

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Prevention, not vengeance

To the Editor:

In the recent issue of the Gazette-Times (July 25), one of the letters to the editor entitled, "Insist On Tough Laws Swift Justice" struck me as a sample of deep human cry of anger, resentment and fear of the evils of our day.

I do not know all the facts surrounding the sudden and tragic death of George and Charmaine Meyers, but I am sympathetic to the family and friends in their pain and grief and their right to publicly express their feelings.

I do not feel that tougher laws are the best solution to the problem. Even the death penalty which in some form or another has been around almost since the beginning of humankind has not been a deterrent to criminals.

I would rather, strongly urge that we use our time, energies and tax dollars to get at the root of the problem. (The time and space does not permit a detailed analysis of a complex social problem.) We need to

seek out, train more people in the helping professions in our public and private schools and social service agencies. I recently spent time with a school counselor who has over 150 students in her care, besides all the other work the school asks of her. How can this one counselor (and she is just one of thousands across the country) give quality time to each and every one of the students assigned to her?

And not just counselors and professional social workers for high school students. Why not in situations that involve elementary age children?

I know this sounds like "social goodness" and that it should start in the home. But one out of four families end in separation, divorce, alcohol, substance or family abuse.

I agree justice needs to be done, but it should be preventative and not reactive vengeance.

(s) Stan Hoobing
Heppner, OR

Fairgrounds need work

To the Editor:

I have lived above the rodeo grounds since 1973, and have always been proud to show them off to visiting friends and relatives. Not so this year. They have looked more like an abandoned stock yard.

The grass has not been green and the dirt track grew up into a huge weed patch. They have been trying

to get rid of the weeds this week. Instead of spending \$20,000 for a study on how to better use the fair and rodeo grounds, I think a little more time and money should be used for the facilities we have.

(s) Jack Van Winkle
Heppner, OR 97836

Hospital gets gold star

To the Editor:

On July 19, while visiting in your city, I found it necessary to take my husband to the hospital.

It is my pleasure to give your hospital a gold star in performance. The equipment--modern and efficient. The staff--pleasant and efficient. The patient was so much their

first concern.

I wish to congratulate your community for maintaining this excellent facility. Walter and I both were impressed.

Sincerely,
(s) Lucille Kostechka
9114 SE Stephens
Portland, OR 97216

Sheriff's Report

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

July 24: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire department to a grass fire at Paul Smith and Kunze Roads in Boardman;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Morrow County fairgrounds near Heppner. An unknown dollar amount of vandalism was reported. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the clinic for a male patient with an illness. Patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital;

Morrow County deputy responded to Paul Smith and Kunze road near Boardman for a report of a hit and run. Damage was done to a fence belonging to Richard Smith. Amount of damage was unknown at press time;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of vandalism to a residence;

Morrow County deputy arrested Christopher Paul Stone, 19, Umatilla, on two Umatilla county warrants for Delivery of Marijuana. Stone was transported to Stanfield and turned over to Umatilla County Sheriff's office deputies;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Patterson Ferry Road for a hazardous road condition;

Morrow County deputy responded to a one vehicle rollover on Bombing Range, 7 miles S. on I-84. Subject was transported to Boardman by a private vehicle;

Morrow County Sheriff's office advised the Lone Fire department of an out-of-district field fire on Hwy 206 milepost 57;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to I-84, two miles west of Arlington in the east bound lanes for a report of a man down. The ambulance was unable to locate the man upon their arrival.

July 25: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence on Cotton-

wood Loop for a 77 year old male with an illness. Subject was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

July 26: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area and took care of an animal problem;

Morrow County deputy arrested a 15 year old male on a juvenile warrant out of Yakima County Washington. Juvenile was turned over to Yakima County;

Morrow County deputies responded to the Boardman area for domestic dispute. Dispute was resolved;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area for a report of suspicious circumstances.

July 28: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to a report of a two car motor vehicle accident on I-84. Call was unfounded;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Juniper Canyon area to investigate a report of illegal shooting. Call was unfounded;

Morrow County deputy responded to a residence in Lexington to investigate a report of a neighborhood disturbance. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Lone area for a report of vandalism.

July 29: Morrow County deputies responded to the Irrigon Marina to begin a search for boaters reported missing. Boat and occupants were located. Everyone was safe;

Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a report of a domestic assault in the Heppner area;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire department to a report of fire at the Man Camp, in the Boardman area;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to the Boardman area to investigate a neighborhood disturbance. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence in Boardman with unknown injuries. Subject refused transport;

Morrow County deputy responded to I-84 for a report of a stranded motorist. Deputies were unable to locate motorist upon their arrival;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area to locate a possible drunk driver. Deputies were unable to locate driver upon their arrival;

Morrow County deputy responded to East Oregon Farming Company to investigate the report of theft;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire dept to I-84 one mile east of Boardman for a vehicle fire.

July 30: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence on Mt. Hood Ave. for a female patient with an unknown illness. Patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a one vehicle accident on I-84 west bound at Patterson Ferry Road. Three people were transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with assistance from the Hermiston ambulance;

Morrow County deputy responded to the West Glen Addition for a neighborhood disturbance. Call was unfounded.

As Good As A Prison



AS I SEE IT
By Ed Glenn

Port Manager Gary Neal stopped by the Boardman/North Morrow County Chamber of Commerce recently with an update on some of the industries around.

Portland General Electric, he said, is gearing up for a restart of the Coal fired plant on August 20. They are also planning a co-gen plant in the Port's industrial park, at a cost of about \$60 million and a plant start up in 1993 or so.

Oregon Hay Company has concrete poured for a new baled hay compressor. The building should be erected sometime this week.

Oregon Pop Corn Inc. has moved offices into the old Wild Bill's Hardware building and they are shopping for cleaning and packaging equipment for this fall's harvest.

Oregon Potato Inc. has finished its new dehydration line and will be up and running with the new crop of potatoes just now coming out of the ground.

Logan International is making headway with its french fry plant financing and expects to break ground soon.

Finley Buttes land fill company expects to be finished constructing the first cell soon and will probably start receiving industrial waste in 30 days or so.

Pekton, Inc. has leased a building at the newly purchased airport tract. They are setting up a pilot plant to make fire proof building boards from waste paper fiber and diatomaceous earth.

Lamb-Weston is back on line after making more than \$1 million in improvements during the short summer downtime.

As each project was listed Neal picked off the number of new jobs to be created and the construction cost that might end up on the tax rolls. The list was hard to follow so Riverside Principal Dave Youngbluth asked specifically for the new jobs within the next year.

Neal added up between 150 and 160 with similar numbers over the next couple of years. Nobody added up the increase in tax base dollars but it seemed to me to go well over \$100 million.

Those numbers seemed familiar but I couldn't put my finger on it till just this morning.

Isn't that what we thought a prison would bring, about 170 new jobs? But without any tax base increase.

Many folks are still bitter about not getting the prison sited here and they blame the agricultural community. They claim that agricultural jobs are low paying and ag workers are migrant. Well I just took a closer look at the jobs Neal listed and sure there are some low paying ones. There are also an awful lot that pay a whole lot more than a prison job. On the average it looks to me like the jobs on line for the next year will be as good as a prison.

And the industries are better than a prison since they all pay taxes to help pay for the governmental services we seem to be demanding.

The best part is that it all came about by way of a natural evolution of things. There wasn't any forcing the issue, political upheaval, or nasty name calling. It all happened in spite of some plan, some designed scheme of things and is a broad diversification of the economy. Food, feed, export domestic agriculture and energy--a neat mix of industry and businesses. That means some insulation from depression and down turn in one company or even an entire industry.

A prison might have been a nice industry to have but as I see it what we ended up with is far better.

"Patience," my father used to say and it sure looks to me like he was right.

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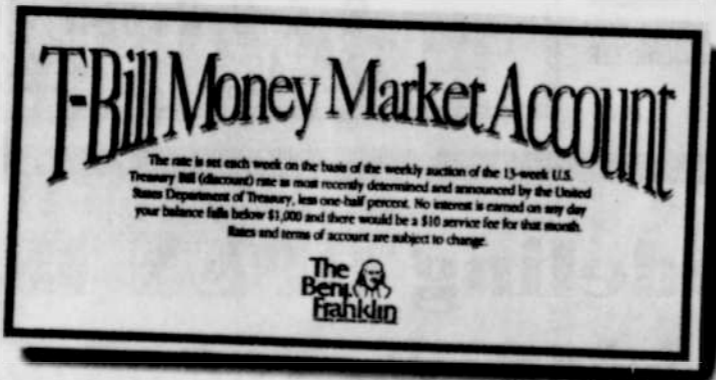
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