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

The Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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Everyone should learn to play Loo

AS I SEE IT

By Ed Glenn

Some folks don't play cards. Most do, though, and some of them play Loo. I don't but I should learn.

Loo's a gambling game, like Poker or Black Jack. You can play Pinochle without gambling, but not Loo. Loo's different than Poker. You can play Poker with pennies if you want, but you have to play Loo with big money and you can't ever tell just how much it will take. Lots is all I know.

Like I say, I don't know how to play Loo. But I do watch sometimes, on Friday afternoons, at an otherwise quiet little watering hole between Boardman and Heppner. That weekly game has been going on for years, generations maybe, and has seen all manner of players, from the common laborer to judge. Mostly it's ranchers and farmers, but then that part of the county is mostly ranchers and farmers, isn't it?

Loo seems to be a social game too. I hear a lot of gossip while the cards are being shuffled. There's some talk about farming and ranching of course, but the talk is mostly gossip. Who's doing what to whom, things like that.

And politics, I hear a lot of talk about political things. You know who the next president should be, what the present one is doing wrong, who we ought to get in a war with and such.

It was at a Friday afternoon Loo game that I learned that the Port of Morrow was Boardman's Port and that little of what the Port was about benefitted the south end of the county. I was surprised to learn that this belief is widely held. That surprise was softened when I remembered that it is widely believed that Morrow County government is really Heppner's government and that little of what Morrow County is about benefits the north end.

As I see it, geography and population will always combine to favor one area more or less than another in whatever endeavor we pursue. Progress will require that we overcome the petty jealousy we may have for our neighbors. If we fail to overcome that jealousy, stagnation and decline will be our lot.

It's like crediting our skill when winning at Loo, and blaming our losses on the "unlucky chair."

Letters to the Editor

Some alternatives to health care in Morrow County

To the Editor:

As one who was deeply involved in the process this past year I certainly realize the sensitive nature of the subject of health care in Morrow-County, yet I feel it is time again to face some hard realities. Possibly if we all take a reasonable look at the future we will be able to avoid the bitterness that so often characterized last year's discussions.

It will soon be time for the County Medical Board to prepare budgets for the 1988-89 fiscal year. We will be asked to vote on the medical services levy in the spring. Unless some very hard choices are made soon to change the present course it is not hard to predict what is going to be asked of us.

Even with the lease of the North Morrow Medical Center to St. Anthony Hosptial (which if it works, should effectively eliminate this entity from the tax roles), the promised upgrading of North-end services must continue. This will include a quick response vehicle and building for Irrigon, lease payments on an ambulance and building in Boardman, as well as the general operations subsidies neded for both communities. The tax dollars needed for these items should be substantially less than the $175,000.00 approved for the North-end this past year. For the sake of this discussion let's estimate the cost at $125,000.00.

This brings us to the projected needs in South-end medical care. At the meeting of the Medical Board on November 2nd it was revealed that Pioneer Memorial Hospital is operating at a loss of about $10,000.00 per month even after the $224,000.00 (these figures are rounded off) tax subsidy is figured in. If revenues and expenses continue at the present level the Hospital will see a $120,000.00 loss this fiscal year. At the same time efforts to recruit a permanent doctor for Heppner continue, although nothing was said in the public portion of the meeting about the progress in these efforts or how a new doctor would be compensated.

One explanation for the Hospital's shortfall was brought out at the Medical Board meeting. The previous Hospital Board submitted a budget predicting a doubling of the average patient load (from 1.5 to 3 per day) and a corresponding increase in revenues. Since the patient load has remained steady so far this year the extra revenues have not been realized. Board members reasoned that the loss of two doctors this past summer explains why the patient load has not increased. Yet, in the previous year, with both doctors in full-time practice, the patient load stayed at 1.5 per day. An A.P. article in The Oregonian on November 4th seems to provide a better explanation. It said that health planners say that "a hospital now needs about one bed for every 1,000 residents in the region served." If this is true we should not expect Pioneer Hospital to ever exceed an average of about 2 patients per day.

What does all this mean for the levy request next spring? It means that unless a major effort is made soon to reduce or eliminate the hospital's expenses we can expect a subsidy request nearly double of last year's, about $440,000.00. And this still does not allow money to subsidize a doctors practice or to provide any direct emergency services to Ione or Lexington. Combined with our North-end estimate we may face a levy request near $565,000.00, a 41% increase in one year.

As hard as it is to accept, it seems that the hospital is a luxury we cannot afford. In fact, the maintenance of the hospital may be a hindrance to meeting the genuine medical needs in South County. The cost of providing and staffing a well equipped medical center, a quality ambulance service (Heppner's vehicles will need replacing in the not-so-distant future), and, hopefully, a quality nursing home may reasonably be within our means if we are not also asked to support the hospital.

If changes are not made, and my predictions come true, we can expect another bitter North-South battle in the months to come. I call on the people of Morrow County to carefully consider the situation and let the Medical Board and the County Court know how you want them to represent you. Maybe we will be able to attain peace before the new war begins.

Sincerely,
(s) Rev. Steven Rowe
Boardman

Yes there is a Humane Society here

To the Editor:

Yes. there is a Humane Society Here.

Pioneer Humane Society (under several names) has served Umatilla and Morrow counties since 1975..twelve years..yet it's volunteers frequently hear: "I didn't know we had a Humane Society!"

The phone number in Heppner is 676-9709.

The society's board of seven, and approximately 20 active volunteers offer these services: Advertisement of lost and found animals in newspapers and two radio programs; a spay/neuter program tied to membership; advice and assistance re: Oregon Humane Law, animal care, cruelty etc.; three experienced investigators; inexpensive pet-tags and a pet-find file and program; euthanasia of sick, injured, unplaceable animals, private home care of strays, emergencies only.

To fund the society, we depend upon the response of the public to our assistance in the form of memberships and donations. Funding requires an income of between $250 and $300 per month. To supplement the amount received from memberships and contributions, we show a fund-raising motion picture in early summer, and we have raffles and yard sales at other times.

The board thanks the merchants and individuals in Heppner whose work and donations made our most recent yard sale a success. The proceeds will fund the Society's work about one month.

"One membership from each household" is encouraged. With such support the socitey would be able to build one or more shelters almost immediately. Annual membership is $10. The address is Pioneer Humane Society, Box 361, Hermiston, Or. 97838.

Sincerely,
(s) Rose Hoosier, President

Heppner Police Report

The Heppner Police Dept. reports handling the following business during the past week:

November 2-9:11 a.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff Dept.; 10:11 a.m.-report of Suspicious Vehicle; 11:55 a.m.-serve City Citation Dog Complaint; 6:03 p.m.-report of Theft.

November 5-9:55 a.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff Dept.; 9:27 p.m.-citation issued for Violation of the Basic Rule (35 mph in a 25 zone).

November 6-12:20 p.m.-dog complaint-Grade School; 2:41 p.m.-Motorist Assist.

November 7: 7:18 p.m.-Motorist Assist.

November 8-12:18 p.m.-assist Fire Dept. Two Juveniles referred; 8:31 p.m.-Motorist Assist; 11:30 p.m.-citation issued for Illegal "U" Turn; 11:50 p.m.-report of Suspicious Vehicle.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the week:

Nov. 2: Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy delivered message to Boardman area; Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy responded to a complaint at Wilson Trailer Court.

Nov. 3: Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatched the Boardman Ambulance to a residence in Boardman for unknown illness. Transported one female to Good Shepherd Hospital; Deputy responded to Hwy. 730 where he located a truck leaking diesel. Citation was given for Leaking or Sifting load to wit Diesel Fuel.

Nov. 4: Morrow County Deputy responded to the Lexington area. Had a report of two suspicious people. Report was unfounded: Morrow County Deputy assisted Boardman Police Department in an arrest. One male was arrested for Assault IV-Domestic.

Nov. 5: Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to assist Boardman Police Department investigate a complaint of persons causing a disturbance at a local Boardman business.

Nov. 6: Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the Dodge City Inn in Boardman. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital; Morrow County Sheriff's Office located an animal problem on Wilson Road; Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted Oregon State Police investigate a two vehicle accident on I-84, creating an animal problem. No one was injured.

Nov. 7: Morrow County Sheriff's Office assisted Boardman Police Department investigate a report of an alarm at a local Boardman business; Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to the Irrigon area and investigated a family disturbance. No action was taken; Morrow County Sheriff's Office recovered a stolen vehicle out of Walla Walla. Vehicle was returned to legal owner.

Nov. 8: Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatched Heppner Fire Dept. to a local Heppner business. Fire was extinguished; Morrow County Sheriff's Office assisted Boardman Police Dept in the arrest of Mark Louis Acheson, 31, of Boardman for violation of restraining order. He posted bail and was released.

Nov. 9: Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Victor Pacheco Ramirez, 39, Boardman, for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice Court in the courthouse Annex reports handling the following business during the past week:

Patrick Kay Schwarz, Heppner-violation of cooperative road closure agreement, $46 fine.

Todd Ryan Lindsay, Lexington-exceeding the maximum speed, 65 in a 55 mph zone, $17 fine.

Albert John Cason, Heppner-Excessive tire noise, $24 fine.

John Melvin Healy, Heppner-No vechicle license, $13 fine; No operator license, $13 fine.

Ivy Nadine Lundgren, Heppner-Theft II $487 fine and 30 days in jail, $300 and 30 days suspended on conditions imposed by judge. Make restitution by Nov. 10.

Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital reports admitting and discharging the following patients during the past week:

D.R. Tash, Heppner-admitted Nov. 2, discharged Nov. 6.

Bruce Bothwell, Heppner-admitted Nov. 3; discharged Nov. 9.

Lucy McCurry, Heppner-admitted Nov. 5; still receiving care as of press time.

Joyce Buchanan, Lexington-admitted Nov. 8; transported on Nov. 8.

Births

Chelsy Rachel Rhodes-a daughter Chelsy, was born October 31 to Lori and Brian Rhodes of Central Point.

Grandparents are Ladd Dick, Oak Harbor, WA.; Gwen Corder, Shady Grove, OR; Lanay and Lola Rhodes, Eagle Point, Or.

Great-grandparents are Ed and Rachel Dick, Heppner; Alvin and Alice Ochner, Portland; Edna Forsyth, Lincoln City.

Jace Anthony Jones-a son, Jace was born October 29, 1987 to Mark and Jocelyn Jones of Ione at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz.

Grandparents are Tim and Helen Kirtley, Portland; Linda Tipton, Fresno, Calif.; Andrew Jones, Pismo Beach, Calif.

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OREGON LOTTERY

Court Street Market
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Western Family Whole or Stewed Tomatoes 16 oz. - reg. 65¢ — 2 for 99¢
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Texaco Antifreeze Gallon — $3.99 ea.
Pepsi & Diet Pepsi 12 pack-12 oz. — $3.99 + dep
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