

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL 104 NO. 28

Heppner, Oregon 25¢

Wednesday, July 9, 1986

8 Pages



Weather  
by the City of Heppner

Weather report not available at  
press time

## Sheriff offers contracted police service

By Avon Melby

Heppner City Council Monday night received an offer for contracted police services from Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago.

Mayor Cara Costa told the council that many cities, especially small towns were going to this type service to save money. She passed out an "information sheet" from the Sheriff's office outlining costs and services. Two officers and one vehicle on a 24-hour basis would cost the city \$58,000 per year. Costa said the city's present budget is \$90,000 for that service.

Councilman Marvin Lane said he was afraid of the city losing control of its force if the service were contracted. Councilman Chuck Holt, a former policeman, said "When you contract you are phasing out your police force," in agreement on the probable loss of control. The mayor said there would be a meeting on this with other cities later this summer and she would know more about it at that time and the possibilities it might offer, both good and bad.

Development of an RV Park on Corps of Engineer property at Willow Lake was proposed at City Council Monday.

Dr. H.S. Huber, chairman of the recently court-created South Morrow County Park District, said the new district was negotiating with the Corps to get a long-term lease to construct a park on the ridge above the lake, just North of the present Corps' maintenance building. He said he thought it would be beneficial to the town, and could become a popular fishing and recreation area. Shore development would be on the Balm Fork entrance to the lake. The project, with maps of the proposed development will be presented Heppner Planning Commission next Monday.

The Corps is not very forthcoming on repairing and bringing up to standards the Little League field promised the city two years ago, said City Attorney Bill Kuhn. The field was built, but in such a way that the outfield, including the second base man could not be seen from home plate. Eighteen months ago the

Corps was asked to re-do the job. During the final phase of completion of Willow Creek Dam this project, and others in Eastern Oregon, were taken from the Corps' Walla Walla office and combined in the Portland office. Kuhn said this had made working with Corps people difficult because too many new ones did not know about the background problems. He asked the city's permission to write Oregon Congressional people if there are more delays, and it was granted.

Police Chief Doug Rathbun asked if the city had an agreement with the Corps to patrol the Lake swimming and boating dock. He said a Corps employee had asked one of his officers to patrol up there, saying the city was supposed to do so on an agreement. The city officials said there had never been such agreement. The area is outside the city limits and is in the county Sheriff's service area.

Kuhn said state requirements in updating the city's comprehensive plan were going to make a lot of legal work. He said he did not have the time for the job, and suggested the city hire someone just for the purpose. A state grant of about \$3,500 will be available, and the two he talked to said they could do it within that amount. No action was taken.

Ken Key asked about his proposed annexation to the city so he can get city water service on his property above the cemetery. A portion of Corps' owned land between the city and his property would have to be

also annexed. He was told the Corps had advised the city the request was "being reviewed" on June 17, but nothing further had been received. He will be notified when information is supplied the city so he can sign a formal annexation request.

In end-of-the-year bookkeeping the city:

-awarded the bid for gas for the city to Cal's Mobile Service.

-approved transfer of \$315 from the 1985-86 budget for the library to the same account in the 1986-87 budget. The change was needed because the money was originally budgeted for certain books, which were not available until later.

-authorized the City Manager to destroy files 10 or more years old which will not be needed in the future.

-heard from City Foreman Dave Winters report he had been able to "get a good deal" on gravel and now had a sufficient supply. Also that he would have final figures for cost of putting in sewer repairs and paving in time to get a bond request on the November 12 ballot.

-Council members were provided with petitions to have filed with the county clerk so they could run for re-election. All city elected officials except councilman Marvin Lane will have to run in the November general election. Any interested person may

obtain a petition at city hall. It is advisable to get 30 signatures, Administrator Lovgren told the council members. Only 20 are required, but 10 extra are advisable to be sure of getting ones that will count.



## Moving to the next field

Herman Bletell (entering pickup) was moving his combine to Gene Doherty's barley fields Tuesday morning. Bletell admitted getting a half ton of barley per acre on a field of his own he had just finished thrashing near Eightmile.

Harvest, though not yet in full-swing, has begun on several of the fields northeast of lone. We hear from reliable sources that Ken Nelson cut the first barley in the county June 25.

County Ag Agent Fred Lundin says that most farmers he has talked to are expecting their wheat go between 45 and 50 bushels per acre, in spite of possible empty heads and pinched kernels caused by the hot spell early in May.

## County Court rezones 4000 acres near Boardman

Morrow County Court last Wednesday approved rezoning of 4,000 acres of land near Boardman from agricultural to industrial use.

The Boeing company had requested the zone change in order to place a radar antenna test range on the property. Boeing has indicated also that it may do electronic aerospace and space vehicle research and development there.

The new zoning is necessary because the immediate plans which Boeing has for the land have been studied and determined compatible with the adjacent farm uses, and other industrial uses may not be compatible in Morrow County. All improvements on the land are subject to approval by the County Court.

The County Court received testimony from Boeing, LCDC, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs which owns the land Boeing has leased, and representatives from the Port of Morrow and city of Boardman, at a June 25 session of the public hearing begun June 18 and recessed because parties involved were unable to be present.

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott said the court would accept no new testimony July 2, but did allow Boeing attorney Richard Canaday and Jim Ross of the Dept. of Land Conservation and Development to clarify previous testimony. He also expressed dissatisfaction with the parties involved who had contacted him while the hearing was recessed to discuss the proposed ordinances. He said that he would have found it necessary to remove himself from the proceedings if they had made any attempt to add testimony outside the hearing sessions. Speaking to Canaday, he said, "an excellent attorney such as yourself should be mapping a direction through this zoning maze. It makes an uncomfortable position for the Court if we make an error, because the consequences will fall on us."

Canaday told the Court that "on a practical level, a company such as Boeing finds it difficult to invest \$10 million in 'bricks and mortar' for an antenna range in Eastern Oregon that it can use for nothing else because if our clients change slightly, and we can't sell or change the uses of the land, we have an expensive white elephant on our hands."

The land has soil that has little value for farming, he said. Little has changed since Boeing's lease began in 1963 to change the value of the property. The contract which Boeing has with the state is "valid and binding" he said and urges Boeing to develop the land as a space age industrial park (Boeing's lease expires in 2040.) Boeing has spent many dollars to develop irrigation and farming on its sections of land north of Tower road, but has always felt it should reserve the land south of I-84

for space age industrial uses. Boeing Agri-Industrial Corp. asserts that according to its lease rights, he said, that particular land should be zoned general industrial.

The 4,000 acre site was selected for the antenna range use above 55 other sites in the western United States, he said, because it is uniquely suited for the proposed use.

"If Boeing should make a claim against the state for breach of lease, it would be difficult for the state to find a reasonable alternative site such as this one bordered by the PGE Coal Fired Plant, the Navy Bombing Range, Boeing farm lands, and with private road access," he said.

Approval of the 4,000 acre zone change should not imply zone change approval for the balance of the parcel leased by Boeing, he said. Boeing had originally wanted a new zoning classification such as "space age industrial" with a different zo-

## Proposed classified licensing rules changed

Several changes were made in the proposed classified driver licensing rules reports Dennis Rice, manager of driver licensing for the Dept. of

Motor Vehicles.

The most significant changes were in response to concerns expressed by some farmers and farm organizations about the potential impact of the law and rules on farm vehicle drivers. They also objected to the distances which some farmers might have to travel to get to a testing site in eastern Oregon.

The rules were revised and filed with the Secretary of State June 27, after public hearings in seven Oregon cities last month.

Information available to the DMV indicates that most farm vehicles are Class 4 vehicles, Rice said. Under the law, all drivers of these vehicles will be converted to Class 4 licenses without any testing. Many farmers, he added, also have Class 3 vehicles (midsize trucks) and some have Class 1 vehicles — big truck and trailer combinations. These are generally driven seasonally and usually on back roads within a 50-mile radius of the farm.

## Bids let for two bridges

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Revised rules allow the division to conduct Class 1, 2, and 3 vehicle drive tests by appointment at farm sites. This will be done only if the farm is more than 55 miles from a DMV office or other truck testing location, he said.

A license based on a farm test will be good only within a 50 mile radius of the farm and be restricted by the division to vehicles registered for farm use and used for agricultural purposes.

The classified license law was passed by the 1985 Legislature and is the first major change in the way Oregon licenses drivers since 1931, Rice concluded. Thirty-one other states have classified license laws.

An effort has been made to collect signatures for a petition getting a measure on the general election ballot to repeal the classified license law. Morrow County CowBelles report that 300 signatures were collected locally and taken to Hermiston June 30 to be added with others collected statewide.

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## Sparklers

The spectacular fireworks display at lone last Friday night lit up the night sky.

## Accident victim's Condition remains serious

Dennis Campbell was still in intensive care Tuesday at St. Mary's Medical Center in Walla Walla. A hospital spokesperson said he has multiple facial injuries and is listed in serious condition.

He was taken to Walla Walla by Lifeguard helicopter Saturday night following an accident one mile from Ruggs on highway 207. Campbell was alone in his car when it apparently went out of control on the highway's new oil and gravel surface, and sideswiped an oncoming vehicle occupied by Dale and Bobette Hedman and their three children. Campbell's vehicle rolled two and a half times, the Morrow

G-T questionnaires coming in

If you have not already returned the questionnaire about the newspaper in last week's Gazette-times to the office, please do so by Friday, June 11.

Several of our readers have returned the questionnaires sent out with last week's newspaper. We appreciate your prompt response.

County Sheriff's office estimates before it came to rest in an alfalfa field. The Hedman vehicle was forced off the road into Barton Clark's driveway.

Dale Hedman reports that although one of their children was under observation Saturday night at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, everyone is fine now.

## Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tues., July 8	
Soft White	
July by 10th	\$2.81
July by 20th	\$2.72
July bal.	\$2.72
Aug.	\$2.70
Sept.	\$2.72/\$2.74
Oct.	\$2.76/\$2.78
Nov.	\$2.80/\$2.82
Barley	
July/Aug.	\$70
Sept.	\$71
Oct.	\$72
Nov.	\$73
Hard Red Winters Ordinaries	
	\$2.72