

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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HEPPNER, OREGON



Weather
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip	Snow on Ground
Tues., Dec. 13	48	40	.25	
Wed., Dec. 14	43	32	.23	
Thurs., Dec. 15	44	21		Fog
Fri., Dec. 16	29	19		
Sat., Dec. 17	26	20	.12 melt	1" snow
Sun., Dec. 18	24	19		Trace 1" snow
Mon., Dec. 19	23	7	.13 melt	3 1/2" snow

Lexington council votes on proposed measure

At a meeting last Tuesday, Dec. 13, the Lexington City Council unanimously voted against putting a proposed sales tax measure on a March or May 1984 ballot, reports Linda Jones, city recorder. A majority of the taxing districts in the state must agree

to put the measure on the ballot before it can be done.

In other business, the council passed a resolution stating the council's dissatisfaction with the Morrow County Court's decision to raise rates at the county landfill. Jones said.

New C.B.E.C. director resigns

The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board learned at a meeting last Thursday that Russell Erickson of Condon, elected to the co-op's board last month, is resigning, reports C.B.E.C. Manager Fred Toombs. Toombs said Erickson's reasons for leaving the board were personal, and he was advised to do so by his

council. The board will now appoint someone to fill Erickson's position until next year's annual election in November.

Also during the meeting, the board discussed recent action by Federal Judge Richard M. Bilby, who two weeks ago released directors of utility boards (including C.B.E.C.'s 1976 board of obligation from a suit filed by Chemical Bank of New York. Only directors who were not members of a participants' committee (a committee made up of representatives of the 88 utilities involved in the W.P.P.S.S. plants) or were not directors of the W.P.P.S.S. board, were relieved. The suit stemmed from the co-op's involvement in two now abandoned nuclear plants in Washington State. A Washington judge ruled earlier this year that the utilities involved were not liable for bond debt on the plants, and bond holders, including Chemical Bank, filed suit.

However, Toombs said of the new development in the case, the directors could possibly be called back into the suit, or could be named in another suit.

The directors involved, who were on C.B.E.C.'s board in 1976 when the co-op entered into an agreement for power

from the plants, are: Van Rietmann of Condon; Randall Peterson, Heppner; Floyd Anderson, Arlington; alt Jaeger and Paul Jaeger, both of Condon; Dick Krebs, Arlington; Dick Wilkinson and Elmer Palmer, Heppner; Ken Smouse, Lone; Paul Tews, Lone; Ken Wright, Ruggs; and Herb Wright, Fossil.

The board also agreed to a proposal concerning liability insurance for board members, managers and the co-op. The proposal, which was submitted by St. Paul Fire and marine Insurance Co., including defense costs. The amount is unchanged from the present policy, however the company asked that a ceiling be put on that amount. Toombs said the board agreed because otherwise, the coverage would be dropped, and no other company would carry insurance for the co-op.

In other business, the board adopted a 1984 budget of \$3,909,000 which includes capital investments of \$350,000 for new line construction and replacement as well as other costs; a general plant expenditure of about \$101,000; and sufficient funds for wholesale power costs from Bonneville Power Administration, the manager explained.

Natural gas co. plans to drill well near Heppner

A natural gas company has applied with the Morrow County Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit to drill an exploratory well near Heppner, reports Morrow County Judge Don McEligott and Morrow Co. Planner Deane Seeger. Seeger says Oregon Natural Gas Development Corp., a subsidiary of Northwest Natural Gas Co., Portland, wants to drill the

well on the Jerry Doherty property, eight and one-half miles east of Heppner.

A joint meeting between the Heppner City Planning Commission and the County Planning Commission is tentatively set for early in January, and the permit application may be considered then, Seeger said. The company has already applied for a permit

from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the application is ready to be approved, he said. However, the planning commission must approve a Conditional Use Permit before the state will approve its permit, Seeger explained. If the permit is granted, the company may begin drilling right away, he added.

Lone residents want vote on garbage collection issue

A petition asking the Lone City Council to reconsider a recent agreement with Hermon Sanitary Disposal to begin service in that town has been signed and is being sent to the council, said a spokesperson for the petition.

At a council meeting December 6, the council agreed to enter into a franchise agreement with the Hermon company to begin service in Lone in January. Previously, the city collected residents' garbage and used a city-

owned truck; however it was not cost effective, the council said.

The petition, which has been signed by about 90 people, the spokesperson said, asks that the council put the issue before a vote of Lone residents.

Morrow County's ag income up for 1983

By BOB COSTA

Increased production and higher prices for potatoes, corn and barley pushed Morrow County's estimated agricultural income upward in 1983.

The estimated 1983 gross farm income for the county is \$105,681,000, up 12 percent from last year.

Favorable weather resulted in good yields and quality for the major irrigated crops in Morrow County. Climatic extremes across the nation including the drought in the north-central and midwestern states and excess rains in California resulted in higher prices for corn, hay, potatoes and barley.

Wheat acreage was the lowest in 10 years, primarily as a result of U.S.D.A. farm programs. The average wheat yield for Morrow County was 47 bushels per acre on 155,000 acres for a total wheat production of 7.3 million bushels. Dryland wheat farms produced 77 percent of all wheat grown in the county.

Barley was planted on many of the dryland acres taken out of wheat production for farm programs. Barley was grown on 33,000 acres in 1983 compared with 19,200 acres in 1982.

Livestock sales were down 4.5 percent from last year. Gross sales for livestock were: cattle, \$22,332,000; swine, \$130,000; sheep, \$750,000; and other livestock, \$839,000. The Simplot Feedlot near Boardman accounted for nearly half of all gross cattle

sales in the county.

These figures are gross cattle sales in the county.

These figures are gross sales and not net income to farmers and ranchers. In 1983, the increase in prices paid by farmers for equipment and

supplies was greater than the increase in prices received by farmers for their products.

According to a 1979 study, agricultural production accounts for 37 percent of all business activity in Morrow County.

Local couple honored at retirement party



Mr. and Mrs. Gene Pierce

Gene and Fay Pierce of Heppner were honored at a retirement party at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner last Friday afternoon. A holiday open house was also held at the bank. Family members, friends and many local business people dropped in to enjoy refreshments and wish the couple well.

Mr. Pierce, who retired as bank president and a member of the bank's board, started as manager and vice-president when the bank opened 26 years

ago. The Gilliam County Bank of Arlington opened a Heppner branch and the name was changed to the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Pierce explained. Then, in 1959, the lone branch of the bank was opened.

The Pierces say they plan to continue living in Heppner, but will do some traveling. Soon they will be leaving for California, and they plan to return in March.

Gerald Pierson is the chief executive officer of the bank.

Lighting Contest winners selected

Winners of a Christmas Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce, were selected Sunday night.

Winners of the indoor category are: first place - the Marshall Lovgrens, second place - the Jim Lankfords and third place - Martha Doherty.

Those winning the best outdoor display are: first - Glen Wards, second - the Don Kenisons and third - the Chuck Moellers.

The first place winners receive a \$30 award, second place winners are awarded \$20, and \$10 awards go to third place winners.

Concerned parents meet about teen alcohol use

A group of local parents concerned about the use of alcohol by teenagers met with law enforcement officials from the state, county and city on December 14, reports a spokesperson for the group.

Another meeting will be held by the group on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

New owner to expand Heppner business

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

Last September Lois Johnson and Curtis Lynch opened a clothing and accessory resale shop in the building long occupied by accountant Carl Spaulding on Heppner's Main Street. On January 1, 1984, Sharon Brace will become the proprietor of that business and will have expanded it to include other lines. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, thus probably becoming Heppner's first new business of new year.

The shop will be called "Sharon's Bottom Drawer." Brace will continue to re-sell good clothing and accessories for family members. She will also offer a supply of hand-

craft and art items, such as materials used for macrame. Sharon says she expects to stock helpful books for various home arts and crafts, also. Brace, who is quite well known here, came to Heppner 14 years ago. She grew up in California where she returned to spend Thanksgiving with her parents recently. For the last several months she has been doing the bookkeeping for the "Bottom Drawer."

The new shop will be open daily Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sharon expects to be going to Portland rather often over weekends and she will do much of her buying of arts and crafts items there on Mondays.



They came with haste to see for themselves the miracle of His birth. Bearing their most precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they entered the tiny manger, and Lo! the Christ child lay there glowing. May you, too exult on this Holy day!

Blessings of the Season!

County Court discusses problem Irrigon man allegedly fences off county property

By MARY ANN CERULLO

What to do when individuals fence off county property from the public was a problem discussed by Morrow County Court with District Attorney Richard McNeerney last Wednesday.

According to County Court, an Irrigon property owner, Ted Sampson, allegedly fenced over 60 feet of a county right-of-way. The area is reportedly the only public access to the Columbia River between Irrigon and Umatilla County.

Commissioner Warren McCoy told the court that Sampson was contacted about

the fence, but as of Wednesday, Dec. 14, he had not responded. McCoy also stated that Sampson had claimed that the 60 feet of property is not county land.

McNeerney agreed to write to Sampson giving him 30 days to take the fence down.

In other business Morrow County Court:

— learned from McNeerney that he was making application to the state attorney general for funding of the Morrow County Victim Witness Assistance Program.

— authorized the release of \$41,000 from Revenue Sharing for the Stokes Landing Senior Center of Irrigon and \$3,600

for the Boardman Day Care Center.

— learned that a proposal by James Lynch and Associates for historical research and nomination of the Morrow County Courthouse building for registration as a historical site was approved.

— approved a contract with Dobyns Pest Control, Lone, to control weeds along county roads. The current contract expires at the end of December.

— received a financial report of the county with Al Cauder and Nick Friend of Niemi, Holland and Scott Audit.

Benefit dinner, basketball game slated for lone woman

A dinner and basketball game will be held at Lone High School next Wednesday, Dec. 28, as a benefit for Nancy Spivoy of Lone. All proceeds will help defray her medical costs, said a spokesperson for the event. A spaghetti dinner with bread, tossed salad and homemade pie will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The basketball

game will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

Cost for the dinner will be \$3 for adults, \$2 for students in first through sixth grade and \$2 for pre-school children. Admission to the game will be a donation at the door.

Bristow's Market and Morrow County Grain Growers' teams will take each other on, and at halftime, a cake draw-

ing will be sponsored by the Lone Extension Club.

The event is being sponsored by the Lone Cardinal Club, the Lone Extension Club, the Lone American Legion Post 95, the Lone Lions Club, Willows Grange No. 672 and numerous Lone residents and local businesses.

Everyone is invited to attend.