

BESSIE WETZELL
U OF ORE
NEWSPAPER LIB
EUGENE OR 97403

The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

G-T azette times

VOL 106 NO. 15 Wednesday, April 6, 1988 Heppner 25¢ 10 Pages

Easter Bunny visits Heppner



The Easter Bunny has a big hug for Jodi Birkby. Trevor (R) and Macy Rhea (behind) watch egg hunters at the City Park on Saturday.



Kyle Huddleston, age 16 months, son of Mark and Janice Huddleston of Beaverton.

Pioneer Picnic is May 29

The Pioneer Picnic will go on as planned this year, even though there is no host family designated last year for this year's event," says Barbara Bloodworth, Morrow County Historical Society member. The date is Sunday, May 29.

The McElligott family has been chosen for 1989 and the Historical Society is seeking a family to host for 1990. Anyone interested in chairing this may contact either Delpha Jones or Ruth McCabe.

More details on this upcoming event will follow at a later date.

Beef Referendum meeting

Check the facts about the beef checkoff at the Beef Referendum Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Conference Room, Wednesday, April 13. Anyone interested in helping with the passage of the Beef Check-Off or who has questions they would

like to have answered is welcome. If checkoff programs can convince consumers to eat just one more bite of beef per day, this additional consumption translates into one million head of cattle. Advertising and research is essential.

Small Business Development Center sponsors seminar

The Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center co-sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, is co-sponsoring a seminar entitled "It Does Make a Difference", to be held at the Heppner Elks Club, April 19 beginning at 7:30 p.m. and lasting until 9 p.m. The seminar is free of charge and sign up forms are available from Nancy Brownfield,

Dave Sykes, Ann Spicer or Claudia Hughes.

This is not a "sit and listen" seminar. It is a "come and participate in problem-solving" seminar. This will be an opportunity for you to help create a program you can present to your employees to help make customers feel more at home and shop at home.

Reduced fee blood testing offered

Pioneer Memorial Hospital will celebrate National Laboratory Week April 11-15, by offering a combined profile of Cardiac Risk Factors, Blood Cell Count and Thyroid Screening with their Comprehensive Chemistry Profile at a markedly reduced charge.

The combined profiles provide the physician with one of the most complete possible chemistry analysis of a patient's blood.

A physician's order to have the tests performed are not required during National Laboratory Week. The service will be offered on a cash only basis for \$20. Patients will have their blood drawn at Pioneer Memorial Hospital between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Alcohol and fatty foods should be omitted for three days prior to testing, and no breakfast should be eaten before testing.

Patients will receive their lab results by mail no later than April 23.

Dr. Thiessen will again present an interpretation of the lab results on Saturday, April 23, at 10 a.m. at the PMH laboratory as part of this service. Everyone is encouraged to attend this informational session.

Anyone with questions, call 676-9133, for more information.

MCGG purchases Pettyjohn Oil

Pettyjohn Oil of Ione has announced the sale of their bulk fuel delivery business in Morrow and Gilliam County to M.C.G.G. The sale includes the bulk plants in Ione and Heppner plus their retail outlet on Main Street in Ione. Two of Pettyjohn's key employees, Wayne Hams and Sonny Biddle will be working for M.C.G.G. providing the same timely and courteous service that they have over the years. To help enhance the Ione business area and to improve service M.C.G.G. will move its fertilizer and chemical department office and chemical inventory into the Pettyjohn building where they will also handle Mobil oils and greases and the other items previously stocked by Pettyjohns.

The Pettyjohn family stated that they are happy to have been able to sell their long standing business to a company as well known and reliable as M.C.G.G. They wish to extend their sincere appreciation to their many loyal customers for their support over the years and they would hope that their customers would support M.C.G.G. in this transition.

Day Care meeting Apr. 13

There will be a Heppner Day Care membership meeting to be held Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Day Care Center. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

| | High | Low | Prec. |
|--------------------|------|-----|-------|
| March 29 - April 4 | | | |
| Tues. | 49 | 31 | .0 |
| Wed. | 52 | 30 | .0 |
| Thurs. | 63 | 35 | .0 |
| Fri. | 72 | 48 | .05 |
| Sat. | 65 | 33 | .16 |
| Sun. | 60 | 33 | .20 |
| Mon. | 51 | 35 | .01 |

Impact of budget cuts will be felt by public

In the aftermath of voter rejection of the Morrow County operating levy of March 22, Morrow County officials and the Budget Committee met in a workshop session during County Court meetings last week to assess the rejection of the levy. Department heads and agencies funded by the County were also present at these sessions.

The conclusions reached from these meetings led the Court to make program and personnel cuts that would insure a significant impact on the budget. Areas impacted reduce Courthouse employees, Road Department employees, reduce new positions proposed in the new budget, capital outlay equipment and improvements, and cuts were made in all agencies funded by tax dollars.

The Morrow County Court made the following cuts in the 1988-89 budget:

General Fund
Personal Services-1 Appraiser position; 1 Assessment Clerk; 1 Museum position; 1 Deputy Sheriff; 1/2 Accounting Clerk; Extra help; overtime; 1 Conservation Tech from Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
Percentage cuts were made in these Supported Agencies
Predatory Animal Damage Control; Mental Health; Weed Control District; Senior Services; Human Services (Neighborhood Council); Extension Service; Watermaster.
Capital Outlay-1 new vehicle, building improvements.
Total General Fund Reduction: \$209,038.

Road Fund
Personal Services: 1 Tandem Driver position; 1 Light Equipment Operator position; 1 General Labor position; Savings on part time office

help, extra help, overtime.
Materials & Services-Dust Abatement.

Capital Outlay-Replacement of a piece of equipment.
Total Road Fund Reduction: \$187,222.

Other Road District Funds
A reduction in the Road Fund causes a reduction in the other road districts fund (Cities portion of Road Fund):

Total Other Road District Reduction: \$6,983.

Motor Pool Fund: Total Reduction: \$2,000

Mental Health Fund: \$1,000.

Total reduction of the 1988-89 budget: \$406,243;

Total reduction of the 1988-89 levy: \$354,513;

Total reduction of estimated tax Total Reduction of Estimated Tax Rate: .44/1000 valuation.

Judge interviews departments on budget cuts

Morrow County voters turned back the operating serial levy last week. The Gazette-Times wanted to know the impact of a \$331,000 cut on the budget will mean to the citizens of Morrow County. Judge Carlson interviewed the departments and agencies affected by the cuts. Here is the copy of the interviews that the Judge conducted.

Assessors Office

JUDGE: "Greg (Sweek Assessor), you have been trying to get the Morrow County property assessment on cycle and on the tax rolls in a current manner. What affect will losing one appraiser and a part-time clerk have on the county valuation and what affect will it have on the taxpayer?"

GREG: "If we are to stay in cycle, our appraisers have certain periods of time to work each area of the county. As these areas are worked, and properties are assessed, true cash values are placed on the tax rolls. With one less appraiser, we will not be able to get the valuations on the rolls by July 1, 1988. Consequently, some property owners will not be paying their fair share of taxes. This means an unequal tax load on some people."

JUDGE: "What about service at the counter in the Courthouse?"

GREG: "Since the appraisers will be attempting to assume the additional appraiser work load, more time will be spent in the field and less time in the office answering taxpayers questions. Since we will also be losing a clerk, this will also reduce services. We may be forced to ask people to set up appointments for office calls."

Sheriff's Department

JUDGE: "Roy (Drago, Sheriff), your department has been heavily involved in a number of drug busts in Morrow, and Umatilla County. Your department is being cut one deputy, and one patrol car. Does this mean that you will no longer be working on drug related cases in the future, and what about the patrol car?"

SHERIFF DRAGO: "Obviously we will not be able to spend as much time on drug related cases as we

have most recently. We will do as much as we have time for, but there is no doubt that we will be limited in our effectiveness. This is too bad because we are seeing an explosion in criminal activities related to drugs on the I-84 Corridor, (Boardman, Irigon, Umatilla). As far as the patrol car is concerned, our vehicle dependability is directly proportional to response time and officers safety. We will do the best we can but, I'm afraid it won't be good enough."

Museum

JUDGE: "Alma (Green), you are the chairman of the museum board. You should be commended for one of the finest museums in Eastern Oregon. Because of the recent budget failure, the museum will lose a position. What will be the effect on the operation of the museum?"

ALMA GREEN: "Since there will be only one person on staff on a half-time basis in the museum, it is clear that the doors will be closed a good part of the time. We have been involved in a computer inventory program and also a genealogy inventory program. We would like very much to continue this work but it is pretty obvious that much of the work that has been started will not continue. At this time we are not sure what will happen to the museum."

Soil and Water Conservation

JUDGE: "Bob (Adelman, SCS), previously the SCS technician was funded by the government. Why did they decide not to continue funding this position, and why should the local taxpayers pick up this position?"

BOB ADELMAN: "The United States Department of Agriculture did previously fund this position. The purpose was to assist the farmers to comply with soil conservation requirements. Technical assistance is often required to meet these requirements or run the risk of losing all the benefits from the various conservation programs. The government chose to discontinue this service, and to place that responsibility on the local communities."

"The local Soil and Water Con-

servation District felt that it was their obligation to provide this service to growers in Morrow County, rather than run the risk on non-compliance in many cases. Now that the technical assistant will not be available, that tie between the federal government, and the grower, will be gone. In other words, now it is up to each farmer to make sure that his operation is in compliance with government requirements or default on payments."

Extension Service

JUDGE: "Fred (Lundin, Extension Agent), the Extension Service is very popular here in Morrow County. The County Court has taken some heat for cutting your budget. Will this cut dramatically affect your program, and if so, how?"

FRED LUNDIN: "As you know, the Extension Service is the communicator between Oregon State University, and the citizens of Morrow County. A larger portion of our budget is dedicated to communication by mail. In fact, about \$2,200 is budgeted for letters, news letters, and other mailings. We have had increases in 3rd class postage by 25% this past year. This increase in postage plus, the cut in the budget, will mean that we will not be sending out our composite news letter this spring, nor will we be doing nearly as many other mailings. There will be cuts in other programs as we continue to assess the impact of the budget cut."

Morrow County Road Department

JUDGE: "Three full-time road positions were eliminated by the Court. In addition, part-time office help was eliminated as was \$44,000 worth of capital equipment. Extra help, and overtime also was eliminated. What this means is that snow removal will be done on regular working hours, and when there is a surge of work to do, no part-time help will be available to get the job done."

The County is doing some experimental work on dust abatement on roads such as, Rhea Creek, and North Lexington.

Major reconstruction projects scheduled for future years will be reconsidered until such time as funds are secured. Willow Creek contracts are signed and committed, as well as the Wilson Road project completion. Rock Crushing will continue in various communities until future reductions preclude such expenditures. (The most disturbing part is that, future long range plans for paving, and reconstruction associated with forest highway, and federal highway administration projects may be in jeopardy because of matching money."

The Judge Interviews.....



Sheriff Roy Drago (l) is interviewed by Judge Carlson about how the cost cuts affect his department.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, April 5
Soft White

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Apr. | \$3.24 |
| May | \$3.25 |
| June | \$3.26 |
| July | \$3.27 |
| Aug. | \$3.28 |
| Sept. | \$3.29 |
| | Barley |
| Apr. | \$84 T |
| May-Forward | \$85 T |
| PIK | 101 % |

HOLDERS OF PORT OF MORROW BONDS

Series

1981A, 1981B and 1981C
Check For Notice of Redemption
With Your Broker

BANK OF Eastern Oregon
Arlington • Heppner • Ione
"Your Money Helping Your Neighbors"
MEMBER F.D.I.C.