

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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Joyce Hughes Office Manager, Typesetting
Marie Struthers News Editor
Becky Evans Graphics Department
Monique Parrot Graphics Department
..... Distribution

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Letters to the Editor

Be proud of neighborhood council's caring spirit

To the Editor:

I would like to compliment Nadine O'Brien and all the dedicated volunteers at the Heppner Neighborhood Council for their 110% effort.

Every time I have a need for a family or for foster children that they can meet, they do so with a very eager heart. Baby clothing, birthday presents, Christmas gifts and emergency needs have all been met for the foster children in Morrow

County through this agency.

Nadine's cheery voice saying "Can I help you?" everytime I call, mirrors their theme and objective.

We should all be very proud of the caring spirit we have been able to retain in our county. It is agencies such as this one that keep that spirit flowing.

Sincerely,
(s) Sue Warren
Children's Services Division

We can't afford a prison

To the Editor:

I keep getting the same bad thoughts about a prison going into North Morrow Co. Since the state cannot discriminate in favor of, or against geographical areas when hiring, only a few Morrow Co. residents would get employment at the prison. The new prison employees spouses would be wanting jobs as most households do nowadays and our unemployment problem would actually go up. So most employees would decide to live in Hermiston. We're good neighbors.

The prisoners families (wives and children) would move to Boardman to be near their loved one. This would create more unemployment and welfare, and non-taxpayers children in our schools. That's economic development?

Crime would go up. The county would need more money for police

protection and prosecution. More crime usually results in higher insurance rates for everyone. Another bargain.

Alot of the prisoners on parole may decide to live here. Great!

Governor Goldschmidt doesn't know where Morrow County is, but he does know we don't have many voters. So heck, expand the prison. It'll get convicts and their families out of his back yard. It might even help the income of two or three Boardman businesses. Thanks for remembering us Neil.

I would love to see some economic development in Morrow County, but I don't think we can afford a prison.

The county court says they cannot stop the prison. When it's time for hindsight, they may feel better if they'd tried. I just hope I'm wrong.

(s) Bob Playhar
Heppner

Super people in county

To the Editor:

Dear Sheriff Drago:

Dale and I would like to thank you for inviting us to your beautiful county and the city of Heppner. The ATV Rider course was a success and we feel that you have a super bunch of people in your organization.

We would like you to express a special thanks to Terri Denton. She worked hard to insure that we had what we needed and then some. I believe she went beyond the normal protocol to make sure the class went smoothly. Without her dedication we believe it might have been a real strain. It is very hard to plan, organize, and present a class four hundred miles from home and she was truly instrumental in making sure the class was presented without a hitch. We feel you have a real jewel in that super lady and we

wanted you to know. Please let her know we really appreciated all her hard work and the enormous amount of time she spent helping us.

Also, Dale and I would be willing to come back up and do another one if you have more people who wish to qualify for the ATV rider course. So let us know.

Finally, we have to comment on the people of Heppner. You have some super people there. It seemed like everyone was willing to help us and they all seemed so friendly. We were really impressed.

Thanks again for inviting us to your beautiful county.

Sincerely,
(s) Dale Willis
Sergeant
Ralls Hall
Lieutenant

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Obituary

Leita Rose Messenger

The funeral for Leita Rose Messenger was Wednesday morning at the Lexington Baptist Church. Concluding service and burial followed at Riverview Cemetery in Boardman.

Mrs. Messenger, 82, of Lexington, died Saturday, Sept. 30, 1989 at St. Vincent Hospital in Portland.

She was born May 23, 1907, at Gooseberry, near Lone, to James and Florence Barry Barlow. She was raised and attended school in the Gooseberry area.

On May 5, 1926, she married Truman E. Messenger in Heppner. She was a member and active in the Lexington Baptist Church, the Pauline Rebekah Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, Lexington Garden Club and was a Board member of the Neighborhood Center.

Survivors include her husband at the home; sons Truman Jr. of Hermiston, J. Franklin of Alhoa, Gerald of Portland and Carroll of Tigard; daughters Rena and Betty Marquardt of Lexington; brothers, James Barlow of Grass Valley, CA.; and Ray Barlow of Eugene; 38 grandchildren and 58 great-grandchildren along with numerous nieces and nephews. Two brothers and three sisters died earlier.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Missionaries of the Lexington Baptist Church, PO Box 561, Lexington, OR, 97839 or the charity of choice.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

* Each warm fall day means another day to enjoy the beautiful flowers along Main Street. Without the Heppner Garden Club and the cooperation of Coast-to-Coast, The Shoe Box, Kahl Insurance, Murray Drugs, Heppner T.V., 1st Interstate, Ben Franklin Savings & Loan, Central Market, Cal's, Bank of E.O. and Sears this would not be possible. Rumor has it that Heppner TV must have the greenest thumb or the biggest watering can. Those are some petunias. The extra time given by all of the people involved is much appreciated by the community.

* Put on your thinking caps. For the past two years the Friday luncheon during Town and Country Week has included a panel. Last year county high school students were a part of the panel and the response to that program was very positive. Let members of the Town and Country Committee hear your ideas for the January 19, 1990 noon luncheon. It's a community event and "together we can succeed."

* Circle your calendars:

Oct. 10-Chamber speaker Garth Davis, BMCC Small Business Community Development.

Oct. 17-St. Patrick's committee meeting; Chamber program, Harry Drew, Pendleton Chamber Executive Director.

Oct. 22-24-Oregon Chamber Executive Annual Conference, Beaverton; Chamber program Ron Daniels, BMCC.

Oct. 31-5th Tuesday. No chamber...happy Halloween.

Thought for the week: "The nice thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side."

Justice Court Report

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

Aaron Duane Harris, 32, Spray-Open container, beer, \$57 fine;

Gale Ray Gray, 49, Lexington-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$26 fine;

Theodore Lewis Brittner, 17, Heppner-Possession of Game Birds, closed season to wit: pheasant, chukar, \$82, Hunting Prohibited Method, unplugged shotgun, \$82 fine;

Richard Allen McConnell, 24, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, 42 mph in a 25 mph zone, \$57 fine;

Richard James Mills, 35, Hermiston-Violation of the Basic Rule, 40 mph in a 25 mph zone, \$57 fine;

John Howard Newell, 64, San Francisco, CA-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$57 fine;

Betty Fae Wight, 29, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$57 fine;

David Arthur Crouch, 46, LaGrande-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$26 fine;

Kevin Haskel Bond, 17, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, 97 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$262 fine;

Guy Lyle Patterson, 36, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$57 fine.

Sheriff's Report

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

Sept 25: Morrow County deputy responded to the Willow Creek area to the Heppner city water well and began an investigation of Criminal Mischief;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance for a patient transport to St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton;

Morrow County deputy responded to the West Glen area in Boardman to investigate an unknown vehicle and two male subjects near a residence. Vehicle left upon the deputy's arrival;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to the Arlington motel and transported one male to The Dalles hospital.

Sept. 26: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Department to the St. Patrick's Hotel in Heppner. There was no action taken. The alarm had been activated by welders working inside;

Morrow County deputy responded to Greg's Tavern in Irrigon to investigate a family disturbance;

Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted Boardman Police department locate a male subject with a rifle in a local Boardman business parking lot.

Sept. 27: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to a residence near Cutsforth corner on Juniper Canyon Road. One female with an unknown illness was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital for stabilization then transferred to Good Shepherd;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of Criminal Trespass at West Glen addition in Boardman. Steven J. Johnson, 41, Portland was issued a citation for Criminal Trespass II and released.

Sept. 28: Morrow County deputy began the investigation regarding vehicles failing to stop for school buses. Investigation is to continue;

Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a burglary at the Morrow County Grain Growers. Numerous items were taken and an amount is unknown at this time;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to Boardman area to investigate an animal problem.

Sept. 30: Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to Irrigon to assist a Greyhound bus driver at Paul Cafe with an unresponsive male.

Oct. 1: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to St. Patrick's Hotel. One female with an unknown injury was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital;

Morrow County Sheriff's office received a report of two hunters lost in Anson Wright area; Search and rescue was activated. The hunters were located and were OK;

Morrow County deputy responded to report of a neighborhood disturbance at Wagon Wheel Addition in Irrigon;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched Boardman ambulance to an injury accident on I-84 at milepost 170. Two subjects were transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to assist Boardman Police department with a one-vehicle non-injury accident on Wilson Road.

Oct. 2: Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to a non-injury rollover on Division in Irrigon;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to Cain Drive in Boardman for a complaint of a reckless driver that nearly hit two girls. Deputy made contact with the driver.

We Need a Prison Issue

No, I didn't say we need a prison. But we do need a prison issue.

Some time ago I wrote that Morrow County, as one of the smallest counties in Oregon, which is one of the less populated states in the nation, is pretty insignificant. A speck in the eye of a gnat, I think I called us.

And that only when we speak with a unified voice. When we are divided we are invisible to the outside world.

That was the occasion of a squabble over a garbage dump. My dim memory of that issue still provides recollection of the many folks who took one side or the other and sought solace with others of the same persuasion. I was an active advocate on one side of that issue and developed some friendships that have survived. I remember the surprise I experienced to find some folks on my side, anxious to join forces and most pleasant to have as new friends.

I also remember some of the folks on the other side. Some of them have forgotten our differences and are still my friends. Only a few harbor any ill feelings because of our disagreements so long ago.

Then we had a school strike. Folks chose up sides on that issue real quick and emotions ran very deep. Again, I was a pretty active participant. Some of my new friends from the garbage issue abandoned me in favor of a different view. Some people on the other side of the garbage issue were now my allies on the school issue. The old alliances broke down and new ones were formed because there was a new issue.

And of course, that school issue has continued to smolder in spite of all the healing talk. I've been an advocate of that healing, as long as it's on my terms. Sometimes I think others talk about healing but only on their terms. There's still a lot of healing to do and that's why we need the prison issue.

Many of my friends around Boardman have been promoting a prison since last April. Its been no real secret. I've been a little skeptical about the claims some of them have made about how a prison would benefit the community and the county.

Only recently, when the likelihood of a prison coming to town has become real, have other of my friends begun to oppose a prison. Many for the same reasons I was skeptical in the beginning.

Now, there's a real rhubarb underway. And I haven't been an active participant. At least not until last week-end.

But I have been an observer. An observer of the healing process. At last Tuesday's hearing I saw a school board member huddled in a close strategy session with a couple of teachers. They had a new issue and could only then forget their differences about the old one. Other of my friends and neighbors were realigning their relationship in spite of their former differences.

My own activity has been pretty much middle ground. Those in favor should pursue their goal. Those opposed should continue their cause. But we should all face the possibility that we may have a prison in spite of all our efforts one way or the other. If that should come about, we can only soften the impact if we speak with a single voice on the conditions we demand for siting a prison in our community.

We should come together on the conditions so that we rise to the magnitude of a speck in the eye of a gnat. And in so doing, we're back on speaking terms with our old enemies. We need this issue desperately.

Gontys visit

Recent visitors at the Ed Gonty home were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gonty of Seattle on the weekend of Sept. 23. Tom Gonty and his mother joined other family members for the wedding of Mrs. Gonty's nephew, Ron Altishin.

The Gonty's, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gonty and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hemrick, stayed at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernice Altishin. Charles Hemrick, Mrs. Bernice Altishin and Mrs. E. Gonty are brother and sister. On the Labor day weekend grandson, Bob Gonty and wife, Dena visited grandparents.

In the Service

Marine Pvt. Dennis G. Whitaker, son of Jerry Whitaker and Ruth Bostick, both of Irrigon has completed the School of Infantry.

During the course conducted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Whitaker received classroom instruction and participated in field exercises involving infantry tactics; the construction and camouflage of fighting positions; and the use of mines, demolitions and intra-company communications equipment.

A 1988 graduate of Riverside High School, Boardman, he joined the Marine Corps in January, 1989.

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