



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

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

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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Letters to the Editor

Drain the dam for safety

To the Editor:

Safety should be the first consideration in our thinking in regard to the Willow Creek Dam. Recreation and property values should come second. I realize that many city officials and other citizens are worried about the image of Heppner and property values. There are people who feel that to express concern openly, one has to be mentally unbalanced. Frankly, I'm more concerned about the safety of people and my five grandchildren who attend grade school here.

The Willow Creek Dam is an ex-kind. I've been interested in the construction of dams for many years. I structure dams for many years. I was an Army Engineers employee at The Dalles Dam on a special crew in 1962. The dams on the Columbia River are well constructed and have expansion joints. The Willow Creek Dam doesn't have expansion joints. This dam should have been sealed so that the pressure of the water wouldn't have gone through the very porous concrete mix of the roller-packed construction.

I have made water tests with chemical testing paper since last January in Willow Creek, in the lake and in the surrounding creek water leaving the dam. I've also taken tests of the white-coated rocks around the edges of the lake and found they test the same as the water. The tests always resulted in a PH of 8 which is alkali. Alkali can destroy good solid concrete. I've seen this happen to a basement in North Dakota which wasn't sealed on its outer walls from ground water containing alkali.

It seems to me that after having lost so much concrete every year, there should be a large question about trusting this dam. I feel that too much concrete has been lost and if the lake should be filled a lot higher by flash flood water, we could be in trouble. For safety, it might be best to drain the dam and use it as a catcher for flash flood.

I've worked on the electrical system on the Willow Creek Dam in the Spring of 1984, repairing cables that had been accidentally damaged by a contractor. The engineer that tested the electrical equipment following the repair told me he was sure glad he hadn't been in on the design of this dam.

Justice Court Report

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

Carl J.D. Bauman, 42, Anchorage, Alaska-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$13;
Daniel Wayne Sharp, 26, Heppner-Violation of the Basic

Recently, I wrote a letter to Richard H. Cassidy, chief of Reservoir Regulation and Water Quality section for Portland district of U.S. Army Engineers. I told him that I was worried about the safety of the dam because the PH tests I'd taken of the water were 8 which is alkali not acid as they usually claim. I received a letter from chief of the Engineering Division, Steven L. Stockton, stating that they feel the dam is safe and that they'd also gotten a PH of 8 during the summer months due to algae blooms which photosynthetically deplete the supply of carbon dioxide and bicarbonate in surface waters. He said that tests below the surface ranged from 6.7 to 7.0 which is slightly acidic. I personally believe that the alkali water and the use of about 1/2 the normal amount of concrete in the concrete mix was the destructive agent.

After receiving the letter from Steven L. Stockton, I took another test of the creek water below the dam and it was still alkali.

Core samples were taken down through the dam this summer. Personally, unless I could have seen the cores as they were brought up or a trusted group of men saw them, I wouldn't believe what the public will be shown at the meeting at the grade school on the 13th of September at Heppner. Last October in a public meeting at the grade school in Heppner, I asked why no sealant had been used when the dam was contracted and why it didn't have expansion joints and how about alkali. Nothing was ever mentioned about these questions in the accounts about the dam either in the Gazette-Times or E.O. All that was said was that Col. Cowan maintained the dam was safe and that he wouldn't be afraid to live here. I asked some engineers why didn't they move someone here and they said it would be too inconvenient.

I believe the oceanographers and engineers who say the dam isn't safe are right in questioning the safety of the dam. In the past, we've had presidents and high officials lying to us.

Personally, I think we should petition to have the dam drained and used as a catcher for flood water.

Best wishes for Safety,
(s) Charles W. McConnell
Box 455
Heppner

Rule, 42 mph in a 25 mph zone, \$36;
Sheryl Lynn Etchison, 31, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, \$30 fine.

Births

Samantha Ashley Jeppsen-a daughter, Samantha, was born August 29, 1989, to Barbara G. Jeppsen, Boardman at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. They baby weighed 7 lbs.

When is a tax not a tax

To the Editor:

When is a tax not a tax? The theme being used by Democrats regarding the 1989 legislative session is they did not raise taxes. They fail to point out that they increased fees by nearly 170-million dollars. Additionally, they increased spending this biennium by nearly 25-percent or one-billion dollars. Coupled with a 22-percent increase during the previous biennium that makes for a 47-percent increase in state spending during the Goldschmidt administration. How many families receive this kind of increase? Not many, and even if they did they would most likely put that money away for the future rather than spending it all now.

I also find it interesting that Democrats point out that the state will be sending 160-million dollars back to taxpayers, since the Democrats voted several times to spend that money, too, but

Republicans were able to stop that spending spree.

Additionally, The Democrats fail to mention that they mortgaged the state's future by approving approximately 170-million dollars in building construction projects on a "credit card" plan. Those buildings include a new parking structure for bureaucrats and a new building to store paper.

And let's not forget that it was the Democrats that pushed for legislation which would have locked up more forests and cost more jobs in one of Oregon's major industries.

It's a shame that the Democrats can't be open and honest with the people of Oregon. It was only income tax rates that were not increased. The bill for the 1989 legislative spending spree should come due to all Oregonians in the next two years.

Sincerely,
(s) Senator C.T. "Cub" Houck
Senate Republican Leader
Salem, OR 97309

Sheriff's Report

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

August 27: Morrow County deputy responded to a possible prowler or break in at 4th Street West. Call was unfounded.

During the week of August 21-27 Morrow County assisted one disabled motorist in Morrow County.

August 28: Morrow County deputy began investigation of an animal problem in Lexington.

Morrow County deputy received report and began investigation of vandalism to a ranch in the Heppner area. Investigation is continuing.

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area and began investigation of unfamiliar subjects at a neighborhood residence. Investigation is continuing.

August 29: Morrow County deputy began the investigation of theft reported in the Irrigon area.

Morrow County deputy began the investigation of vandalism at the Irrigon park; investigation is continuing.

August 30: Morrow County deputy assisted Children's Services with an investigation.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance to the Asher Clinic for transport of patient with unknown injury.

August 31: Morrow County deputy took a report of a theft in Cecil. Taken was a battery and a headlight off a caterpillar from George Miller. Value is \$200 to equipment and \$50 in damage.

Morrow County deputy responded to the lone area to deliver an emergency message.

Morrow County dispatched the Boardman ambulance to Columbia Avenue to a report of an unknown illness. One male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

September 1: Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to assist Boardman police department at a local business investigate a domestic, male subject armed with weapon. Morrow County Sheriff's office arrested Juan Manuel Maldonado-Omelis, 29, Irrigon, on Assault IV-Domestic and Boardman Police department has charges pending from incident occurring in Boardman.

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to investigate and attempted to locate a possible intoxicated driver report. Call was unfounded.

Morrow County deputy arrested Antelmo Lopez, 18, for Attempted Assault I, three counts. Subject was lodged at Benton County Jail.

September 2: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence in the West Glen Addition in Boardman. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with unknown injuries.

Morrow County deputy responded to a theft of a bicycle on Kunze Road in Boardman. Bike was valued at \$150 and belonged to Chris Garcia. Investigation is continuing.

Morrow County Sheriff's office received a report of an animal problem on 8th St. West, Irrigon. Problem was resolved.

Morrow County deputy responded to assist Boardman Police department on Anderson Road to investigate a Menacing complaint.

September 3: Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted Boardman Police department investigate the complaint of a disturbance at the Nomad Lounge in Boardman.

Morrow County Sheriff's office investigated a one vehicle non injury accident on Hwy 207, milepost 37. Investigation is continuing.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to a residence on 2nd St. Patient was transported to Portland with unknown illness.

September 5: Morrow County Sheriff's office received a report and began investigation of the theft of a

battery and some gasoline from a farm shop in the Boardman area;

Morrow County deputy began investigating a report of a mailbox knocked over in the Irrigon area;

Morrow County Sheriff's office received another report of gasoline missing from the rural Boardman area. Reported was 50 gallons;

Morrow County deputy arrested John Gordon, Goforth, 20, of Irrigon for Assault IV-domestic. He was transported to Benton Co. Jail and lodged;

James Howard Stark, 20, Irrigon was issued a citation to appear for Theft II regarding the thefts of gasoline earlier. A juvenile was also involved.

September 7: Morrow County deputy began investigation of a report of a reckless driver on Wilson road. Investigation is still underway;

Morrow County dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the fire hall to an unknown illness. One male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

September 8: Morrow County arrested James Howard Stark, 20, Irrigon on a Circuit Court warrant for Failure To Pay Fine, Probation Violation, Theft II. He was transported to Benton County Jail where he was lodged;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington Fire department to a grass fire 12 miles south of Arlington on Shutter Flats;

Morrow County Sheriff's office began an investigation regarding a civil problem in lone;

Morrow County Sheriff's office handled an animal problem on Wilson Road. Problem was resolved.

September 9: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on I-84 at milepost 140 (5 miles east of Arlington).

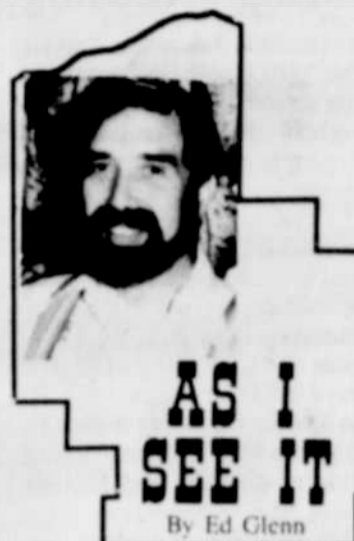
September 10: Morrow County Sheriff's office began the investigation of a hit and run occurring in Irrigon (v) John Cimmiyotti. Amount of damage was unknown at this time. Investigation will be continued.

During the week of September 4 through 10 the Morrow County Sheriff's office had no disabled motorist assists.

Chief Rathbun's Tips

Con artists using the telephone are fleecing the public out of at least \$1 billion annually. So be careful of people on the phone.

A Community Affair



Sending a kid away to college is mostly a parental thing. Mom and Dad do most of the work. The kid does some too, I guess. After all its the kid's future we're talking about.

But Mom and Dad are the main ones. The ones that guide and direct, that work out the finances, that push in one way or another for a course of study or a choice of school or a place to live.

It's mom and dad that work out the family budget. Things like how much the kid will have to work to earn how much and then save how much. And how much the family will have to pay and how. Things like that.

But there are more folks than just mom and dad, (and the kid, himself, but of course he hardly counts in these matters.)

It started way last winter with a high school counselor who started the search for just the right college and worked on the mountain of forms to gain admission. And all the scholarship applications. Then there was that special teacher who encouraged a special scholarship application or some essay contest. Don't forget the school secretary who sent out all those official transcripts.

A half a dozen or so teachers wrote letters of recommendation that made the kid sound like someone else's kid, not the one that hangs around mom and dad's house. The boss where the kid works took time to report on how the kid does there (again not the same kid that doesn't work at home) and the church and library people wrote letters too.

Come graduation, announcements prompted the great array of college bound gifts selected especially for that kind of lifestyle and each one meant that much more relief to the family budget. Many gifts are cash which go right into the college account, as does the kids summer pay check and a little bit out of the grocery account.

As soon as a college is selected, there surfaces an old alumni from somewhere with lots of good advice and encouragement. And a second or third-year student shows up somewhere in town to offer the latest survival tip and a ride home Thanksgiving.

The parents of other college bound kids offer encouragement and you share a new friendship with folks embarked on the same adventure.

By fall, there are a million details to attend and it seems that getting this kid off to college is just more than just mom and dad can handle. Thinking back on all the effort that's gone into the project so far, that would be right. Mom and dad just couldn't do it all alone. But it hasn't been all alone. The whole community has made a little contribution. Marking off all those little things from so many people makes the final task of checking out the kid's suitcase seem much easier.

So while mom and dad are the main ones, they had lots of help getting the kid off to college. I thought maybe that help might go unthanked in the hurry of the last minute details. So not just for Francie and me, but for all the parents of all the kids shipping off to college this fall, let me say thanks, everyone. It's kind of a community affair; we're proud to have supplied the kid, we're thankful for all the help.

When did you say your kid would be off to college? Next year? Well, let me help.

Road Report

By Don Ball, Roadmaster

Gravel roads were spot bladed in Lexington and North Ione areas.

Pot hole patching was continued for the month.

North end work has consisted of cleaning roadside brush and trees with pot hole patching.

Four miles of Upper Rhea Creek was watered and rolled for preparation of paving, to be completed by the end of September.

The Oregon Forest Highway Road, Willow Creek construction phase II for five and nine-tenths miles has been completed with opening of the bids on September 15, 1989 for the reconstruction of four and six-tenths miles on Willow Creek Road.

Eight miles on Clark's Canyon Road has been blade patched ready for chip seal.

Blade patching on three miles of Big Butter Creek (where construction was performed).

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Betty Crocker Fudge - 21.5 oz.	\$1.20 ea.	Fresh	
Brownie Mix		Cauliflower	49¢ lb.
Western Family - 100 ct.		Cucumbers	4 for \$1.00
Paper Towel	1st 369¢ ea.	Smoked	
Western Family - 4 roll, 2 ply		Ham Hocks	\$1.20 lb.
Toilet Tissue	\$1.10 ea.	Beef	
Western Family - 8 oz. sliced		Tip Roast	\$1.00 lb.
American Cheese	\$1.20 ea.	Ground Beef	\$1.30 lb.
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Shredded Wheat	\$2.30 ea.		

Prices Good September 14 - 18



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