, the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board studied several options at a meeting last Thursday, focusing on reorganization under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws.

The co-op, along with 87 other Northwest utilities, entered into an agreement in 1976 to finance Washington Public Power Supply System nuclear plants 4 and 5. Columbia Basin agreed to the project to obtain power that Bonneville Power Administration then said would be needed. After millions of dollars in cost over runs, however, the plants were terminated in January 1982.

Many of the participants, including Columbia Basin, have filed suits claiming they aren't liable for the debt since the plants were not completed and no energy will be obtained from them.

The co-op is currently collecting a 1.1 cent per kilowatt hour increase from consumers in case ordered by law to pay the debt. Funds from the increase are being held in interest bearing accounts until a judge rules on the case.

So, does the board decide to choose to continue with rate increases to cover the co-op's \$27 million debt from the two

plants? Do they decide to quit collecting increases to cover the plants' costs and face paying a huge lump sum if ordered by law to pay? Or will they choose to reorganize the co-op's debt structure under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws?

These and other possible plans of action were presented to the board, and each poses its own problems.

Jerry Shulkin, a Seattle attorney specializing in Chapter 11 laws, explained that option to the board.

Chapter 11 allows a business to reorganize its debts while still allowing the business to operate — without liquidating assets, Shulkin said. However, a business must enter into reorganization before it is in great financial trouble, which co-op Manager Fred Toombs says, Columbia Basin is not. "We're absolutely not broke," he said. "We're at the time of decision."

Orcas Power and Light, San Juan Islands, Wash., has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11, Shulkin said. Since an electrical utility has not filed for reorganization since the Depression, he advised the board not to make a decision that day, but to watch Orcas, which is in the same situation as Columbia Basin to



Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board President Herb Wright (L) and co-op Manager Fred Toombs (R), listen as attorney Jerry Shulkin explains Chapter 11 under bankruptcy laws.

see what happens.

Shulkin estimated that by filing a Chapter 11 the co-op could reduce its WPPSS debt by \$27 million to a maximum of four to five million dollars, providing the judge rules that the utility is liable for the debt. He said Orcas will pay a Chapter 11 filing fee fixed by the court, and his firm, if the utility is successful in obtaining a Chapter 11, will expect a substantial bonus.

The WPPSS increase itself is causing the co-op plenty of grief, but power usage is also down and uncollectible accounts are up nearly 50 percent from December 1981 and are expected to be at least 50 percent higher again this year. Also, if the utilities don't continue raising rates to cover the plants' debts, the Rural

Electrification Administration and Cooperative Finance Corporation will not make any further loans to the utilities, even though the co-op is currently meeting all financial obligations to the mortgagors.

"I believe we have complied with REA by raising rates to cover WPPSS, and I also believe the consumers can no longer pay it, Toombs said.

Toombs also explained that the co-op has enough cash to pay its debts until August, but could be out of money as soon as April or May. "If we don't do something... we could be in a cash flow problem," he said. Toombs and Shulkin both advised the board not to make a decision right away on whether to file for a Chapter 11. The board considered

meeting before the regular February meeting to further discuss filing for reorganization.

In other business, the board:

— heard a report from Marvin Padberg, Ione, of the Irrigation Committee. A committee of board members and local irrigators was formed recently to come up with a way to allow the irrigators, who are having problems trying to pay the increased rates, to continue running their pumps.

Padberg made several suggestions and gave some recommendations to the board. Board President Herb Wright said that the recommendations would be taken under advisement.

## School board, advisory comm. positions open

Candidates for school board and advisory committee positions must file their petitions with the county clerk by February 23. Petitions are available at the school office and the district office.

This year there are a number of positions open.

School board positions to be voted on include Zone III, currently being served by Jerry McElligott and Zone IV Position currently held by Irvin Rauch.

Advisory positions include Ione-Lexington committee po-

sition number one, held by Paul Tews and position number five, Cecil, held by Ed Patton; Heppner-Lexington position number three, Lexington, held by Sharon Harrison and position number five, Heppner, held by Gail Hughes; Boardman-Irrigon position number two, Boardman, held by Shane Fritz and position number five, Irrigon, held by Marilyn Putman.

School board positions are for four year terms, advisory positions are three year terms.

## Deputies join Co. Sheriff's Department

Two new deputies have joined the Morrow County Sheriff's Department recently.

Bill Caldera came to Heppner January 5 after working three years part-time for the Wheeler Co. Sheriff's Department in Fossil and graduating from Blue Mountain Community College with an Associate of Science degree in law Enforcement in 1981.

Rob Meakins, of Irrigon began work as a Morrow County Sheriff's deputy Thursday, Jan. 27.

Meakins has been a reserve officer for the Irrigon Police Department for the past year and a half. He has also been employed as a security guard for Taggaers Farms for the past year and has been a



Bill Caldera

volunteer fireman since his arrival in Irrigon two and a half years ago.

He attended Centralia Community College at Centralia, Wash. Originally from Seattle,



Rob Meakins

Meakins, his wife, Lynna, and their three children, Scott, Michelle and Eric, reside in Irrigon.

Both deputies will be working as patrol officers throughout the county.

## Corps makes final plans to fill lake

The Corps of Engineers is making final plans and preparations to close the six-foot diameter diversion pipe at the base of Willow Creek Dam and allow the lake to begin filling, said O.C. Dugger of the Walla Walla, Wash. District Public Affairs Office.

Closure of the pipe is presently expected to occur sometime during the last two weeks of February. After closure, about 90 acre-feet of water must be stored behind the dam before the lake level reaches the dam's outlet at an elevation of 2,000 (feet above mean sea level). The present diversion pipe is at elevation 1,978.

Average flows of Willow Creek in late February run about 35 cubic feet per second. If the creek is flowing at or about that rate after closure of

the diversion, it will take about one and one-half days to reach the 2,000-foot level. During this filling period, flows on the short reach of Willow Creek from the dam to Hinton Creek are expected to be minimal, Dugger said.

Prior to closure, Corps personnel and the state water master will check stream flows in order to assure they are adequate to meet the minimum needs of downstream users during the initial filling period. Flows below Hinton Creek are expected to be adequate for stock watering purposes.

Once the lake level reaches the outlet works, Willow Creek flows will be regulated to

## Merchants put up \$100 for best St. Patrick's Day logo

Have some artistic ability? Want to earn \$100? Then try your luck at the Heppner Merchants' St. Patrick's Day logo contest.

Seeking a picture and slogan by which to identify the St. Patrick's Day event in Heppner, the merchants have put up \$100 for the best logo entered.

The logo should capture the spirit of St. Patrick's Day in Heppner much the way the county Fair and Rodeo logo identifies that event.

Entries must be drawn of black ink on white typing paper, and turned into the Gazette-Times office before March 1, 1983. (Be sure your name is on the drawing). The logos will be judged and the winner will receive \$100.

One passenger was injured in a two-vehicle crash Tuesday morning in Ione at the Highway 74 intersection, according to the Morrow County sheriff's office.

Wallace (Mike) Matthews, 77, of Ione, reportedly hit a vehicle driven by Thomas W. Walters, 20, of Illinois, who is attending college in Portland. A passenger in the Walters vehicle, Pam Mueller, 25, of Portland, was transported by ambulance to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner

where she was treated and released, said a hospital spokesperson.

The sheriff's office said Matthews was cited for alleged Failure to Yield Right of Way.

## Passenger injured in two-vehicle crash

## Les Schwab, CowBelles begin 19th Annual Beef Promotion



Morrow County CowBelles Donna Moeller (L) Judy Barber and Sandy Bennett along with Les Schwab Manager Dale Thompson show beef certificate to be given away during free beef promotion. CowBelles will be at Les Schwab's Friday, Feb. 18, to hand out free servings of beef pocket sandwiches.

Les Schwab Tire Centers in cooperation with the Oregon Beef Council and Oregon CowBelles are holding their 19th Annual Beef Promotion through February 28.

The tire firm has ordered \$75,000 worth of certificates this year to be given away in the state of Oregon. Each certificate will carry a \$7.50 value and will be given with the purchase of two or more new passenger or pickup tires

or four Les Schwab passenger or pickup retreats. Two certificates (\$15.00) will be given with the purchase of four or more new passenger or pickup tires. These certificates can be used towards the purchase of beef at any grocery store, restaurant or meat market.

The stores will be working closely with the CowBelles to provide local promotions that will include cookoffs, demonstrations and distribution of

recipes using beef.

The Beef Council and the Oregon CowBelles are most pleased in working with Les Schwab Tire Centers in helping to publicize and promote Beef Certificates and beef products in general.

The Les Schwab Tire Centers gave away \$113,970.00 worth of Beef Certificates throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho in 1982.