The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

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Port announces new tenants

Port of Morrow Commission Chairman Louis Carlson announced at last Wednesday's meeting that the port has leased property in its industrial park to Heppner Transfer, Inc., and Potato Nuggets.

Heppner Transfer will continue to haul chips and bark from Kinzua Corporation in Heppner to the Longview Fiber facility at the port. The company had indicated a need for additional space, Carlson said.

Potato Nuggets is a new company in the fresh pack potato industry which will package small, 1½" diameter potatoes for the domestic market with some export demand.

Potato Nuggets, a new, local potato firm, is waiting USDA approval but both companies expect an early November groundbreaking, Port Manager Bob Miller said.

Carlson presented Joe Burns, presisdent of the Hermiston Development Corp. a check for $5,000, and promised similar checks each year for the next three years. The money, Burns explained will be added to corporation funds and matched by funds from Umatilla Electric Co-op. The Hermiston Development Corp. intends to hire an agronomic expert with marketing background who will help the two areas (Umatilla and Morrow counties) develop higher income crops.

"We will be trying to diversify and upgrade our agricultural base and are confident that we can do it," he said. Vegetables and melons, for example, are a much higher income crop and will provide a better chance for farmers.

In other business, the port:

-heard from the port manager some proposed changes in personnel policies because, he said, some policies were out of line with current practices.

-accepted a resignation from Commissioner LeRoy Gardner of Heppner. The board of commissioners will accept applications from those interested in serving on the commission and appoint a replacement at a later date. Carlson reminded the board that he will resign his position on the board before the general election.

-heard that the port has an adequate cash flow and is making its payments on schedule.

-heard from terminal manager Don Walter that the port is still having a problem getting space for alfalfa cubes on ocean-going vessels. "We have no problem getting them across the docks here," he said. The Port of Portland is telling us that ocean-going vessels are overbooked now. Carlson emphasized a need for the commission to convince shipping companies and the Port of Portland that the Port of Morrow is serious about moving rural products into the world market.

School board cuts levy

Morrow County School Board cut $107,050 from the serial levy voters rejected September 16 at an emergency meeting Wednesday night. The resulting $366,736 levy will be on the November 4 general election ballot.

The serial levy will raise taxes in the amount of $366,736 for the district each year for the next three years. The serial levy will supplement the $5,140,443 special levy which voters approved on September 16 to finance district operations for the 1986-87 school year.

The levy cut will prevent the district from purchasing two buses (The Board had already accepted bids of $37,918 for a 35 passenger, and $30,443 for a 65 passenger bus.), from placing $15,000 in a fund to replace the district's Greyhound, and from purchasing educational computers bid at $24,188. Two buses which are being used now, had been scheduled for replacement this year. "The buses we are using now are safe," Jim Bier, principal of Heppner High School and member of the transportation committee, said. "Safety is not a problem, but some buses are old. The board has adopted a policy of replacing all gas buses with diesel buses on a 10-year replacement cycle."

Purchase of the computers this year would have put the district somewhat ahead of the board's schedule for placing computers in the classrooms, Columbia Junior High Principal Vic Marchek told the board. Not purchasing computers this year may put the school libraries somewhat behind the board's five-year-plan, however, he said.

The board expressed concern that cuts in the budget now set a precedent for next year's budget and will make it more difficult to catch up with equipment replacement and purchase schedules.

Also on the November 4 general election ballot will be a proposed $6,996,133 updated tax base for the district. If voters approve the tax base, it will not become effective until July 1, 1987. It will not effect the current year's budget.

Livestock patrol beginning

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is instituting a livestock patrol in cooperation with the Oregon State Livestock Investigators Association.

Cattle theft has become quite a problem in this part of the state Undersheriff Verlin Denton says. Baker county has used a livestock patrol and found it helpful in stopping cattle theft.

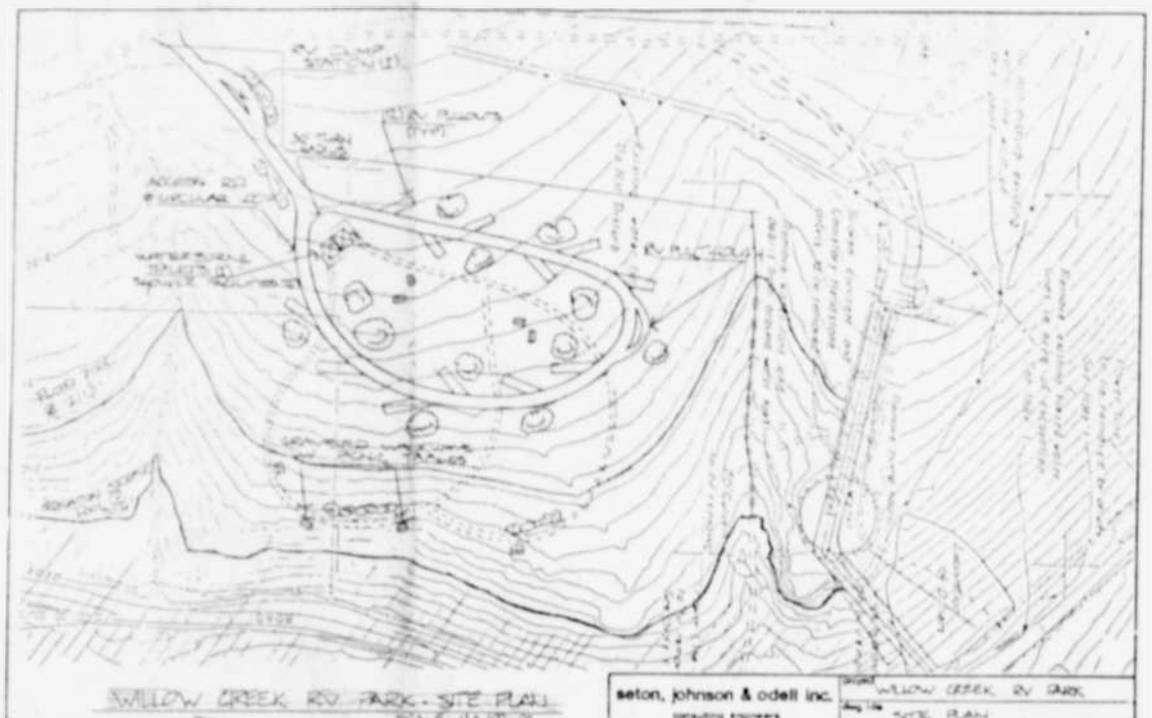
The way the patrol works is that farmers who notice vehicles parked near their fencelines or anywhere they would not normally be, for a long time fill out a postcard with data identifying the vehicle and mail the card to the Sheriff's Office. A portion of the card stating, "This vehicle has been observed by Morrow Co. Sheriff's Livestock Patrol" is torn off and left on the vehicle. The cards allow ranchers to do something on the spot, he said, which may also deter vandalism from hunters.

Cards are available at the sheriff's office and from deputies.

"It is important that ranchers report missing animals even if they're not sure if the animal has been stolen," Denton said. If the Sheriff's Office is notified, we can then notify brand inspectors who will watch for the animals.

Many times ranchers don't report one or two missing cattle, Denton said, because they write the disappearance off to natural causes such as death or the animal wandering away. Rustlers can get quite a few head in a short time although they're only taking one or two from each rancher, he pointed out.

Reports from surrounding counties indicate that cattle theft is a bigger problem than we realize. "We think the Livestock Patrol is a good idea and hope that ranchers do too," Denton concluded.



Juvenile accused of Courthouse break ins

A 15-year-old juvenile was taken into custody last Wednesday morning by Heppner Police pending charges of three counts of Burglary II, the Heppner Police have announced. The juvenile was referred to Juvenile Services.

The juvenile allegedly entered the Morrow County Courthouse through different ground floor windows Friday night, Sept. 12 and twice Monday night, Sept. 15. Missing from the District Attorney's office was a .38 calibre revolver and a dictaphone. Also missing from the various courthouse offices was over $100 in cash, the police said. The damage to the building included a broken latch and brace on a transom window in the District Attorney's office, and other broken latches.

All missing items were recovered when the juvenile was taken into custody.

The investigation is continuing.

Plan for Willow Creek park completed

Bob Miller, manager of the Port of Morrow, announced at last Wednesday's board of commissioners meeting that the South Morrow County Park District Board has approved a plan for a park at the Willow Creek Lake.

The Port of Morrow's engineering firm Seton, Johnson, and Odell engineered a site plan for the park board and estimated the cost of building the park at $268,000.

"It is a difficult site to work with," Bob Miller said. "Although the view is good, the problem is that the flood pool elevation is so far above the water that it leaves little space to work with. You cannot put a permanent facility in the area below the flood pool."

The design includes a public swimming area, a day park, fishing access area, parking, rest rooms, and 16-17 RV pads with full utilities.

The entire project cost the port less than $1,000 in money and time, Miller said.

Louis Carlson, president of the port's board of commissioners noted that it was a good project for the port to be involved in because the port could provide just enough help to get the project off the ground and allow a private group to take over and finish it.

Ken Turner of the park district board emphasized that Bob Miller has been helpful in putting the site plan together. "The need for a park is great and the site is ideal," he said. The project seems to be coming together without any major problems. "It won't be a big park, but it will be beautiful," Turner said. "The park is the key to start the promotion of tourism in southern Morrow County and the western route along highway 74 to Baker and LaGrande."

The district will place a one-year special levy of $268,000 on the November ballot. This is a one-time levy which will provide money to build the park.

The district will also place a tax base measure on the November general election ballot to provide $30,000 to offset maintenance and operating costs of the park each year.

"If everything goes well construction (on the park) could begin in March," Turner said.

County to advertise for bids

Morrow County Court last Wednesday authorized Architect Bob Smith to advertise for bids on an addition to the North Morrow Annex Building. The addition will allow the county to make the restrooms accessible to handicapped persons, a state requirement for public buildings. Additional office space to accommodate the health nurse and county agent is being added at the same time, Judge Don McElligott said, to save cost of adding space later on.

In other business, the Court:

-approved a lease agreement for a pup trailer being used by the Road Dept.

-received a letter of thanks from the Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism committee for sponsoring a wiener roast for the junior high litter team.

-approved state highway department plans for a section of the Cecil Bridge.

-held an executive session regarding personnel.

-approved rental rates for the conference room at the Pettyjohn Bldg. The county rents the conference room for use by the Extension Service. Other agencies using the conference room agreed to reimburse the county, but have not voluntarily done so. The rates will be $25/day, $15/half day, $3.25/hour, with a minimum fee of $10.

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Drowning investigation closed

The case involving the drowning of a Portland man at Portland General Electric's Carty Reservoir in Boardman is closed, Morrow County District Attorney Rick McNerney announced.

Philip D. Pestes, 57, a PGE auditor who periodically visited the Boardman facility to look at books, was found floating in the 1,450-acre pond next to the cogeneration plant August 25.

District Attorney Rick McNerney said the case is closed. He said that the only thing he and Oregon State Police could conclude was that the man drowned.

The man, who had worked for PGE since 1979, would have access to the area near where he was found, police said, although the area was off limits to the general public. His car was found about 200 yards from the body.

Dave Eagon, information officer for PGE's Portland office told the "Boardman Enterprise" that Pestes was on a routine assignment in Boardman when the death occurred.

Moonlight Sale slated

The Heppner Merchants Committee met last Friday at noon at the Wagon Wheel to discuss the upcoming Moonlight Sale and start planning for St. Patrick's Day.

The Moonlight Sale is slated for October 30, the night before Halloween.

An organizational meeting for the St. Patrick's Day committee will be held sometime in October, the date to be announced later. An early meeting of the committee was decided upon so that advertising and other arrangements may be made early so as to make the 1987 St. Patrick's Day celebration the best ever.

Conservation program will have ripple effect on county

By Avon Melby

The new Conservation Reserve Program will benefit some farmers, but will have an adverse effect for many business people and residents of South Morrow County. The same effect will be felt in any farming area where agriculture, in wheat, is the main base of economic life of the community.

Fred Lundin, Morrow County extension agent, said Thursday there is a total of 75,000 acres of Morrow County land in the new program. Since the law allows a possible CRP 125,000 acre signup in the county, there may be that many when the signup period of five years is over in 1991.

Each signup represents a contract with the government to keep that land out of farming for 10 years. The farmer is paid $50 per acre, per year. A cost-sharing program provided by the government is used to seed the land to grass, and to keep the weeds out. The grass cannot be used for grazing, just to avoid erosion. Hunting is the only activity allowed on CRP land.

This land bid in at $50 per acre. Cost of farming it is estimated at $183 per acre. "That means," Lundin told the women of Heppner Soroptimist Club, the difference of $133 per acre won't be spent for all the things the farmer buys to produce his crop." It means that if 75,000 acres are not farmed, the local economy loses $5 million per year.

Most of the acres in the program are in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione areas. Some are whole farms. "Many of these farmers will not spend their $50 here, they will become absentee land owners," Lundin said. Many will travel, go south for the winter, visit children in other states. Some of the farms were put in by absentee owners. This means those who farmed the land are out of a job, and many will not be here to purchase things at local store, or use local services. The money paid for the land in CRP will go to the absentee owner. If the farm is not paid for, the money will go to the mortgage holder.

"I think this loss is going to have a lot of effect on the communities. The ripple effect will cause others in the area to lose jobs because of lack of money being spent in the local economy," Lundin said. "Grocery stores and shoe stores, insurance agents, clothing stores, doctors and lawyers will feel the effect.

"Tourism will help," Lundin, who is chairman of the tourism committee for the Chamber of Commerce, noted. "We need to promote the local things we have to draw tourists." Each family that camps in the area spends an average $100 per day. Kinzua is a valuable asset to Heppner. Boeing is doing more development and is drawing more workers. Ione people are promoting construction of a road to Boardman. This may draw some of those workers to the South Morrow area. We should encourage cottage industry. There are many local talents here not being used. "We should promote our natural resources to draw more people here to live. There are a lot of professions now where people can work where they please. We could offer services to people like that, and retirees. We have good doctors and hospital, schools and library and an outstanding museum.

Natural resources include facilities for hunting, fishing, parks. A Park District in the south county now wants to develop an RV park on Willow Lake.

"A theme is important in any town," he said: "In recognition of the established St. Patrick's Day celebration, the Tourism Committee thinks it should be "Heppner - Oregon's Little Ireland."

The Tourist Committee will be working with the state in putting out brochures and obtaining highway signs. Information about the county will be included in state promotion for next year's tourists, and at entry points to the state.

Representatives of other organizations in the county are wanted to serve on the tourism committee, Lundin said. Anyone interested may contact him at 676-9642.

September 16 School Budget Election Statistics	Boardman	Ione	Irrigon	Lexington	Heppner/ Hardman	TOTAL
Percentage Increase in voter turnout over August 12 School Budget Election	30%	17%	29%	24%	11%	22%
Percentage of registered voters casting ballots September 16 election.	68%	90%	67%	87%	77%	74%

Of Ore. Co. Clerks Assoc.

Bloodsworth elected Secretary

Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth was elected secretary of the Association of Oregon County Clerks at a conference in Bandon, Oregon, September 10-13.

As secretary, her duties will include attending and taking minutes at association executive board meetings. "It's an honor to be selected," the clerk said, "this will start me through the chairs."

Bloodsworth joins the following slate of officers: President Chris Childs of Gilliam County, First Vice President Charles Stern of Yamhill County, Second Vice President Reta Kerry of Columbia County, and Treasurer Dean Fouquette of Umatilla County.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

September 16 - September 2315	High	Low	Precip
Tues.	65	46	.02
Wed.	61	42	.34
Thurs.	65	40	0
Fri.	64	44	.05
Sat.	58	41	.10
Sun.	66	42	0
Mon.	72	41	0

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, September 23

Soft White

Sept.	$2.71
Oct.	$2.73/$2.75
Nov	$2.77/$2.79
Dec.	$2.81/$2.83
Jan	$2.85/$2.87

Barley

Sept.	$73
Oct..and Nov.	$74

PIK

Generic 116% cash certificates