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City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow
The Heppner




GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Letters to the Editor

Supports grandparents' rights

To the Editor:
It is my understanding that House Bill 2428, the rights of grandparents to see their grandchildren, will be heard in committee in Salem on March 22.

Many good, loving grandparents, with much to offer grandchildren in terms of emotional support, stability and love, at times of stress are denied the opportunity for various reasons beyond their control.

Children under stress, such as the breaking up of a family by divorce, need the stability, love, understanding, reassurance and support of the

extended family. Research is proving that children who are allowed to continue normal relationships with the non-custodial family have a greater chance for normal emotional growth.

There is a toll free number 1-800-982-1211, which allows access to all Oregon legislators.

This bill HB 2428 is of concern to all families. It concerns the welfare of children. The bill will die in committee if those interested in children do not support it.

(s) Birdine Tullis
Ione, Oregon 97843

Limit school elections to odd years

To the Editor:
I would like to bring to your attention an issue of statewide importance. I have introduced legislation, HB 2211, that would limit Oregon's school districts to the election of board members in May of odd-numbered years only.

As you know, under current law, school districts are the only remaining special districts holding annual elections of directors. More often than not the election of school directors in March is the first of at least two elections held each year, as school districts prefer to wait until later to present their levies to district electors. This year, only 54 school districts, a mere 15 percent of the 353 school districts throughout the state, will hold director and levy elections on March 26. Under the provisions of HB2211, most of these districts would have needed only one election this year. In even-numbered years, a district living within its tax base would not need an election at all. Under the current statute, those districts still needing to pass operating levies will hold two elections.

As to the latter argument, it is possible even under current law for a majority of board positions to be open at an election. Unscheduled vacancies frequently occur, requiring that the vacant positions be placed on the ballot with the regularly scheduled openings. It is not unusual to see three or even four directors' positions on the ballot at a given election. Frankly, I feel the "continuity" argument smacks elitism. If a school board espouses a policy that is unpopular to a majority of those it represents, the electors should have the opportunity to change that policy; although experience indicates that this is unlikely to happen.

For your information, and for the sake of comparison, the legislative assembly elects seventy-five percent of its membership every two years. Our county governments elect the majority of their members at least once every four years. Many Oregon cities elect their entire councils every two years. Obviously, the subject of continuity is not terribly troublesome to these government entities. What other governing bodies in this state, besides school boards elect their members on an annual basis?

In 1984, elimination of the even-year election of directors would have meant a savings of \$422,000 to school districts statewide. Estimates for 1986 put the savings at over \$500,000.

Opponents of the change to odd-year elections of directors, (Confederation of School Administrators, Oregon School Boards Association and O.E.A.) claim that our purpose is to create administrative convenience. They contend further that odd-year elections will create a situation wherein a majority of board positions could change hands, breaking continuity in board policy and function.

One look at the anticipated savings for school districts statewide shows that we are not looking at mere administrative convenience. Rather, we see real and substantial economic benefits for our schools.

Finally, the intent behind limiting the number of election dates is to promote consolidation of more items on fewer dates. Eliminating the even-year election of directors is consistent with this goal. Electors tire of going to the polls again and again. Under HB 2211 voters would know that on the second Tuesday in May of odd-numbered years they elect school board and other district directors, and on the second Tuesday of even-numbered years the May primary election occurs.

Sincerely,
(s) Barbara Roberts

Obituaries

Samuel W. Heath

Samuel W. Heath, 67, Heppner, died Thursday, March 14, 1985, at Good Shepherd Community Hospital, Hermiston.

He was born May 28, 1917 in Hodgeman County, Kansas, the son of William and Harriett (Sheeks) Heath.

He moved to Portland in 1942 where he worked in the shipyards. In 1946 he purchased and operated a ranch on Rhea Creek with his family. In 1967 he leased and operated the Heppner Bowl until his retirement in 1979.

Survivors include brothers, Ralph Heath, Kimberly, Idaho; Elmer Heath, Heppner and Pearl Heath, Pendleton, and a sister, Jessie Abbott, Portland.

Funeral services were 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Heppner First Christian Church. The Rev. Don Shelton officiated. Carley Drake prepared the organ.

Casket bearers were Bob Hubbard, Gene Doherty, Pete Schwarzin, Dail Turner, Dallas Harsin, and Gary Watkins. Honorary bearers were Al Fetsch, Bob Schiller, Riley Munkers, Al Bunch, Bob Hoskins, and Elwyn Hughes. Concluding services and interment were at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Friends who wish may contribute to the American Cancer Society, Oregon Division, 6330 S.W. Curry, Portland, Ore. 97201.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Joseph Henry 'Joe' Gaarsland

Joseph Henry "Joe" Gaarsland, age 71 of Ione, died Tuesday, March 12 at St. Elizabeth Nursing Home in Baker.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 15 at 2 p.m. in the Langrell-Monroe Mortuary Chapel. Pastor Russell Schott of the Calvary Baptist Church officiated and interment followed in Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker.

Gaarsland was born in Everett Township, Minnesota to Ole and Caroline Gaarsland. He received his education in Battle Lake, Minnesota. He served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II. He was baptised and confirmed in Skitbedt (Church) in Battle Lake, Minnesota.

Gaarsland moved to Oregon after serving in the Army and had been living in the Ione area until just recently when he moved to Baker.

A farmer most all of his life, he was a member of the American Legion in Ione and had received his 40 year pin.

Survivors include his sons, John D. Gaarsland and J. Melvin Gaarsland both of Baker; a daughter, Elaine Johnston of La Grande, and his daughter Jo Ann Hayes of Van Couver Washington; his sister, Edna Moen of Battle Lake, Minn.; 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, numerous neices and nephews and his former wife, Margaret Smith of Baker.

Vote for Matt Doherty

To the Editor:
Matt Doherty would be a good commissioner for the Port of Morrow.

The Ports' industries are big taxpayers in the county and have huge navrolls.

Voting for Matt with his strong interest and background will assure the Ports' and counties growth and future.

Sincerely,
(s) Ken Turner

Urges 'yes' vote for schools

To the Editor:
As a former board member of the Morrow County School District, I urge your support of the levy by voting "yes" on March 26.

Sixty-one citizens who served on seven different committees ranging from computer education, transportation, risk management, to the building needs of each school deserve our respect and thanks for the time and concern that they have given freely for the students of our

county.

Their recommendations guided preparations of this budget. We all know that the price of everything is up. The district has found that growth in numbers of students and new educational standards require more staff members. All of this adds to the total dollars needed to run our schools.

Help your children to a better education. Vote "yes" on March 26.

Sincerely,
(s) Jean Bennett

Appreciates Courtesy Car

To the Editor:
Last year Heppner got its first, in a very long time, publicly available transportation. Through many years, as folks grew older and more of them found themselves living alone - some of them moved away from here just because they felt so housebound and disliked to ask friends and neighbors for help.

Buzz Lynch came up with the idea of providing this on-call car, which he owns. It employs very courteous and competent drivers all day and all night.

Hazel Hamlin telephoned me last week to say that she had heard that the Courtesy Car might be discontinued. Hazel feels quite emotional about this service, "It's such a good thing, and is one good thing that just mustn't come to an end." She has been so appreciative of this service; she says it has been so beneficial to a growing number of older folks and to many others also, who for various reasons need rides. She wonders if everyone realizes that this service means so much to this community and is so hopeful that more helpful support will come in soon.

Buzz Lynch says the car is busy from 6 a.m. until 3 a.m. and it averages about eight trips each

day and often from 11 to 15 each night. He says the trips are often to the banks, to various stores, to the doctors' offices or for recreation.

This service cannot actually charge folks for rides because it is not licensed as a public carrier, but its operation and upkeep is costly. Alton Yarnell is now managing the service and has several other helpful courteous competent drivers working with him.

Buzz Lynch gave us this list of the businesses that have contributed to the Courtesy Car: Bonnie's Barber Shop; Bud's Pub; Bucknum's; the Wagon Wheel; Country Rose; Vinh's Chevron; Central Market; the Elk's Club; Case Furniture; Heppner Auto Parts; Murray's Drug Store, D & L Auto Repair, Ray Boyce Insurance; Turner, VanMarter and Bryant; and Green's Feed and Seed. In addition to the 15 businesses, 9 thoughtful and generous persons have contributed: Ilene Laughlin, Alvin Bunch, Jim Lovgren, Ed Tarnasky, L.E. Dick, Billy Kenny, Paul Hisler, Jr., Dr. Clare Koznek and Cornett Green.

We know Hazel Hamlin contributes for each ride she has, but there are some who use the car who never pay. Some wonder if the city of Heppner or even the county of Morrow might not help this wonderful service survive. None of us knows just when some sort of trouble might strike in our lives, and we might need the help of the Courtesy Car, which is available by dialing 676-5026, where a pleasant voice will answer "Cal's Lounge" and will be quick to offer help.

Sincerely,
(s) Justine Weatherford
Court St., Heppner

D.A.'s Report

The Morrow County District Attorney's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports receiving complaints on the following charges during the past week:

Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (3 cases), Driving While Suspended, (two cases), Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Minor in Possession, Giving a False Name to an Officer, Negotiating a Bad Check, Assault IV, two counts of Theft I, and Burglary I.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled or dispatched the following business during the past week:

On March 11, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Boardman Police Department in the arrest of Ronald Curtin Maxwell, 42, Boardman, on Umatilla County Sheriff's Office warrants for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, and a felony, Driving While Suspended. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

On March 12, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Boardman Police Department in the arrest of Theodore Brian Anderson, 25, Boardman, on a charge of Assault IV. He was lodged at the Umatilla City Jail.

On March 14, the Irrigon Police Department arrested Mark William Messersmith, 23, Irrigon, on charges of Burglary I and two counts of Theft I. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

On March 16, the Irrigon Police Department arrested Joseph H. Gonzales, 37, Irrigon on charges of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He posted bail and was released.

Also on March 16, the Heppner Police Department arrested Mark D. Way, 19, Heppner, on a charge of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He was released on his own recognizance.

On March 17, the Heppner Police Department arrested Michale Scott Balfe, 22, Lexington on charges of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He was released on his own recognizance.

On March 18, the Irrigon Police Department arrested Jose Rodriguez, 28, Boardman on charges of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He was lodged at the Umatilla Police Department.

On March 18, the Boardman Fire Department responded to a telephone pole on fire one-fourth mile west of Paul Smith Road on Wilson Road.

Hospital Notes

Patients admitted and discharged from Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner during the past week include:

John Glavey, Heppner - admitted March 11, discharged March 15;

Patti Nairns, Heppner - admitted March 14, discharged March 15; and

Cheryl Ployhar, Heppner, admitted March 15, discharged March 17.

Edna Bailey, Heppner, who was admitted to the hospital March 16 was still receiving care at press time Monday.

Births

Aubry Danelle Struthers - a daughter, Aubry was born February 28 to Joe and Sarah Struthers at Williams Air Force Base, Mesa, Arizona. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.

Grandparents are Maynard and Edna Struthers, Hermiston, and Carl and Geri Martin, Heppner.

Great grandparents are Myrtle Struthers, Hermiston and Mildred Morris, Heppner.

Great-great grandmother is Iris Martin, San Diego, California.

Schools close for spring vacation

Morrow County schools will be closed next week, March 25 - 29 for spring vacation. Classes will dismiss at the regular time Friday and buses will run as usual.

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