

G-T azette Times

VOL 105 NO. 30 Wednesday, July 29, 1987 Heppner 25¢ 12 Pages

Landfill contract approved

Morrow County and Tidewater Barge Lines have reached agreement on a per-ton fee the company will pay if a large-scale landfill is located in the county. Tidewater will pay 75 cents per ton per year for the first 600,000 tons trucked to the landfill, to cover wear and tear on roads. The fee will increase to \$1 per ton for amounts of 1 million tons and 1.2 million tons, respectively.

Tidewater is proposing that a

600-acre landfill be built in Morrow County that could handle up to 2,500 tons of waste per day collected from communities along the Columbia River.

The Morrow County Court last week approved a condition use permit that would allow the landfill, however, Tidewater must still gain approval for the project from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Contracts with cities for waste disposal have not been signed, but Tidewater is presently talking with Clatsop County and the Metropolitan Service District in Portland about providing disposal service.

Under the plan Tidewater would barge the waste up river to the Port of Morrow at Boardman. From there the garbage would be trucked to the landfill site at Finley Buttes, approximately 16 acres south of Boardman off Bombing Range Road.

Life of the landfill would be approximately 25 years and the dump would not accept toxic waste, Tidewater officials say.

Committee ponders architect

By Avon Melby

Choosing an architect for remodeling Heppner Hotel into a Senior Citizen housing center has kept a committee busy this month. Eighteen applications for the position have been received, with six of those interested coming to town to look at the building.

A committee of council members and Senior Citizens, along with Fred Toombs of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, are studying the resumes. Five of the finalists were chosen this week, out of the 18 applying. A final meeting Thursday will determine which ones should come for interviews. The interviews are planned for next week, with the final choice to be made then.

The named architect will make final plans for the remodeling and it will probably be four months before bid for construction can be let, according to Bill Kuhn, City Attorney, Kuhn is spearheading the remodeling project for the City of Heppner.

Construction is to be funded by a state grant of \$500,000 and a loan the city will take out at a local bank.

Final cost is expected to be close to \$1 million.

Sunday fire devours grassland

By Avon Melby

Heppner volunteer firemen were called out to fight a fire on Rhea Creek Sunday. The fire consumed several hundred acres of grassland and a small amount of wheat land. Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine said the blaze was reported at 3:40 p.m. when Undersheriff Verlin Denton spotted smoke from six miles away and drove over to see what was causing it. He called the fire department in Heppner on his two-way radio. Three trucks were sent out.

Burkenbine said numerous ranchers responded with spray containers on pickup trucks. Wind carried the blaze up steep canyons where it was impossible to get at. Fire was difficult to control in the rough terrain. Wayne Seitz brought his spray plane from Sand Hollow and helped get it eventually under control, about 6 p.m.

Burkenbine said the fire probably started in what was a barn. Neither

Robert Jones nor his son Michael were home at the time of the fire. Burkenbine said Robert Jones owns the land, Michael lives on it.

The barn/shed was burned up but fire was kept from the house.

Firefighters were called back to the scene later Sunday for a short time.

Fish hatchery dedicated

By Joyce Hensley

It all began in 1980 when two college students, Leslie and Bruce Shafer, camped along the Columbia River, about three miles west of Irrigon, testing the ground water. They found the water temperature was perfect for a fish hatchery.

From that beginning, the Irrigon Fish Hatchery started taking shape. The completed \$8.5 million hatchery was dedicated Saturday, with several visiting and local dignitaries giving short speeches to a standing room only crowd.

Colonel James Royce, Commander of the Walla Walla District of the Army Corps of Engineers; Wally Steuke, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland; and Rolie Rousseau, assistant director of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife, Portland, agreed on the success of the combined efforts of the Lower Snake River Plan; the Oregon Fish and Wildlife, budgeting and maintenance; and the Corps of Engineers, designing and overseeing construction, to compensate for fish losses caused by four dams on the lower Snake River.

"The team effort is a success today," said Steuke. He challenged the agency's to continue working together in these kind of programs.

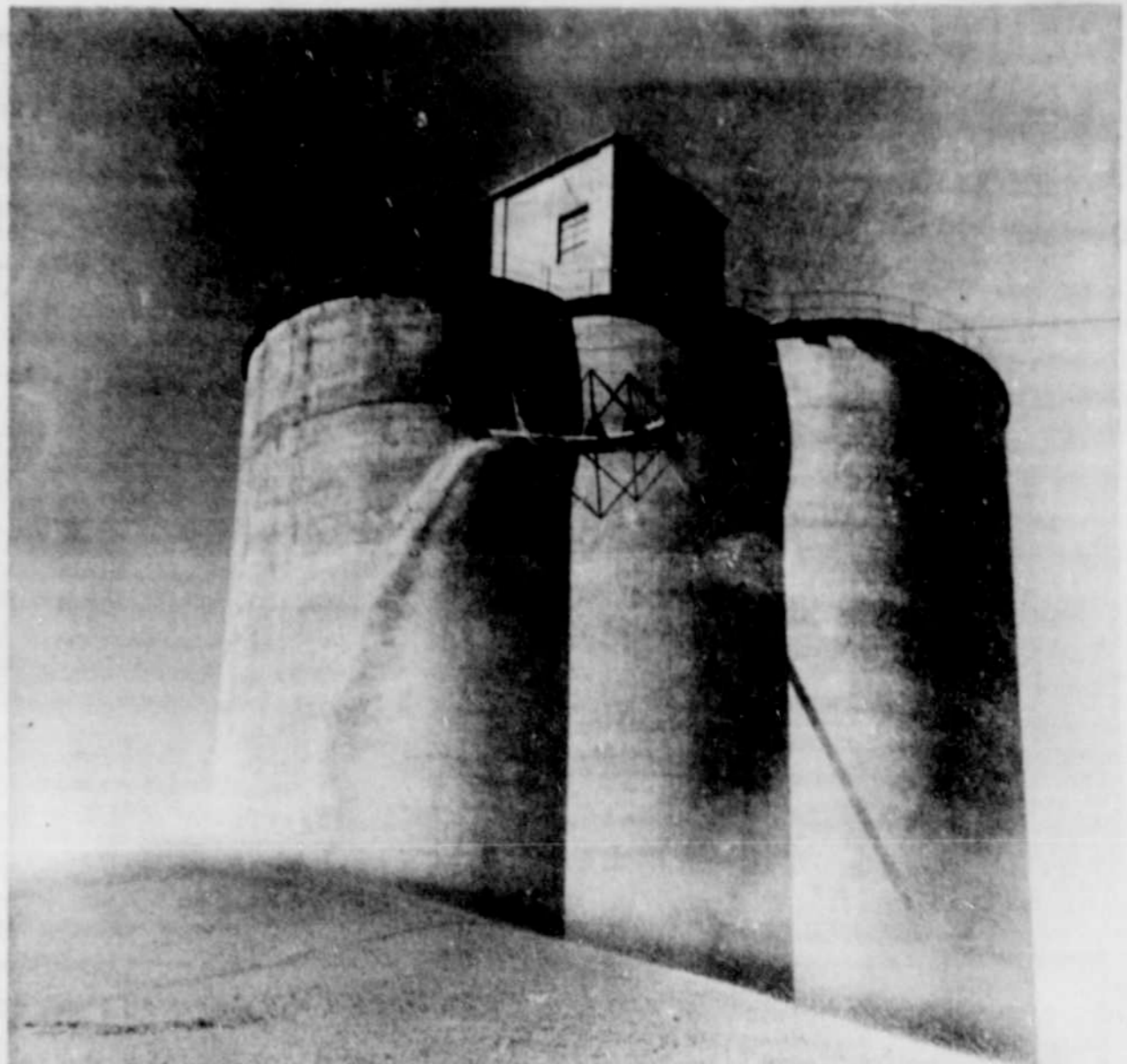
Louis Carlson, Morrow County Judge, congratulated the team on a job well done, and urged for continuing cooperation for growth in the area.

The Irrigon Hatchery is fourth in production level in a group of 35 hatcheries operated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Six years ago the fish runs were hitting bottom, but the last two years there has been record steelhead run, according to Bonneville Power Company, who have been keeping records over the last fifty years," said Colonel Royce.

The hatchery rears 1.5 million smolt annually with a goal of 11,000 of those returning as adult fish. "This year there were 4,000 returned to the Grande Rhonde and Imnaha River system," said Steuke.

One reason for the increase in numbers of returning adult fish is the help the smolt get in their journey past the turbines in dams, to the ocean. Colonel Royce explained, "Fifteen million smolt have been caught and tagged at the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River; the Little Goose Dam; and at McNary



North Lexington Elevator

Wheat yields may be best ever

The county's harvest is well past the halfway mark, and the Grain Growers should have adequate storage for the crop Manager Larry Mills said Monday.

Some grain is already being stored on the ground at North Lexington and space may be a bit tighter than

we thought because per acre yields may be the highest they've ever been, he said. We're hearing some fantastic yields—up to 70 bu/acre wheat on dryland single summer fallow—though most is in the 50 bu/acre range. Barley yields are reported at 2T per acre or better.

Quality is good. Just 10 years ago, the county average was 13 bushels of wheat per acre.

Recent fires and rain have caused some delays, but another two weeks should about wind things up.

Prices seem to be holding about the same as last year, so even with the ground bid into the Conservation Reserve Program, the better crop should help farmers and the rest of the community, he said.

Grant would help county buy bus

By Avon Melby

Morrow County plans to apply for a grant for purchase of a new bus for use by Senior Citizens, the handicapped, and others under the Rural Transit Assistance program now being funded by the state.

Judge Louis Carlson, along with Marsha Sweek, coordinator for Senior Citizens, are spearheading the effort. The grant for purchase of the buses is 100 percent of the cost, Carlson said. Cigarette tax money the county receives will provide 50 percent of the operation of the buses, and another grant the county is applying for will provide the remaining 50 percent. "The program will not cost the county anything," Carlson said.

Two buses have been in use in the county for Seniors for several years. The bus at Heppner is quite new. The one at Irrigon is old and needs to be replaced.

Under the new program the buses will become more of an all-community facility. The program includes the Dial-a-Bus program and

Continued P. 2

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

July 21 - 27		
	High	Low Prec.
Tues.	85	60 02
Wed.	68	48 01
Thurs.	82	55 0
Fri.	86	57 01
Sat.	85	52 0
Sun.	88	48 0
Mon.	85	49 0

Market Report

Commodities of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, July 28	
Soft White	
July	\$2.84
Aug.	\$2.85
Sept.	\$2.87
Oct.	\$2.89
Barley	
July	\$83
Aug.	\$84
Hard Red Winter	
Aug.	\$2.86
PIK	
Generic Certificates	107% cash



A group of guests look for sturgeon in the showing pond at the Irrigon Fish Hatchery dedication Saturday.

Dam, then barged or trucked down the Columbia past the Bonneville Dam where they are then returned to the river.

Spring and Fall Chinook Salmon are also being reared in the Irrigon hatchery, through cooperation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, to enhance the salmon runs in the Umatilla River system.

A major problem that has developed is with the output of the large wells, according to Ray Hill, Superintendent of the Irrigon hatchery since 1984. "The wells aren't producing as anticipated," he said. Water was close to the critical stage during the last hatching and rearing cycle.

Continued page two



Break In

A burglar broke the front window of Murray's Drug Store sometime Sunday night. Drugs were the only items missing from the store, Heppner Police said. The Main Street store was last broken into in May; drugs were stolen at that time also. Heppner Police are continuing the investigation.