

The Official Newspaper of the
City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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Letters to the Editor

Veterinarians concerned for ethical practices

To the Editor:
News reports from Washington County concerning the dumping of dead pets along the roadsides have reached veterinarians throughout the Northwest. The 550 members of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association wish to assure the Pet-owning public that we consider this practice abhorrent and in no way consistent with the ethical practice of veterinary medicine. Members in Washington County have volunteered their services to do post mortem and laboratory evaluations on a number of these animals in hopes of helping authorities resolve the situation as quickly as possible. We wish to emphasize our under-

standing that the loss of a pet, regardless of its species or "value" is an important, often painful loss to a family or individual owner. The grieving process can and should be facilitated by members of the veterinary profession. We believe pet owners are manifestly deserving of expressions of compassion and concern from their veterinarians upon the loss of a pet.

We affirm our desire and willingness to offer this necessary service. Ours is truly a caring profession.

(s) James Norene, D.V.M.
Public Relations Committee
Oregon Veterinary Medical Assoc.

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D.A.'s Report

The Morrow County District Attorney's office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past two weeks:

Concepcion Gonzalez, 48, Irrigon, was sentenced February 28 before Judge Ralph Currin. He had been found Guilty of Driving While Suspended, a felony. Sentence is to serve two years probation to the Parole and Probation, and pay a \$50 Victim Assistance fee.

Oscar Dean Smith, 28, Irrigon, was sentenced February 28 before Judge Ralph Currin. He had been determined Guilty of Driving While Suspended, a felony. Sentence is to serve two years probation to the Parole and Probation Board, and pay \$50 to Victim Assistance.

Michael James Wilson, 29, Boardman, was sentenced February 28 before Judge Ralph Currin to two years probation to Parole and Probation, to pay a \$250 fine, \$50 to Victim Assistance, and \$10 to the Board of Police Standards and Training. He had been determined Guilty of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

James Lucian Cason, 41, Lexington, was sentenced February 28 before Judge Ralph Currin. He had been determined Guilty of Assaulting a Public Safety Officer. Sentence is for seven days in jail, \$350 fine, \$20 Victim Assistance fee, and \$12 to the Board of Police Standards and Training.

Clyde Eugene Pettey, 32, Irrigon, entered a change of plea to Guilty of Burglary I before Judge Ralph Currin. The court ordered a presentence investigation. He also entered a change of plea to Guilty of Theft I. One count of Burglary I and one count of Theft I were dismissed. The Court ordered a presentence investigation.

David Allen Cripe, 26, Hermiston, entered a change of plea before Judge Ralph Currin to Guilty of Burglary I. The Court ordered a presentence investigation. Sentencing is set for March 14.

Darwin Duane Cook, 29, Irrigon, entered a change of plea before Judge Ralph Currin to Guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance. The court ordered a presentence investigation. He also entered a change of plea to Guilty of Burglary II. A charge of Theft I was dismissed. The court ordered a presentence investigation.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Wilbur Charles Steagall, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (73 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$30 fine.

Donald Dunn Reiber, Heppner - Improper Passing, \$17 fine.
Jacklyn Irene Robinson, Heppner - Improper Left Turn, \$24 fine.

Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner reports admitting the following patients during the past week:

Bob Rietmann, Ione - admitted March 2;

Kenneth Snider, Ione - admitted March 2; and Elwyn Hughes, Heppner - admitted March 3.

All three were still receiving care at the hospital Monday morning.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling or dispatching the following business during the past week:

February 25: 9 a.m. - the Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Mary Erin Wilson, 27, Portland on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear, Theft I. Subject was taken to court for arraignment. 6:44 p.m. - the Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Larry Robert Coles, 41, on an Ontario State Police Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear - no angling license subject posted bail and was released.

February 28: a Boardman ambulance responded to Highway 730 approximately one-quarter mile north of the 730 junction and transported a male subject who was possibly involved in a hit and run accident to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

March 1: a Boardman ambulance transported a male from a motor vehicle accident at milepost 171 on Interstate 84 to Good Shepherd Hospital.

March 2: a Pioneer Memorial Hospital ambulance transported Elwyn Hughes, 73, with an illness to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

March 3: a Boardman ambulance transported two persons from the site of a motor vehicle accident on Interstate 84 at milepost 157 to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

Correction

A story in last week's newspaper, "Proposed County budget down..." was in error. Additional positions are not approved for the Accounting Dept., the Assessor's office or the Public Works Office. The newspaper regrets the error. The first two paragraphs explaining the general fund should have read as follows:

Salaries and benefits for employees covered in the General Fund are budgeted at the same as last year or at the same increase as negotiated with employees in the road department. Elected officials did not receive raises last year, so are expected to be included for raises this year calculated on the same rate of increase as classified employees. Negotiations are not yet complete, so anticipated amounts are included in the salary contingency fund.

The Assessor's office is requesting that the position of Deputy Assessor be upgraded to data analyst because 180 state appraised industrial accounts have reverted back to the county. The Accounting Dept. is requesting that the current half-time accounting clerk be increased to a full-time position. The Public Works Dept. request for promoting the bookkeeper to Public Works Office Manager and hiring a half-time secretary was not considered in the budget committee. Although there is currently no County Counsel, the position has been included in the budget with the salary listed the same as last year.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage license:

Todd Thomas Sherer, 24, and Allison Marie Lee, 21, both of Richland, Washington.

Wranglers slate garage/bake sale

calendar - garage & bake sale
Wrangler's Riding Club will hold a garage and bake sale March 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in front of the former Hutch's Printing Co. Building on Main Street in Heppner.

Proposed studies do not address needs

To the Editor:
Starkey Experimental Forest and Range is scheduled to be closed to public access with an 8 ft. fence for approximately ten years. This 30-mile fence is proposed so a U.S. Forest Service research staff can study elk, deer and cattle in a "controlled" environment.

Research on elk is needed, especially to find a solution to ranchers' problems with elk wintering on private lands. However, the four studies proposed behind the fence do not address the needs of wild and free roaming elk such as we have in Eastern Oregon.

In fact, the Forest Service plans to feed the elk and deer every winter at an estimated cost of \$21,000. The fence is budgeted to cost \$400,000 to construct and the estimated annual maintenance is \$4,000.

We believe the proposed fence will cause major problems with migrating elk and neighboring ranchers. We also believe research is needed immediately on free-ranging elk to discover why they need the solitude and thermal protection offered on private lands.

The government's waste of money must be appealed by March 7. The appeal will be just the first step to preventing this expensive boondoggle. Therefore, we are requesting your assistance with donations of time and/or money immediately. Letters to your Congressmen are also needed.

Please contact one of us by telephone in the evenings at 963-3629 or send contributions to: Blue Mountain Protection Alliance, P.O. Box 259, LaGrande, OR 97850.

(s) Loren Hughes

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