

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

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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Problems left unsolved for new year

To the Editor:

Regarding the unfinished problems coming forward into the new year. The north part of county at this point of time has no doctor in residence in Boardman or Irrigon. Yet the south part of county has two doctors in residence plus a hospital within close range. Also the medical board and county court who oversees the problems of total county does nothing to correct the poor management.

Also there seems to be no problem in asking the taxpayers in north part of county to keep on paying for this above described services. Therefore the people in north part is paying for medical services not available to them.

For a long time Irrigon residents have had no relief from this problem. At this time Boardman is in same shape as Irrigon.

During this long period of time Umatilla county has received the local residents plus taking in the older people at Hermiston Care Center. Morrow County is not taking care of their own residents. We need a change now. Perhaps we should pay our taxes to Umatilla County.

(s) Murray J. Findlay
Boardman, OR 97818

Obituary

Beulah Myers Hulden Rankin

Beulah Myers Hulden Rankin, 100, of Portland, a longtime Gilliam County resident died Sunday, Jan. 1, 1989 at Gresham.

Mrs. Rankin, who celebrated her 100th birthday last year, was born Oct. 17, 1888 in Oil City, Penn., to David and Clara Myers. The family moved to Salem when she was 6 months old and she grew up in Salem.

In 1912, she married Ed Hulden in Salem. The couple moved to Heppner then to Blalock in 1916. They operated a ranch at Blalock and later, Hulden Motors and Farm Machinery in Arlington. Hulden died in 1959.

She married Robert Rankin, a Portland attorney, in 1961. He died in 1964. Following his death, she moved back to Arlington until five years ago, when she moved to a retirement home in Portland.

She was a 50-year member of Jasmine Chapter of Eastern Star, a member of the Arlington Methodist Church and a former member of the Portland Town Club.

Survivors include a son, Walter, of Arlington; eight grandchildren; and a sister, Essie Blower of Salem. A son, Robert, died in 1988.

A memorial service will be held later in Arlington. Funeral service was held at the Rigdon-Ransom Chapel with burial at Belcrest Cemetery in Salem.

Contributions may be made to the Arlington Methodist Church memorial fund.

Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff's department at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

Jan. 8: Morrow County Sheriff's deputy went to the Irrigon area to begin investigation of an animal problem;

Morrow County deputy received complaint and began investigation of vandalism in the Irrigon area;

Morrow County deputy responded to Irrigon area to investigate report of harassment; not as reported, turned out it was a neighborhood disturbance.

Jan. 3: Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to a one vehicle accident at the Port of Morrow exit on I-84, to assist Oregon State Police.

Jan. 4: Morrow County Sheriff's office investigated a theft of property in the lone area.

Jan. 5: Morrow County dispatched the Heppner ambulance to 235 S. Court Street. One female was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Jan. 7: Morrow County Sheriff's office arrested Ronald Smith, 42, of Irrigon on a Morrow County warrant of Failure to Comply with a court order. Subject was released on his own recognizance;

Morrow County Sheriff's office began the investigation of a hit and run reported at the Irrigon Mobile Court. There were no suspects at this time;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to a residence in the Boardman area to investigate a domestic assault. Quirino Madrigal, 40, Boardman, was arrested for Assault IV. Madrigal was lodged at Benton county jail.

Jan. 8: Morrow County Sheriff's office began the investigation at the Kenneth Culver residence to investigate a theft of a horse at Sixmile in Heppner.

During the week of January 2-9, Morrow County deputies assisted no disabled motorists.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Rusty Jake Rodriguez, Heppner-Disobeyed Stop Sign (2), \$104 fine; Laura Wegworth, Heppner-No Operator License, No Insurance, Vehicle License Expired, \$77 fine.

Letters to the Editor

Former school board member questions teacher contract settlement

To the Editor:

As a longtime former school board member of Morrow County I am very distressed by the continuing contract dispute between the teachers and the present school board. These negotiations have been going on since October 1987 and reached an impasse last spring, mainly on these issues; cost of living adjustments, "Fair Share", and a reduction in county paid insurance benefits. The differences were submitted to State mediation and fact finding. When the finding was reached, the teachers accepted it but the board rejected it and since has refused to negotiate. In the meantime, the administrators were given salary increases and a budget was adopted which included enough extra in the personnel section to cover the mediated salary increases.

Several questions come to mind. "Are Morrow County teachers overpaid?" The figures that I've seen show that our teachers are third from the bottom in salaries for this size district. During my terms on the board, we tried to maintain salaries above the sixtieth percentile in order to attract and to hold better teachers in this area. Apparently this philosophy has been abandoned.

"Is Morrow County too poor to pay comparable salaries?" As

recently as ten years ago we were supposed to be one of the top counties in the nation for income per capita and remain one of the top counties in Oregon. And the fact remains that PGE pays over half the property tax in Morrow County and we are still third from the bottom of all Oregon counties in property tax rates paid.

Finally, "are a few board members trying to create an image of themselves as 'Union Busters'?" The lack of discussion or good faith negotiation and particularly the failure to inform the public could lead one to suspect that such is the case. We have always had good labor relations with our teachers and as a result had a willing staff with pride in their work. It would be a shame to lose that over someone's ego.

A lot of time and effort is spent by our people to promote economic development. Can we afford to compete for new industry with a strife torn school district and falling standards of education? Join me in urging the board to settle or at least to go public with the reasons for their inability to compromise.

(s) Don McElligott
Ione, OR

MCEA president attempts to dispel disinformation regarding teachers

To the Editor:

I am writing to dispel some items of disinformation that have appeared in some of the local newspapers and from other sources. These concern salary and insurance benefits for Morrow County teachers.

The Morrow County Education Association did not confirm a demand for a 22% raise. The only demands we have made are for the Board to negotiate in good faith and for an adjustment in compensation for cost-of-living increases that have occurred because of changes in our nation's economy. The Board's standing offer of 0%, 1%, 1% does not meet these demands. Therefore we are at impasse.

Our original salary proposal was made in an attempt to cover the possibility of extreme inflation. Economists are divided in their predictions of what will happen in our future in view of the enormous debt of the United States. Some are predicting the devaluation of the U.S. Dollar. As a bargaining unit we have to apply their projections, so we do not lose purchasing power for an extended period.

Since November of 1987, the MCEA has attempted to negotiate and has moved at least four times on salary proposals. The Board has remained firm in their offer. Essentially we have counterproposed our own counterproposals to get a settlement. Finally, we accepted the neutral fact-finder's report which was paid for by tax monies and the MCEA equally. The Board rejected it.

The other item is insurance coverage. The Board's proposal of a monetary cap rather than the present percentage cap on insurance would require approximately a 5% raise for teachers to break even this year. Their concern that the Oregon Education Association receives kickbacks for our insurance is entirely false. It is a benefit trust in which those who have the coverage in their names receive the benefits.

I would urge all Morrow County citizens to contact the Board members and demand a fair settlement.

Sincerely yours,
C. Maureen McElligott
MCEA President

Heppner Police Report

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

Jan. 1: 2:55 a.m.-report of Fight; 3:07 a.m.-report of Stolen Vehicle; 11:57 a.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department; 3:25 p.m.-citation issued for Illegal U Turn; 8:01 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department.

Jan. 2: 12:36 a.m.-request officer for Security Check.

Jan. 4: 11 a.m.-report of Worthless Document; 11:05 a.m.-report of Worthless Document.

Jan. 5: 12:30 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 12:38 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 6:29 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department; 9:17 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department; 9:53 p.m.-Dog Complaint.

Jan. 6: 11:49 a.m.-assist Umatilla County Sheriff's department; 2 p.m.-report of Worthless Document; 6:37 p.m.-deliver Emergency Message.

Jan. 7: 12:59 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 1:26 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 1:55 a.m.-report of Assault.

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Much To Do

Folks from the country are invited into town this week and folks from town are invited to get better acquainted. And there is so very much to do.

Never have two groups of folks, so much alike, lived so close to each other and misunderstood each other more. Yet they grow further apart day by day, until the very distinction of one is on the horizon.

100 years ago nearly half of the nation's population lived on a farm, ranch or in a logging camp. Direct production of food and fiber was the primary industry.

Now, less than one in fifty is involved in the direct production of food and timber products. Most folks are several generations removed from the land.

The industrial revolution of the last century has today brought Americans to a degree of prosperity unmatched in the entire world. We spend, for example, only 18 percent of our personal income on food, a figure which has been steadily declining every year and promises to continue to decline well into the future. By comparison, the rest of the world often spends 50%, many people 70% just to feed themselves.

It has become so easy to forget the significance of food and timber production that many folks now see the country as a place of beauty.

A herd of white-faced cattle, belly deep in grass, a field of winter wheat waving in the breeze, a stand of pumpkin-yellow pine marching up a mountain slope are beautiful sights indeed. But when we regulate, legislate, govern, restrict and control in an effort to preserve those scenes unaltered in perpetuity, just for their esthetic value, we lose sight of the very foundation of this majestic nation of ours.

Private ownership of land and control of its use is one of the very cornerstones distinguishing us from the nations of the world. Protest over the King's control of every square foot of the realm was one of the driving forces behind the very founding of the United States of America.

That cattle pasture, wheat field and much of that pine forest all belong to someone, someone just like you and me. We should get to know him, break bread with him, laugh at his funny stories and tell him ours, and toast his health and livelihood before we rob him of the very value of his property in the name of preservation.

By Ed Glenn

Willow Creek Dam receives recognition

Willow Creek Dam was one of 68 federal projects scheduled to receive recognition January 10 by the National Endowment for the Arts during the Presidential Design Achievements Award Program held in Pasadena, Cal.

The dam was cited for "excellence in design". The design awards are handed out once every four years.

Projects are chosen from federal projects built from January 1, 1977 through January 1, 1987.

The Corps of Engineers from the Walla Walla District submitted the entry for consideration. A corp member was on hand to receive the award.

There are 20 structures located around the world built of roller compacted concrete. It has been a proven fact, that after curing, the RCC dam is stronger than the regular concrete dam.

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