

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

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Published every Wednesday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9228. Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$15 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties; \$23 elsewhere.

Joyce Hughes Office Manager, Typesetting
April Sykes News Editor
Carol Atherly Graphics Department
Becky Evans Graphics Department
Monique Parret Distribution
Kay Rene Qualls Bindery
Bob Smith Printer

David and April Sykes, Publishers

Letters to the Editor

Hospital important

To the editor:
I doubt very much that anyone in this community has been more critical of Pioneer Memorial Hospital than I. This letter is not intended to cause anyone to believe that the facility still cannot make improvements in several areas.

Recently I learned the real value of this hospital upon the sudden illness of my wife. Frankly, I don't have the slightest idea what I would have done without this group of caring, professional people.

We all need to support the hospital board, the administrator and the staff who provide us a necessary service when we need it most.

I would like to thank the hospital staff and Dr. Ed Berretta for all the fine care my wife received. I would also like to thank all of those who helped in many other ways.

I cannot over emphasize how important the hospital is to this entire area and how much they need our support.

(s) Fred Toombs

Heppner Police Report

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

December 3: 10:35 a.m.-Motorist Assist; 3:05 p.m.-Motorist Assist; 7:55 p.m.-assist Fire Department.

December 4: 8:50 a.m.-Motorist Assist; 3:52 p.m.-Arrest for Assault; 9:24 p.m.-report of Careless Driving.

December 5: 8:30 p.m.-Civil Matter; 9:20 p.m.-request officer for Security Check.

December 6: 1:47 p.m.-citation issued for Driving While Suspended; 3:26 p.m.-assist Fire Department; 11:16 p.m.-assist Sheriff's department.

December 7: 2 p.m.-citation issued for No Operator's License; 10:27 p.m.-report of Fireworks; 10:52 p.m.-citation issued for Minor In Possession.

December 8: 4:10 a.m.-Parking Citation; 1:50 p.m.-Funeral Escort.

December 9: 1:12 a.m.-citation issued for Excessive Noise (tires); 4:45 p.m.-citation issued for 37 mph in a 25 mph zone.

Births

Luke Anthony Young-a son, Luke Anthony, was born to Bruce and Debbie Young, Heppner, on Nov. 23, 1990 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 8 ozs.

Grandparents are Les and Jan Paustian, Heppner and the late Harley and Helen Young.

He joins a brother, Brandon, 7, and Matthew, 5 at home.

Marriage Licenses

The clerks office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses during the past week:

Kenneth Albert Grieb, 30, Lexington; and
Dawn Marie Voll, 25, Lexington.

Obituaries

Claude W. Buschke
Recitation of the Rosary for Claude W. Buschke was Friday December 7 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. Funeral Mass was at the church on Saturday. Interment was at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mr. Buschke, 79, Heppner, died Monday, Dec. 3, 1990 at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

He was born Feb. 15, 1911 at Lone to Bernard and Adeline Bartell Buschke. He grew up in the area and attended school at Rhea Creek.

On Nov. 17, 1933, he married Margaret Beckett at Pendleton. For a time he worked hauling logs and had a government contract to haul lumber. He later purchased a ranch which he operated until 1954 when he bought the Gilliam-Bisbee Hardware Store in Heppner which he ran until 1969.

His wife died in 1967.
On Oct. 13, 1969, he married Rose Marie Stroeber at Ontario.

He went to work as a machinery salesman for Red Leonard Padberg Machinery and Morrow County Grain Growers, all in Lexington, retiring in 1975.

Mr. Buschke was a member of the Heppner BPOE 358.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Marie at the home; sons Bob of Heppner and Jerry of Lexington; stepson Don Stroeber of Heppner; sisters Martha Carr of Salem; Mary Travis of Alma, WA, and Millie Evans of Heppner; two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A son, Vern, died in 1948, two grandsons died earlier, Brian, in 1979, and Jerry in 1989; six brothers and three sisters also preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to Air Life of Oregon 2500 N.E. Neff Road, Bend, 97701, or the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Fund, P.O. Box 9, Heppner 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

Oscar C. Rippee

The funeral for Oscar C. Rippee was Tuesday, December 4, 1990 at the United Church of Christ in Condon. A private concluding service followed at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mr. Rippee, 85, Condon, died Friday, Nov. 30, 1990 at Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles.

He was born Sept. 23, 1905, at Heppner to Tim and Margaret Privett Rippee. His early years were spent in the Buttercreek area and he attended grade school at Lena School.

On Aug. 30, 1928, he married Letha Hiatt, in Pendleton. The couple spent their early years of marriage working at ranches around the Heppner area.

In 1933, he went to work for the Oregon State Highway Department and worked there for 38 years until his retirement in 1971.

He was a member of the Heppner Masonic Lodge and the Condon United Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, at the home; sons, Lowell of Milwaukie, and Don of Victorville, CA.; sister, Gladys Connor of Heppner; four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United Church of Christ Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 223, Condon, 97823.

Sweeney Mortuary, Condon, was in charge of arrangements.

D.A.'s Report

Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace reports handling the following business on December 7, 1990 in Circuit Court:

Fernando Martinez, 32, Boardman, had earlier plead guilty to delivery of methamphetamine to an undercover police officer in Boardman last March. Martinez was arrested on the charge in May during a "roundup" of persons suspected of narcotics activity in the northern Morrow County area.

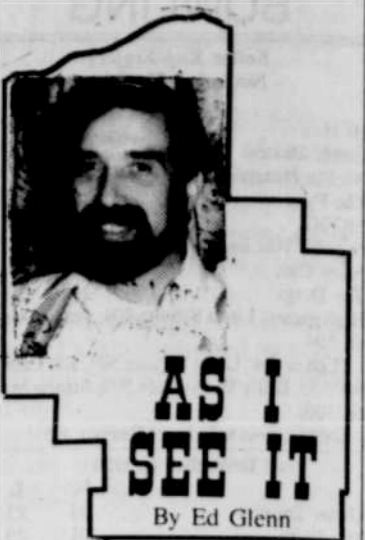
Circuit Judge Pro-Tem Ralph Currin placed Martinez on two years' formal probation and imposed 120 "custody units." Sixty of the "custody units" can be used for jail time, and were given over to defendant's probation officer to be used during the probationary term as appropriate.

Judge Currin also fined Martinez \$500, imposed a \$50 victim-witness assessment, ordered him to reimburse the state \$240 for court-appointed attorney's fees and submit to a range of drug-related probation conditions. These include mandatory drug testing, no association with persons dealing in narcotics and, search of his person, residence and vehicle for the presence of controlled substances.

Donald Hankins, 28, Portland, plead guilty to conspiracy to deliver marijuana before Circuit Judge Pro-Tem Ralph Currin. Hankins was arrested last June following an undercover investigation by the Morrow County Drug Task Force. Police also arrested a Hillsboro woman in connection with the investigation, and seized Hankins' vehicle, \$5,700 in cash and a quantity of controlled substances. The co-defendant is currently awaiting trial.

Judge Currin placed Hankins on two years' formal probation and imposed 120 "custody units." Sixty of the "custody units" can be used for a jail sentence, and were given over to Hankins' probation officer to be used during the term of probation as appropriate. The defendant was also ordered to pay a \$50 victim-witness assessment, reimburse the state \$240 for court-appointed attorney's fees, submit to drug evaluation and treatment, and is required to comply with a standard range of drug-related probation conditions.

Great Experiment



The great medical services experiment in Morrow County needs a close look with the eye toward repeating it.

Four or five years ago, I don't remember how long, the hospital in Heppner, the clinic in the North County and the ambulance in Boardman were all controlled by different advisory boards and all competed for ever increasing chunks of the County tax levy.

Then, those three boards were abolished and a County Medical Services Board created with a larger degree of autonomy. Since then:

- two fine, well respected physicians have been persuaded to practice in Heppner;
- an equally well qualified and well received physician has taken over the Boardman clinic;
- a second, new ambulance has been added at Boardman, housed in a proper ambulance barn;
- an early response vehicle has been placed in Irrigon, complete with barn and trained volunteers; and
- a cadre of EMTs are either trained or in training in both Lexington and Lone.

All this with virtually no increase in the tax subsidy to medical services in that four of five period of time. At first blush that seems to be a riproaring success.

But a second look is always in order. The goals of that initial Medical Services Board have now essentially been met. All except one. That goal was to get the medical services delivery system off the tax roll altogether.

Even without that second look, first blush would indicate that by combining the three former entities into a single department, with a bit of independence from County government and a little tax support, a better system could be devised.

Translating that experiment to police protection might reap similar results. The cities of Heppner, Boardman and Irrigon (by contract) all maintain police departments. The County Sheriff does too. But the cities are under the gun of Measure 5 and may not be able to afford local police any more.

A single, integrated, co-ordinated police department for the entire county, including city streets, might afford some efficiencies similar to the efficiencies in medical services.

And further, with the pinch on city budgets, the county apparently has some additional taxing capacity before bumping the \$10 limit. The downside might be that rural folks will hesitate to pay more taxes to support an enlarged Sheriff's department mostly for the benefit of our city neighbors. But, we're told that 62 percent of the folks live in one city or another, so there might not be any choice.

All five cities combined have less than 8% of the taxable property. Of the rest, less than 18% is farm land. More than 75% of our county is industrial and utility property.

At first blush, it may not seem fair for rural taxpayers to pick up the bill for city police protection, but most rural residents benefit in one way or another by having a safe, secure community nearby.

At least two communities in the county can be counted on to provide strong, loyal support for their local cops. Many folks think the 'local control' is a valuable part of a small town. But faced with the alternatives, some of that loyalty will wain.

As I see it, the importance of City government will diminish as an effect of Measure 5. Not only will police protection shift to the county, so will library services, perhaps fire protection and maybe even parks.

Look closely at the medical services experiment. Maybe it will show the light to the future.

Take \$25,000 as needed.

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