

The Heppner

G-T azette Times

VOL 108 NO. 9 Wednesday, February 28, 1990 Heppner 25¢ 8 Pages

Mustangs, Fillies advance to Regionals



Heppner Mustangs claim their prizes. The bracket board and first place trophy at District.

The Heppner girls will play Grant Union at 1:30 p.m. Fri., March 2, at the Class A State Regional basketball tournament at the Pendleton Armory. At 3 p.m. the Heppner boys will play the Grant Union boys. Losers of both games will be out of the tournament. At 7 p.m. Weston-

McEwen girls will play Imbler girls. At 8:30 p.m. Riverside boys will play Imbler boys. The winners will go to the state tournament next week at Pendleton.

On Saturday at 7 p.m. winner of the girls Heppner/Grant Union game will play the loser of the Weston-

McEwen/Imbler game. At 8:30 p.m., the winner of the boys Heppner/Grant Union game will play the loser of the Imbler/Riverside game. Winners of these games will advance to the state tournament.

Ticket prices for the Heppner games will be \$3 for students and \$4 for adults for each session.

Photo by Joyce Hughes

Panel to discuss workers comp

Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson has announced that a public meeting has been scheduled at the Riverside High School auditorium on March 13 at 7 p.m. to get public input on the subject of Workers' Compensation. Most recently, the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) has cancelled numerous small business policies and has denied high risk business coverage to compensate for extended losses in the SAIF reserve fund.

This public meeting is being sponsored by the Morrow County Intergovernmental Coalition which is composed of all governments, schools, business, and special districts in Morrow County. The purpose of the coalition is to bring to the public attention the most pressing issues of the day so that accurate information may be disseminated to the residents of the county and region.

Because of the wide spread concern and interest in the subject of workers compensation, several people have been invited to sit on a panel to discuss the answer questions about

this subject. This panel will consist of: Stan Long, director of SAIF Corporation; representative Mike Nelson, 59th District, field representative for U.S. Senator Bob Packwood; Russ Heimark, partner, Wheatland Insurance Center, Inc; Cal Hackler, council representative, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees/AFL-CIO; Carl Frederick, association of Oregon Industries. Larry Rew of Corey, Byler, Rew, Lorenzen & Hojem, Attorneys, will act as facilitator.

Each of the panelists will have 10-15 minutes each to speak on the subject of workers compensation. After everyone has spoken, the panel will accept questions from the audience.

This forum will be held at the Riverside High School auditorium instead of the lone City Hall where it was originally scheduled. A special invitation is extended to all individuals and business firms in Morrow, Umatilla and Gilliam counties.

Hearings set on county budget

Residents of Morrow County will be able to scrutinize the Morrow County budget and levy during the coming weeks—at Irrigon City Hall, March 6 at 7 p.m.; Heppner Elementary School, March 7, 7 p.m. ICABO noon luncheon, March 7, and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce noon luncheon, Tuesday, March 13.

At stake is a total tax increase for fiscal year 1990-91 in the amount of \$37,243. This increase for the new tax year is the result of a 6 percent increase allowed by law over last year's tax base. Last year's tax base amounted to \$621,770.

The amount that Morrow County residents will be voting on at the March mail-in ballot will be identical to last year's one-year special levy

of \$3,838,336. The total tax rate, including the medical portion, will be \$5.62/1,000 of property valuation. This tax rate is an estimate only, based on the best information from the county assessor. The \$5.62/1,000 valuation would amount to \$224.80 on a \$40,000 home, according to a county spokesperson.

There will be a short presentation on these dates along with charts depicting labor trends in Morrow County, where the taxes are spent, and the general condition of agriculture and the wood products industry in Morrow County. Judge Carlson will be the presenter, and will be available, along with other officials to answer questions from the public.

Two juveniles charged in poweroutage

Two 17-year old juveniles have been charged with first degree criminal mischief as a result of an incident in mid-January in which a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission line was damaged.

According to Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace, the juveniles are charged with shooting insulators on a pole of the main BPA powerline at Juniper Canyon on January 14. Two days later, rain created a short in the power line which caused a four-hour power outage in South Morrow County and part of Gilliam County.

According to Wallace, the incident cost BPA and Columbia Basin Electric Coop. approximately \$2,000 to repair the damages to utility property. "In addition," says Wallace, "the four-hour power outage resulted in a loss to Kinzua Corporation, because of 'down time,' the Morrow County School District, Morrow County and other government offices and all other private and public employers."

"Emergency services, such as 911 and Pioneer Memorial Hospital had to rely on auxiliary power during that time," says Wallace. "We could have had a real life-threatening

Neighborhood Center to close

The Morrow County Neighborhood Council has said that the Neighborhood Center will close its doors April 1 because of funding problems.

The Neighborhood Center is a non-profit organization located in Heppner which assists in providing emergency food, shelter and gas, and other things for people in need.

"Payroll was always a problem," said Betty Tanner, former director and now president of the Neighborhood Center board of directors. "We hope that somewhere, somehow we can get money to stay open. We feel it's essential to the community." Tanner operated the center its first two years as a volunteer, she said.

The Neighborhood Center received \$10,000 from Morrow County last year and also receives funding through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), United Way, CAPECO, the USDA Food Program, Oregon Food Shares, area churches, fund raisers and private donations.

County funds, which the center uses for rent, electricity, water, insurance and supplies, have been cut to \$8,000 for the next fiscal year, since another emergency aid group was formed in North Morrow County.

The newly formed Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center group will receive \$5,000 of county funds, for a total of \$13,000 for both groups, up from \$10,000

last year. Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson says that the South Morrow group was originally funded through revenue sharing and after that was discontinued the county stepped in.

"The Center is a non-profit organization and has its own separate function completely apart from county jurisdiction," he said. "Morrow County is one of the few counties that spends tax dollars to support this endeavor. With this in mind, interference by the County Court in the policy making or management of the center would be most inappropriate."

"In this current fiscal year," said Carlson, "the Neighborhood Council is budgeted to receive \$10,000 from Morrow County. This amount was to help fund both ends of the county. The north end folks recently formed their own non-profit organization, the Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center. So, as of February 1, 1990, the south end Neighborhood Council is retaining all of the funds from the county."

According to Neighborhood Council treasurer Mike Vejraska, in addition to the county money which goes for overhead, the center needs approximately \$12,000 for salary and taxes for the center's only paid employee—the director. That position is currently held by Nadine O'Brien. Vejraska said that funding for the assistance programs fluctuates greatly. "FEMA gave us \$6,800 last

year, and this year \$3,500."

"They (Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center) only operates nine hours a week. We operate 40 hours a week. They're strictly for emergencies only—emergency food, rent, gas. We do everything."

The Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center is open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and is operated on a volunteer basis. According to Ruth Adams, president of the board of directors, the center is run completely by volunteer help and provides emergency food, rental assistance, energy assistance and referrals. The Irrigon-Boardman center was formed in Oct. 1989.

The Heppner Center also houses Adult and Family Services (formerly welfare) Food Stamp and GED (high school equivalency) programs, according to Vejraska.

"We can afford this month's salary and next month's salary, but after that I don't know," he said. "We're in the business of service to the community, without these services, what would people do?" Vejraska said that the south end organization can stay open until next year when considering building expenses, "but as far as wages go—no."

"We've written grants till we're blue in the face," he said. "They say you're not in the Portland area, so we can't help you."

250 attend Blue and Gold Banquet

The "Blue and Gold" banquet for cub scouts Pack 661 was held last Tuesday night Feb. 20 at the Heppner Elks.

Over 250 people attended the annual banquet which celebrates the birthday of the Cub Scouting, according to Cubmaster Jeff Wallace.

"One of the highlights of the evening was a 'Fellers Cake Raffle' which netted over \$500 for pack activities," says Wallace. "People really got into a bidding mood."

The theme of the banquet was "Mardi Gras" and it began with a mardi gras parade, led by the Tiger Cubs in a dragon costume. The parade snaked around the tables adding to a festive atmosphere.

The featured speaker was long-time Scout storyteller, Erv Williams of Echo. Williams gave a humorous talk on "Trigs" a cross between pigs and trout, and demonstrated the squeal shot gun propelled fishing pole which he invented to catch them.

Many awards were presented including advancement awards for the Bobcats and a quality unit award presented by District Chairman, Robert Ehmann.



Wes Haines (r) turns his cake he made over to Ernest Wick who bought it for \$14 in the Cub Scouts auction.

"We wanted to give special recognition to the many people who have helped Pack 661 during the past year," says Wallace, "including the Heppner Elks. The Elks have sponsored the Pack for many years and have provided a meeting place and much moral support."

Exalted Ruler David Hanna was

introduced along with leading knight Jim Bloodsworth. Also present were Heppner Mayor Cara Costa, Judge Louis Carlson, Ray French, Lions president Steve Rhea, Linda Shaw and a number of past teachers.

Each Den performed a skit, attempting to match the inventiveness of the main speaker.

County plans training on child abuse cases

Morrow County law enforcement and child protective agencies have scheduled a March training seminar on the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

According to Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace, the training seminar will be held March 6-7, at the Dodge City Restaurant in Boardman. The seminar will begin at 10 a.m. on March 6 and go through noon on March 7.

"This seminar is designed primarily to help law enforcement and other agencies directly involved in the investigation and prosecution of child sexual and physical abuse to better deal with these sensitive cases," says Wallace.

The 1989 legislature directed the district attorney of each county to establish an interagency team to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of child abuse. The

Morrow County team consists of representatives of Morrow County police agencies, district attorney's office, children services division, juvenile department, parole and probation, mental health, health department, schools and others.

"One of the things that the legislation mandates is increased training to help police, protective services workers and others to better coordinate their efforts," says Wallace. "The training session is a step in that direction," he added.

According to Wallace, Morrow County has the highest rate of child abuse per-capita in Oregon. "We're not sure why that is, but we're trying to do something about it through this type of team approach."

Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Feb. 27
Soft White

Feb.	\$3.90
March	\$3.92/\$3.94
April	\$3.96/\$3.97
May	\$3.93/\$3.88
July	\$3.73
Aug.	\$3.72

Barley	
Feb./March	\$108 T
Aug.	\$105 T
Pik	\$95 3/4

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

Feb. 20 - 26, 1990				
	High	Low	Prec	Rn-sn
Tues.	49	39	.03	
Wed.	61	32	.0	
Thurs.	62	28	.0	
Fri.	53	32	.0	.0
Sat.	64	33	.0	.0
Sun.	58	33	.0	.0
Mon.	51	24	.02	.0

Cardinals played first state game

The lone Cardinals girls state basketball tournament started Wed., Feb. 28 at 1:30 p.m. at Baker High School. The Lady Cards played Jordan Valley. Winner of that game will play again Friday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. The loser will play Thurs. March 1 at 9 a.m.

ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

7.75 % APR

7.98 % yield

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