

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Heppner, Oregon

25

8 PAGES



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., Nov. 20	42	34	.35
Wed., Nov. 21	45	23	
Thurs., Nov. 22	48	29	
Fri., Nov. 23	52	29	.44
Sat., Nov. 24	45	28	
Sun., Nov. 25	44	25	1/2" snow 02 water
Mon., Nov. 26	44	26	.13

Artifactory promises variety



Cara Costa (left) co-chairman for the American Association of University Women sponsored for Artifactory and Joan Records, who is in charge of table reservations, display some of the items that will be on sale at this weekend's 13th annual first Saturday in December event.

Ground water hearing set

Oregon's Water Resources Department reports that it will hold a hearing on December 5 to determine if a 274-square mile farming area in Morrow and Umatilla Counties should be declared a critical ground water area.

The area, called Butter Creek, has been under study by the department since the early 1970s and is located near Hermiston.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Hermiston at Thompson Hall in the Umatilla County Fairgrounds. Any interested person may testify or offer documentary evidence pertaining to ground water use and supply.

This action continues proceedings that began in 1975 after investigations that began in 1975 after investigations by the Water Resources Department revealed that ground water levels in the Butter Creek area were declining rapidly because of large scale development of the ground water resource.

In April 1976, an order was issued by the department declaring the area critical, closing it to new ground water appropriation and restricting withdrawals. The order was challenged in the Oregon Court of Appeals and was remanded on Jan. 24, 1977 because of a procedural error.

A second hearing was held in June 1977, and a new order was issued in May 1978, again declaring the area critical and restricting withdrawals.

The second order also was challenged in the Court of Appeals. Again it was remanded because of a procedural error.

Butter Creek is an irregularly shaped area. Its northern portion includes the City of Umatilla and the western part of Hermiston. The

major crops grown in the area are wheat, potatoes, corn and alfalfa.

A preliminary report drafted by the Water Resources Department's Ground Water Division shows that, while the number of wells pumping water has decreased from 66 in 1975 to 42 in 1983, ground water levels are continuing to drop. Over half of the wells measured in February this year showed water levels lower than levels recorded 12 months earlier. During the same 12 months, pumpage in Butter Creek had dropped from about 19,000 acre-feet to less than 15,000 acre-feet. An acre-foot is the amount of water that would cover an acre one foot deep.

The department's recommendation, subject to revision as a result of any subsequent legal process, is to limit pumping to not more than 15,000 acre-feet annually to prevent or curtail further declines. If declines continue then further cut-backs would be required.

All claimants and appropriators of ground water in the area are being notified of the hearing and the proposed restrictions.

Copies of the revised report are available at the Water Resource Department, 555 13th St. N.E., Salem, Oregon 97310.

Look for Christmas Insert

Shoppers will find a big Christmas insert included in this week's issue of the paper. Filled with Christmas specials and gift ideas, the supplement will also inform you of the activities coming up during Heppner's Christmas Opening this Saturday. Don't miss it.

Wind causes area power outages

A wind-caused power outage darkened most of the area Tuesday, Nov. 27. The main outage began about 11:20, said Fred Toombs, manager of Columbia Basin Co-op. The outage was caused when the wind "broke a tie on a conductor and it

dropped into the line below it which opened a breaker at the Bonneville Power Source." C.B.E.C. crews were able to do some "switching" and power was restored at about 12:20 to the lone area.

Others areas had to wait longer because the problem occurred about

halfway between Lexington and Lone and restoring power to the Lexington, Heppner, Ruggs, and Hardman areas took until about 1:20.

Scattered areas were without electricity at various times during the day caused by tin blown into the lines, trees down on the lines, and other wind-related causes. All areas were expected to have their electricity restored by 5 p.m., Toombs concluded.

Sheriff's office investigates apparent suicide near Boardman

A body was found in a parked car on Tower Road just west of Boardman at 5:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 25 reports the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

The body was discovered by an Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife employee. An investigation by the Morrow County Sheriff's Depart-

ment has determined that the identity of the victim is Deanna Carol Anderson, 23, of Boardman. The cause of death is believed to be asphyxiation by carbon monoxide poisoning. No foul play is suspected as the Sheriff's Office believes the case to be suicide. Anderson left a note which was found on the dashboard of the car.

HHS Drama Club offers family musical



Wanda Riley plays the title role of "Annie" as she begins her search for her long lost parents. Accompanying her is a new found friend she names Sandy in the upcoming Heppner High production.

Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. this Thursday and Friday at the high school cafeteria with tickets being sold at the door.

Churches slate Advent services

An Ecumenical Advent service has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, Dec. 4 at the United Methodist Church in Heppner.

Theme for the service to begin at 8 p.m. is peace. A fellowship time will precede the service at 7:30.

The lone United Church of Christ will host the service December 11. Theme for the evening is justice.

Light is the theme for the December 18 service scheduled for Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner.

Livestock growers set meeting

By STEVE CAMPBELL

Extension Agent
Morrow County

Morrow County Livestock Growers will hold their annual meeting December 7, at the Heppner Elks. The meeting will begin with a 12 noon CowBelle luncheon followed by a speaker and a 1 p.m. start for the growers portion of the meeting. Speakers, in order of appearance, will be Dr. Bill Jepsen of the Oregon Trail Veterinary Clinic speaking on the "Requirements for Preconditioning Calves," Dr. Fred Obermiller of Oregon State University will speak on the "Comparative Worth of Public Grazing Permits as Compared to Private Leases," and Larry

Bryant, of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station Range and Wildlife Habitat Research Lab, will speak on the "Management Factors Affecting Stream Bank Erosion of Riparian Zones Grazed by Livestock."

Following the speakers, a business meeting will be held at 3:15 p.m. Social hour will follow at 5:30 p.m. with the annual Farm-City Banquet at 7 p.m. Dinner will be prime rib, followed by a speaker and awards. A dance with live music will top off the evening. Cost is \$10 per person. The general public is invited...this is a good chance for town people to get to know livestock people.

Fire Dept. gets funds

The Heppner Fire Dept. received two private \$50 donations and one \$500 business donation at the last Heppner City Council Meeting.

These donations, says Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine, are tax-deductible for the donors. The money will be deposited in an equipment fund to draw interest and be used with other money already in the fund for the purchase of new fire fighting equipment.

Checks may be made out to the Heppner Fire Dept. and mailed or taken to City Hall.

The fire department relies on its equipment and on regular training sessions to be able to respond quickly to a fire.

The next Blue Mountain Planning session will be presented January 7 by Dick Hopper, chief of the Pendleton Fire Dept. "This would be a

good opportunity for people interested in joining the fire department to come and get first hand training," said Burkenbine. The training sessions are open to all interested persons, not just members of the Fire Dept. At the last BMCC session, 14 firefighters achieved certification.

Soroptimists sponsor contest

The Soroptimists are sponsoring a coloring contest for area pre-school through fourth grade children.

Money prizes will be awarded to first, second and third winners in each of three age divisions.

Pictures to color may be obtained at Coast to Coast, R & W Drive-In, the Heppner TV office, and the schools in Heppner and Lone.

Currin to serve Oregon State CowBelles

Mariene Currin of Heppner was elected second vice president of the Oregon CowBelles at the annual meeting held in November in Portland. As a member of the Morrow County CowBelles she has served as second vice president, vice presi-

dent and in 1985 will serve as president.

She teaches Sunday School at Hope Lutheran Church and has been the chairman of the Morrow County Horseshow. She and her husband, Tom have two children, 11 and two years old. She is active with horses

State approves port's lease of land, airstrip

Control of Boeing's airstrip and 2,700 acres of surrounding land was transferred to the Port of Morrow at a meeting Nov. 13 of the Oregon state legislature's Emergency Board.

In 1982, The Port of Morrow began petitioning Boeing and the state of Oregon to turn over the lease to them. This followed a history of the airstrip which is intertwined with the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

Ray Gronquist, a longtime Boardman resident, and two other servicemen in 1941, were the first to patrol the airstrip which was under construction by the U.S. Army Air Corps. Between 1941 and 1943, Gronquist recalls that other structures were built, including a barracks for approximately 200 men who were stationed there. The Air Corps used the landing strip and the

approximately 144,000 acre track for a bombing practice range. According to an executive at Boeing's Seattle office, the Army planes would fly over and drop flour sacks to make targets for the B17 and B25 bombers.

Gronquist recalls that when the Army Air Corps became the U.S. Air Force during World War II, they continued to use the air field until sometime after the war when the field was closed for a time. The field was reopened about 1950 but closed again a few years later. During this time the property passed from the Air Force to the Navy. The Navy still uses a portion of the land today.

In 1963, however, the air strip with 95,000 acres of land were leased to Boeing to develop an aerospace industrial park.

With the exception of a small jet engine testing facility, the park was never built. Today the parcel also

and shows them during the summer months, in addition to helping with the ranch work.

Another Heppner woman, Sue Evans, was appointed Beef Gift Certificates chairman of the Oregon CowBelles at the convention.

includes a Crown Zellerbach tree experiment farm, a large corporate farm, and the Simplot cattle feedlot, but large tracts are as yet undeveloped.

The Port's 55-year lease with the state lasts until 2040, the year that Boeing's lease at Boardman also expires.

The Port will pay about \$3,900 each year to the state to lease the airstrip and land. At the port's urging, Boeing had agreed to return control of the airstrip and surrounding parcel to the state, which owns the property.

The port has a \$30,000 Federal Aviation Administration planning grant for the airstrip, which is 4,200 feet long and 250 feet wide. In an initial planning session, an airport advisory committee met Tuesday with Devco Aviation of Corvallis, consultant on the master plan.

Preparing for Artifactory



Eleanor Gonty, Helen Graham and Irene Anhorn work on some of the items which the busy volunteers at the Neighborhood Center will have for sale at the A.A.U.W. Artifactory this Saturday.