

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 103 NO. 6 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1985

10 PAGES

Heppner, Oregon

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Weather

by the City of Heppner

			High	Low	Precip	Snow
Tues.	Jan. 29	36	18	T	T	
Wed.	Jan. 30	36	21	.08	2 in.	
Thurs.	Jan. 31	29	13	.11	4 in.	
Fri.	Feb. 1	31	14	.38	6 in.	
Sat.	Feb. 2	28	6	0	5 1/2 in.	
Sun.	Feb. 3	27	6	0	5 1/2 in.	
Mon.	Feb. 4	33	14	.21	8 in.	

Total precipitation for January was 51 in.

More winter.....



Snow removal has been big job in Heppner recently.

The big day, February 1 - Ground Hog Day - has passed and whether you call him Punxsutawney Phil, Jimmy the Groundhog, or Heppner Harry, he definitely saw his shadow. No doubt it was intensified by the sun's reflection off several inches of snow.

At least it's a change after 26 days of frozen fog and ice in the higher elevations around Heppner. Fred Toombs, manager of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op reports 26 days of scraping ice from power lines at an anticipated cost of \$100,000. There has been plenty of "weather" this winter.

The snow makes the roads interesting to drive, at least. Dry pavement smooth after construction tends to become boring, but packed snow which vanishes in spots to become icy patches without warning adds interest to driving.

Monday evening's snow renewed the freshness of the winter wonderland. If we have to have another six weeks of winter, at least it's starting out with a touch of beauty from Mother Nature. Warmer would be nicer, though.

Appreciation Day slated at M.C.G.G.

The Morrow County Grain Growers will hold its annual Customer Appreciation Day this Saturday, Feb. 9 at the main M.C.G.G. offices in Lexington. The day will begin with a free pancake breakfast served from 8 a.m. until noon.

Factory representatives will be on hand with product displays from Steiger, Calkins, International Harvester, Briggs and Stratton, New Zealand Fence, Cenex Animal Health, Cenex Tire and Batteries, Cenex Petroleum, Curtis Fasteners, Schwerin Concaves, Cummins Northwest, Dupont, Monsanto, and Dow Chemical.

Lucky winners will receive the following door prizes: a 230 amp Century welder, a Delta "Big Dude" pickup box, a 15 amp battery charger, a 10 lb. fire extinguisher, a food dehydrator, a parts washer, a 6 gal. wet-dry shop vac, a Rival can opener, a case of Cenex 518 15-40 oil and a Vission cookware set.

The Wheat Growers League, the Morrow County CowBelles, and the Morrow County Extension Service will demonstrate and provide samples of tasty goodies.

Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.



As always free pancake breakfast will be one of highlights of M.C.G.G. Customer Appreciation Day this Saturday. Everyone is invited.

Temporary administrator arrives at Pioneer Hospital

E. Byron Smith was scheduled to return as temporary hospital administrator to Pioneer Memorial Hospital Tuesday and spend the remainder of the week working with Hospital Administrator John Ochsner who has resigned to accept a position with Brim and Associates, a hospital management firm based at Portland. Ochsner will leave Heppner

Friday to relocate at White Salmon where he will manage the hospital.

Ochsner has been the administrator at Pioneer for the past 11 months. Smith preceded him, as a temporary administrator, also employed by Brim and Associates, following the resignation of A.K. "Lucky" Felt.

In other business concerning the hospital, Hospital Board President Marcia Anderson reports that

the Board has received a letter from West World, a management firm, which will be discussed at a public Hospital Board meeting Thursday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. West World specializes in management of small hospitals and was asked to submit a management proposal for management of Pioneer to the Hospital Board.

the Board has received only unofficial information from Jackson and Coker, the doctor recruiting firm which referred Dr. Curtis Thiessen to Heppner, that following the doctor's visit here, Heppner is "high on his list," but no decision has been made. The Board has not been notified of any other referrals at this time.

Installation of toxic waste burner proposed at Arlington

The Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public hearing at the Arlington Elementary School Cafeteria February 7, 7 p.m. to hear public testimony pertaining to the proposed Air Contaminant Discharge Permit requested by Chem-Security Systems, Inc.

The hearing is a step in the process which began in February, 1984, when CSSI stated its intention to install a polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) incinerator at the Arlington Hazardous Waste Disposal site with a service area to include all of the states west of the Mississippi River, some of Canada and Alaska. The Arlington site is located approximately 12 miles from Heppner, is owned by the state and leased to CSSI to operate the site under a license from DEQ. CSSI is responsible for the Arlington site during the operation and for an additional 30 years after closure. Long-term responsibility for the site, however, rests with its owner, the state of Oregon.

PCBs are oil-like chemical compounds that were used as a fire-retardant and insulation in electrical transformers. PCBs are known to cause liver damage and irritation of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat and are suspected of causing cancer. As highly persistent compounds in the environment, the PCBs are not readily broken down for safe disposal. Therefore, burning at extremely high temperatures is considered the only practical way to dispose of the chemical.

DEQ lists the following current federal rules for liquid PCB disposal: 1) less than 50 parts per million must be disposed of in a sanitary landfill, burned as a fuel, or disposed of in a PCB disposal site; 2) 50-500 parts per million must be disposed of at a PCB authorized disposal site such as the Arlington site, a PCB incinerator or high efficiency boiler; and 3) 500+ parts per million must be incinerated in a PCB incinerator.

Prompted by the environmental adverse effects from exposure to PCBs, Congress passed the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976. The act banned the manufacture of PCBs after January 1, 1979, their distribution in commerce effective July 1, 1979, and dictated that all PCBs must be destroyed by 1990. It also directed the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the marketing and disposal of PCBs.

EPA regulations have eliminated PCB production and use in food and food stock industries, PCBs in closed systems such as transformers may continue in use until their useful life is ended. When taken out of service, they must be properly disposed of within one year says the DEQ "Public Information Package." CSSI officials have indicated to DEQ

a need for a short "pay back" period for the proposed incinerator since PCBs for burning will drop off sharply after 1988.

The liquid PCB incinerator which CSSI has proposed to build would have a 1.2 million gallon design capacity and a 1.0 million gallon nominal operating capacity.

Incineration of PCB liquids produces a number of air pollutants says DEQ. Complete combustion of PCBs generates water vapor, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen chloride (HCl). Like other combustion processes, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds can be formed from the nitrogen in air, the sulfur in the fuel, and by incomplete combustion. In this case, particulate, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide would be produced.

For the proposed incinerator, emissions would be controlled by limiting the formation of pollutants during combustion and by operating

pollution control equipment. The incinerator is designed to complete the combustion of PCBs and prevent the formation of other toxic compounds. Special features are incorporated in the combustion chamber design to improve combustion and reduce the formation of air pollutants. After leaving the combustion chamber and passing through connecting ductwork, the gases would be cooled then pass through two scrubbers and a demister before exhausting through a 76 foot high stack. Scrubbers are a type of equipment used to remove pollutants. Water, is sprayed over the top of each scrubber and passes down through packing material to a drain at the bottom. As the gases pass up through the packed bed contaminants are absorbed by the liquid. The contaminated water would, in this case, be chemically treated and discharged to liquid waste disposal ponds currently in use at the site.

DEQ says that comments on related issues such as the size of the

service area, transportation, and potential for spills of the hazardous materials will also be heard at the February 7 hearing, but only testimony pertaining to the proposed air contaminant discharge permit will be evaluated at this time.

Government regulations have allowed fluids with low levels of PCBs to be stored permanently in containers at the Arlington repository. Substances containing high levels of PCBs from Oregon and Washington have been stored at the Arlington waste site before being shipped to Texas for burning.

Currently, says DEQ, less than 50,000 gallons a year of liquids with under 500 parts per million PCBs are landfilled at Arlington. In addition, DEQ estimates that 50,000 plus gallons a year of liquids with over 500 parts per million PCBs are received from the existing service area for shipment to an approved out-of-state incinerator. Oregon generates only small amounts of high level liquid PCB waste. Portland General Electric currently sends only two truckloads per year to Arkansas for incineration. In addition, Pacific Power and Light, Tillamook PUC, Eugene Water and Electric Board and other Oregon PUDs send small amounts of PCBs to the Arlington site. Existing amounts are projected to decline as PCBs are removed from use.

DEQ says that the incinerator proposed at Arlington would be regulated by three state permits including an Air Contaminant Discharge Permit, a PCB Incinerator permit, and a Water Pollution Control Facilities Permit, and by one federal permit.

The Air Contaminant Discharge Permit would require that PCB destruction would have to be at least 99.999 percent. This means that less than one pound of PCB either by scrubber waste or emitted from the stack would remain for every one million pounds of PCB fed to the incinerator.

DEQ has not yet received application for a Water Pollution Control Facility Permit which will be needed for handling scrubber water used to clean the incinerator stack. DEQ requires that the water be collected, neutralized conveyed and discharged to synthetically lined evaporation ponds. A no-discharge restriction would be placed on the holding ponds.

The Federal Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) requires a permit only for the operation of a PCB incinerator, not for building one.

Because the size of the service area is directly related to the amount of PCBs brought through Oregon, the increase in amount of PCBs transported on Oregon highways would be significant. Accord-

ing to CSSI estimates, about one million gallons of liquid PCBs would be incinerated at the Arlington site. Forty percent of this volume would be generated from northwestern states and 60 percent would be generated by California and other western states and transported to Arlington.

DEQ cites Public Utility Commission's estimates that 2,057 vehicles carrying all types of hazardous materials passed by PUC station No. 1807 on Highway 97 near Klamath Falls during a recent one-month period. The additional shipment of PCBs exported from California on all routes would be approximately 20 vehicles per month or about one percent of the shipment of all hazardous materials on Highway 97. Hazardous materials are defined by federal and state laws as chemicals which meet certain standards because they are ignitable, corrosive, acidic or toxic.

Primary transportation routes would be along Highway 97 to I-84 from California to Arlington. Transportation routes from other states would include I-5, I-205, I-90, Highway 395, and I-84.

From the Northwestern states, PCBs would be shipped in bulk, in drums and transformers, says DEQ. There would be a large number of transporters.

Most of the balance of the shipments would be transported from Chemical Waste Management's Kettleman Hills site near Bakersfield, California. The material would be assembled in bulk form and transferred to 5,000-6,000 tanker trucks. Only a small amount of PCBs would be shipped in non-CSSI trucks says DEQ.

The PUC does not require special training for drivers transporting PCBs and there is no restriction on transportation routes. The PUC does require carriers to register and obtain a permit for transportation of hazardous materials.

CSSI officials have indicated to DEQ that drivers of CSSI trucks are given training in proper procedures for shipping PCBs and spill response if an accident occurs. DEQ says that the CSSI driving record is very good, and that CSSI officials have further stated that they would voluntarily notify the PUC and DEQ of transportation routes and shipping dates and would submit to state inspections near state borders. CSSI drivers would transport approximately 60 percent of the PCBs destined for the Arlington site.

DEQ concludes that it is difficult to assess the potential for serious liquid PCB spills. If the incinerator is constructed, the volume of liquid PCBs transported through Oregon would increase substantially.



E. Byron Smith

Candidates must file before Feb. 14

Filing deadline for candidates seeking positions in the March 26 election is 5 p.m. Feb. 14.

Filing requirements include obtaining a form from the county clerk or elections office and filing it along with a \$10 filing fee or a petition bearing the signatures of 25 registered voters, at the Morrow County Clerks office at the county Courthouse in Heppner.

Positions open in Morrow County include:

Port of Morrow: Three directors - positions 1, 3, and 5.

Morrow County School District Board: One director - at-large position.

Morrow County School District Advisory Committee: Seven members - Heppner-Lexington, positions 4 and 6; Lone-Lexington, positions 2 and 3; Boardman-Irrigon, positions 2, 4 and 5.

Boardman Rural Fire District: Three directors - positions 1, 2 and 3.

Boardman Cemetery District: Two directors - positions 1 and 2.

Boardman Park & Recreation District: Two directors - positions 4 and 5.

Heppner Water Control District: Two directors - positions 1 and 2.

Heppner Rural Fire District: Three directors - positions 1, 2, and 3.

Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District: Two directors - positions 2 and 3.

Irrigon Cemetery District: One director - position 1.

Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District: Three directors - positions 1, 3 and 5.

Ione-Lexington Cemetery District: two directors - positions 1 and 2.

Budgets for the Morrow County School District and county government will also be decided at the March 26 election.

Events planned for county's 100th birthday



Bud Clark to speak

Plans are now in the final stages for the February 16 birthday party for Morrow County. The program will begin with the Boy Scouts presenting the flag and the Star Spangled Banner will be sung by Norita Marquardt from Portland. A lovely decorated "1885-1985" cake will be served with the dinner.

The event will feature two speakers. Jack Morton, a former Heppnerite received his eighth grade diploma in 1927 in Heppner. He attended BSU of Oregon, M.S. College of Education; and served in the

South Pacific during the World War II in the U.S. Navy. Following this he continued teaching and retired as Dean of Students from Oregon College of Education 1963-81.

Bud Clark, Portland Mayor is the other scheduled speaker for this meeting. Clark's family background is in Morrow County.

There is special music planned from the Irrigon area; Ione, and from other parts of the County.

The "Grand Squares" will entertain following the dinner. The winning essay "History of Morrow County" will be read by the junior high school student who wrote it. The dessert scene picture will be presented to the winner. A plaque will be presented to the town which was judged to have held the "best" celebration for the centennial. Lexington held a celebration last summer; Irrigon held special centennial events in conjunction with its Watermelon Festival; Boardman combined the centennial and Harvest Festival celebrations; Heppner held special centennial events at the same time as the Merchants' Day; and Ione elementary school is planning for each class to study pioneers and aspects of local history with emphasis on details of local Ione history and the Morrow County Centennial which will culminate with an open house at the school on April 23.

A good time and delicious dinner is planned so try to attend our celebration. We would appreciate it if those who plan to attend will call or send in the available registration to help determine the number to prepare for.