

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL 103 NO. 49

Heppner, Oregon 25[¢] WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1985

8 PAGES



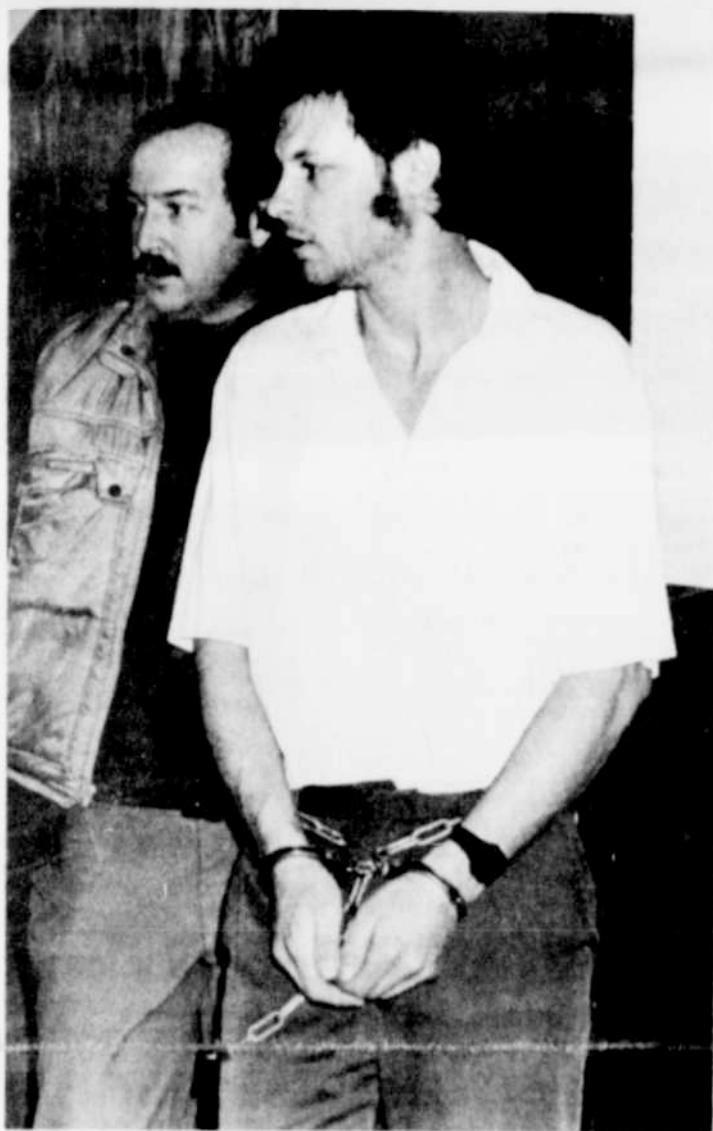
Weather

by the City of Heppner

November 26 - December 2

	High	Low	Precip.	Snow on gr.	New snow
Tues.	38	15	.0	2½"	
Wed.	18	5	.0	2½"	trace
Thurs.	13	4	.08	2½"	trace
Fri.	14	6	.01	2½"	trace
Sat.	17	-4	.09	3½"	1"
Sun.	19	3	.35	6"	2½"
Mon.	42	12	.0	5"	Sunny

Grand Jury indicts Heppner man for murder



Deputy Jim Hankins (left) escorts Larry Westerling to courtroom for arraignment

The Morrow County District Attorney's office has announced that Tuesday morning, Dec. 3 a grand jury indicted Larry Roice Westerling, 24, Heppner for the murder of Son Vinh, 29, also of Heppner.

Vinh was shot Friday morning while working at the Chevron station in Heppner. Westerling allegedly fired one shot from a rifle while Vinh was working in the service bay area of the garage. He was arrested six minutes after the incident was reported, said Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun. Following his arrest, Westerling was taken to a mental hospital in Pendleton where he remained until he was arraigned in Morrow County Justice Court before Justice of the Peace Charlotte Gray Monday morning on a charge of Murder, a felony with a maximum penalty of Life in Prison and a \$100,000 fine. The court appointed a Pendleton attorney, Wally Terry to defend Westerling after he told the judge that he was unmarried, had been unemployed for 3-4 weeks and was living with friends.

Westerling was returned to Umatilla County Jail where he is being held without bail.

Vinh and his wife, Sen, were buying the Chevron station from Howard and Dona Buchanan who have returned to Heppner to operate the station until Mrs. Vinh "sells or decides what to do with the station," said Buchanan.

Buchanan said that Westerling had worked for Vinh at the station and he believed that during hunting season he had asked for a weekend



Son Vinh

off. Vinh agreed, but Westerling failed to show up for work on the preceding Friday and was gone for three or four days. When he finally returned, Vinh fired him.

District Attorney Richard McNerny said no motive had been established for the shooting.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, in charge of arrangements for Son Vinh reported that as of Tuesday, no service had been scheduled.

Savings account opened to benefit Vinh

A savings account has been opened at the Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan in Heppner for Son Vinh,

widow of Son Vinh who was shot Friday morning while working at the Chevron station in Heppner.

Mrs. Vinh is expecting the couple's first child sometime in December. Friends say that she has been staying with relatives at Umatilla and will return to Heppner later this week.

Those who wish may make donations directly to the account at the savings and loan. Cans for donations also will be left at area businesses.

A baby shower is being planned and will be announced at a later date.

Bird seasons close

The Oregon State Game Commission has announced an emergency closure of pheasant, chuckar, and hun seasons beginning Thursday, Dec. 5 because of snowy weather conditions. The seasons would have continued until December 15.

Heppner businesses to give 'real money' coupons

Several downtown Heppner businesses will be giving "real money" coupons from Friday, Dec. 6 through Saturday, Dec. 14 to help area patrons celebrate a "Hometown Christmas" this year.

With each \$5 purchase at participating businesses, the merchant will validate a 50 cent coupon which the customer may then take to another participating business and "spend" just like "real money."

For example, if a customer buys \$15 worth of merchandise at one business, he will receive three 50 cent coupons which he may then take to a second participating business

and spend. Or, he may save the \$1.50 worth of coupons to add to those earned at a second, third, or fourth business and use them all at still another participating business. Coupons may be accumulated or spent individually, but they may not be redeemed at the same business where they were issued.

"Real money" coupons have no value after December 14.

Participating merchants include: Mycals, Country Rose, Murrays Drugs, Gardner's, Petersons, Shoe Box, Coast to Coast, Bucknum's, Case Furniture, Pettyjohns Builders Supply, Morrow County Grain Growers, R & W Drive In.

Evening ceremony to set mood for Christmas opening

A Christmas tree will be in place on Heppner's Main Street again this Christmas season. The tree was donated by Hazel Bauman and will be cut and set in place by crews from Columbia Basin Electric Co-op.

Friday evening at 7 p.m., the tree lights will be officially turned on and

carolers led by the Rev. LeRoy Wornell will help prepare the proper festive mood for Saturday's Christmas Opening.

Everyone is invited to come downtown, join in the singing, and enjoy hot cider provided by the Heppner Soroptimists.

Santa is coming to Heppner

Santa Claus will officially open the Heppner Christmas shopping season Saturday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. when he rides into town on a Heppner fire truck. Following his grand entrance, he will stay in town long enough to visit with area children at

the Les Schwab showroom.

The jolly Christmas elf will hear children's Christmas wishes and hand out candy canes.

He is expected to make a second appearance on December 21.

Council applies for \$500,000 grant

The Heppner City Council Monday applied for a \$500,000 grant, to be used for renovation of the Heppner Hotel into a senior citizen housing center.

The money may be available to the city under the Federal government block grant program, and would be combined with other grant money to purchase and renovate the old hotel into 24-26 room senior citizen housing facility.

The city had a deadline of December 13 for which to apply for the funds, which would be combined with another possible grant of \$250,000 from the East Central Oregon Association on Counties (ECOAC).

Under the proposed plan the city will buy the hotel from its present owner Arnie Headman for \$125,000, and then supervise its renovation. (It would reportedly cost \$100,000 just for an elevator). Once remodeling was completed the city would turn the facility over to the Umatilla housing authority, which would oversee its operation.

The only funds the city will have to expend on the project is \$50 for an option to purchase the hotel from Hedman, and some administrative time of the city manager while the project is completed, city attorney Bill Kuhn told the council Monday night.

The option to purchase the hotel, which Kuhn said was appraised at \$135,000, will be good for nine months.

"It's a little pie in the sky," Kuhn said about the possibility of the city obtaining the grant, "and realistically I don't know how good the city's chances are."

He said if the \$500,000 block grant was approved by the federal government, "I think ECOAC grant would be forthcoming."

He said the city will know by February whether or not it received the block grant money.

In other business the city council discussed the use of the city's recently purchased back-up police car.

Council member Bob Ployhar said he had been receiving complaints from people who have seen both police cars on the street at the same time. "I thought this was supposed to be a backup," he said, pointing out that people feel the town is a little small to have two police cars on the street at one time.

The city paid \$400 for the used car, which Ployhar says was intended to be used only when the new car was broken down or unavailable.

"It makes it look like we're spending a lot of money, even though we're not," said Ployhar. "We've taken a lot of flack for not cutting the police force. It's raising a lot of eyebrows, and it's going to catch up with us," he said.

Police Chief Doug Rathbun said that when the two cars have been on the street at the same time, it was because they were both being used for different jobs. He said an officer was at one end of town at an accident scene, when the police received a call at the other end of town.

Ployhar urged the city to be frugal following passage of a large city budget this year, saying people's

taxes have gone up quite a bit. "Come budget time I'm going to be looking at a way to cut six percent and I think every department head should be looking at ways to cut back."

In other business, the council: Learned that liability insurance for the city will be going up dramatically next year, maybe as much as 100 percent. The city presently pays \$16,000 per year in insurance premiums.

Discussed the problem of logging trucks tearing up Riverside street. The city will ask trucks to use the west entrance to Riverside to cut down on the damage.

Super Collider explained to Chamber



Matt Doherty

What is sixty miles in diameter buried 20-feet underground, and will cost between four and six billion dollars to build?

A superconducting Super Collider, which many people are actively trying to have built in Morrow County, Matt Doherty told the Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce Tuesday.

Doherty is chairman of the executive committee of a task force formed recently to try and have the SSC built in Morrow and Umatilla counties, and Tuesday he was on hand to explain just what a super collider is.

"Basically it's a project to study matter," Doherty said. He said a

giant tube nine to 12 feet in diameter would be dug underground. The tube would be circular and have a circumference of 60 miles, it would hold pipes through which protons, or components of atoms, would be accelerated and smashed into each other. The resulting collision would create "new" short-lived matter which scientist wish to study. Doherty pointed out, however, that there is no danger of radiation being released into the atmosphere, and most people "won't even know it's there."

Because of the potential economic impact to the Boardman and Morrow County area, Doherty says a task force was formed in the Boardman area to push the Boardman site for consideration for construction of the SSC.

"It would bring in about 3,000 permanent jobs," he said, "and that means about 9,000 people."

There are at present three sites under consideration in Oregon, and eight to 20 sites nationwide. An Oregon site is to be chosen by the first of January, and the task force has been working to have the Boardman site chosen, he said.

Doherty said that building the giant underground tunnel will not disrupt any activity overhead, and that farming and ranching could continue as normal. He said the most southerly tip of the tunnel would be at about the Tad Miller property with the northern edge near Irrigon.

The facility would also include about six stations to super cool portions of the tunnel for experiments and there would also be a research building complex.

"We have some pluses, and we have some minuses," said Doherty,

"but we feel we have a lot going for us."

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce had discussed contributing \$2,000 to the task force; however, Doherty said they now had \$30,000, and would ask for the funds later if needed.

He said there were many other sites across the country under consideration, and the Oregon site chosen would be up against "probably eight others." The other Oregon sites include one near Junction City and one near McMinnville, Newberg, Molalla, and Salem.

At public hearing on the Boardman site will be held Dec. 9 at Riverside High School in Boardman beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will be conducted by the Oregon Department of Economic Development.

Another meeting will be held Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. during which Dr. Stanley Wojciecki, of Stanford University will speak on the SSC. That meeting will also be held at the high school in Boardman.

The task force will hold "a very important meeting" December 6 at the Dodge City Inn in Boardman beginning at 1:30 p.m., to which everyone is invited said Doherty.

Factfinding postponed

A factfinding session on unresolved issues in contract negotiations between Morrow County teachers and the school board was postponed because severe weather conditions made it dangerous for all parties to be present on Monday, Dec. 2. The session will be rescheduled.

Donations needed for Christmas boxes

Donations of money, canned foods, warm hats, mittens, underwear, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and paper products are needed so that Christmas boxes can be distributed this year.

Area churches will assist in gathering donations, sorting and packing boxes this year. Boxes for donations of canned goods have been placed at Court St. and Central Markets.

Donations may also be taken directly to the Heppner Neighborhood Center.

For information about additional needs or to volunteer to help, call Pat Brindle, 676-5873, Jane Rawlins, 676-9435, or Bettie Doherty, 676-5188.

Donations need to be into the Center by December 13 because volunteers will begin packing boxes December 16.

Former agent to speak at Farm-City banquet



Harold E. Kerr, Assoc. Director OSU Extension Service

The Morrow County Livestock Growers and CowBelles annual meetings this Friday will culminate with the annual Farm-City Banquet. The dinner will begin at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club. Master of Ceremonies Dwight Bailey, president of the Livestock Growers, will introduce the evening's speaker, Harold Kerr, former Morrow County Extension Agent. Kerr is currently an associate director of the Oregon State University Extension at Corvallis and had titled his address, "Goin' Down the Road."

Peterson's Jewelers has donated a gemstone, and Jim and Carleen West have donated a registered, quarterhorse filly colt to be given as doorprizes.

The CowBelles meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. with a social get together and no-host luncheon, and be followed by a general business meeting, election of officers, and a report from the state CowBelles meeting.

The Livestock Growers meeting will start at 1 p.m. with a business meeting. At 1:30, Dr. Nordan Stephanides will provide livestock growers with an up-date on animal health. William Zollinger, an OSU Extension Beef specialist will speak about managing resources and production. Don Hansen, OSU Extension veterinarian will explain internal parasites and J.D. Mankin a beef specialist will outline Idaho's total beef management program.