

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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Editorial

And now for 1991.....

1990 is over, and no one knows what the coming year will bring. Following are my predictions of just some of the issues that will make headlines in 1991. Happy New Year from all of us at the Gazette-Times!

January: Garbage crisis peaks-Heppner cannot pay anyone to take away its garbage. Columnist writes a witty and insightful, yet biting column entitled "North County's Growing and Visionary Community as Opposed to South County's Stable, Yet Reactionary Population." Measure 5 strikes government hard. Officials decide to cut road repairs to meet budget cuts.

February: Garbage crisis peaks-garbage cans overflow onto Heppner's streets. Columnist writes an insightful and biting, but witty column entitled "Growth and Vision in North County's Schools Versus South County's Stable, but Reactionary Schools." Measure 5 strikes government hard. Officials decide to cut social services to meet budget cuts.

March: Garbage crisis peaks-Heppner residents forced to eat garbage as a result of continuing disposal problems. Columnist writes a biting and witty, but insightful column entitled "North County's Growing and Visionary Voters Lose Yet Another Election to South County's Stable Yet Reactionary Voting Populace."

April: Garbage crisis peaks-North County entrepreneur with a vision of growth invents industry that uses Heppner's recycled garbage for fuel for the former coal fired plant, now called the garbage fired plant.

Measure 5 strikes government hard-officials decide to cut police service. Visionary North County residents cheer to the last headline ever published that reads, "North County Man Arrested on Drug Charge." Columnist writes a witty, insightful and biting column entitled, "Nyah-Nyah, Nyah-Nyah, You Hicks."

May: Garbage crisis peaks-Japanese company offers to buy Heppner's garbage for \$1.7 million. Stable, yet reactionary townspeople nix the plan, saying they want to maintain local control.

Government officials decide to cut judicial system.

June: Garbage crisis peaks and Measure 5 strikes government officials hard-officials decide to cut funds for Heppner pool and garbage service. Heppner residents forced to dump garbage in pool.

July: Stable, yet reactionary South County residents erect a wall of garbage on Baseline Road between North and South County.

August: Growing and visionary North County residents attempt to tear down wall of garbage but are beaten back by a small band of stable, yet reactionary South County folks wielding hoes and pitchforks.

Government officials decide to cut out funding for county parks.

September: Columnist writes a heartwarming but insightful and biting column entitled "I Love God, America, Motherhood, Apple Pie, Freedom of Speech, Free Enterprise and Dogs Running Free."

The wall of garbage, which withstood chipping away and attacks from angry but growing North County residents collapses from an unseasonable hot air mass blowing in a northerly to southerly direction.

Visionary North County entrepreneur capitalizes on collapse of wall with idea to encapsulate chunks of the wall in plastic to sell as souvenirs. Entrepreneur vows to put an end to South County's unemployment problem, seeks investors for garbage souvenir company.

October: South County residents sink \$1.7 million into garbage souvenir industry.

Government officials decide to cut out future elections because of budget cuts. Growing and visionary, but not-voting North County residents cheer. Government officials rewrite job descriptions-"Assessor for Life," "Judge for Life," "Tax Collector for Life," "County Clerk for Life," etc.

November: Garbage souvenir company goes belly up. North County entrepreneur disappears, only to resurface with high county official in Jamaica with \$1.65 million. Two in South County left jobless.

December: Garbage crisis solved-North County entrepreneur comes up with idea to fill potholes with compacted garbage. South County investors sink \$1.7 million into garbage compacting business.

Severe winter storm in South County covers remaining garbage with six inches of snow. Bad children receive hunks of garbage sealed in plastic in their Christmas stockings this year instead of coal.

Measure 5 hardly strikes government-officials discuss cutting jobs, salaries and benefits, but decide instead to sell courthouse artifacts sealed in plastic as souvenirs. Stable but naive South Morrow County investors sink \$1.7 million into courthouse souvenir business. One courthouse employee was spotted ripping down courthouse drapes to make a gown, mumbling something about frankly not giving a damn.

Happy New Year!

April Hilton-Sykes, editor

We Have
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GREEN FEED & SEED

HIWAY 207 676-9422 HEPPNER, OR.

Sheriff's Report

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

December 26: Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a residential burglary. Upon conclusion of the investigations, Ronald R. Anderson, 19, and Kenneth R. Anderson, 18, both of Boardman, were arrested for Burglary I. The Andersons were transported and lodged at the Benton County jail;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to Mikkalo. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness.

December 27: Morrow County deputy responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hwy. 74 east of Lexington. One vehicle was involved, no injuries;

Morrow County deputy responded to Cargill in Boardman to start investigation of a burglary. An Emerson microwave, Avanti refrigerator, Pacific cordless phone and a small gram scale were reported stolen. Items were valued at \$685;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to I-84 westbound mile post 172. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with unknown injuries.

December 28: Morrow County deputy arrested Victoria Navarro Landeros, 20, Irrigon for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Driving While Suspended. Landeros was cited and released on her own recognizance;

Morrow County deputy assisted Boardman Police department with a motor vehicle accident in Boardman;

Morrow County deputy assisted State Patrol on a motor vehicle accident on I-84, mile post 151;

Morrow County deputy responded to a motor vehicle accident on I-84 mile post 152. Call was unfounded;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of an animal problem. Investigations are continuing.

December 29: Morrow County deputy made contact with an Irrigon resident concerning a neighborhood problem;

Morrow County deputy took a report of a possible animal neglect problem in the Irrigon area. Investigations are continuing.

December 30: Morrow County deputy responded to Irrigon to investigate a report of an animal neglect. Investigations are continuing;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire department and Boardman ambulance to a structure fire in the Boardman area;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of a motor vehicle accident;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to the Heppner High School for a report of an injury. There was no transport.

December 31: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance to Hwy 218 for a motor vehicle accident;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for an animal problem;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence in the Boardman area. There was no transport;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Little Buttercreek area to investigate a report of possible game violations. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to the Boardman area for a report of an animal problem;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of a possible Driver Under the Influence. Unable to locate;

Morrow County deputy assisted Boardman police department with a neighborhood disturbance at the Trail Apartments.

January 1, 1991: Morrow County deputy contacted an Irrigon area complainant concerning a civil problem;

Morrow County deputy assisted Gilliam County Sheriff's office with an investigation near I-84, Hwy 74 Jct.;

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to assist Boardman Police department with a report of a possible domestic in progress;

Morrow County deputy responded to a complaint of a traffic hazard on upper Rhea Creek;

Morrow County Sheriff's office attempted to locate vehicle with a possible drunk driver on I-84.

During the week of December 24-31 Morrow County deputies assisted four disabled motorists.

Heppner Police Report

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

December 16: 1:30 a.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department.

December 17: 6:02 p.m.-request officer for Security Check.

December 18: 10:37 p.m.-request officer for Security Check.

December 19: 6:27 p.m.-report of Hazard.

December 20: 9:25 p.m.-Motorist Assist.

December 21: 3:12 p.m.-Found Property; 4:37 p.m.-report of Hazard; 5:43 p.m.-report of Shots Fired; 7:53-Motorist Assist; 10:03 p.m.-Welfare Assist; 10:30-Found Animal.

December 22: 5:17 p.m.-Motorist Assist.

December 23: 12:02 a.m.-assist Fire Department; 12:49 a.m.-assist City Crew.

December 24: 8:07 a.m.-report of Harassment; 1:32 p.m.-citations issued for Assault IV; 6:13 p.m.-Welfare Check.

December 25: 8:30 a.m.-assist Fire Department; 3:29 p.m.-assist Fire Department.

December 26: 8:30 a.m.-Dog Complaint.

December 27: 9:30 p.m.-report of Harassment.

December 28: 8:15 a.m.-report of Harassment.

Sheep producers conference set

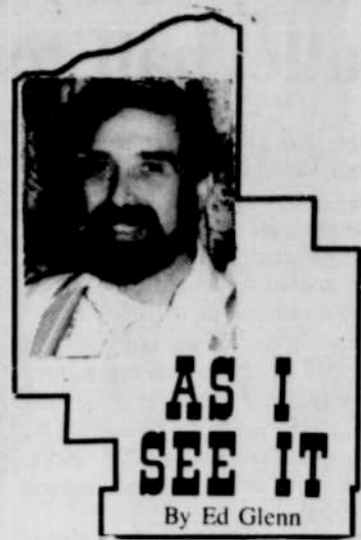
A conference for Umatilla and Morrow County sheep producers was recently announced by Randy Mills and Bill Broderick, OSU Extension agents for the two counties. The conference will be held Tuesday, January 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Olde Country Brand Restaurant at Hi Heather Inn (formerly Nendels), near Umatilla. The conference registration fees, which include a buffet lunch, are \$7 per person. Producers are requested to RSVP prior to January 4 to the Umatilla County Extension Office, 276-7111, ext. 235, or the Morrow County Extension Office 676-9642, of the OSU Extension Service.

Several OSU Extension faculty will present information on timely topics for the sheep industry. Registration for the sheep conference will begin with coffee and donuts at 10 a.m. Sheep equipment and housing will be the first topic and will be presented by Bill Broderick, Morrow County Livestock agent at 10:30.

Randy Mills, Umatilla County Livestock agent and Dr. Jim Thompson, OSU Extension Sheep Specialist will discuss sheep ration evaluation and methods to minimize feed costs.

Following lunch, Dr. Don Hansen, OSU Extension veterinarian, will present information on the disease Scrapie and how the sheep industry should respond to this threat to the future of the industry. Immediately following this Dr. Thompson will discuss wool management and evaluation. The final speaker will be Dr. Hansen who will illustrate how to develop and implement a sheep animal health calendar.

Planning For The Future



The new Strategic Plan for Morrow County takes one of several possible approaches to planning for the future. In the industrial section, the plan advocates the line of least resistance, suggesting pursuit of development that will probably occur with or without a plan.

The twenty-years-from-now Vision lists part of the agricultural base as shrinking, part as expanding. It foresees a specific company building a specific facility and "Progress finally being made" to convert the Umatilla Army Depot to a specific private sector use and finally it envisions Pateron Ferry interchange. A curious collection of the foggy vague and the overly specific.

Only one of 16 separately listed "Activities" is aimed at any of those "Visions" and it is no more strongly worded than "Encourage..."

A different approach to industrialization might have been to analyze the reasons why industrialization is sought, what it is expected to produce and how big it must be to do the job.

It might well be that there is a strong resistance to industrial growth if what is meant by the term is belching smoke stacks, huge low-cost housing projects, unionized workers and accumulating industrial waste. Little support would be found for turning Morrow County into another Seattle, Los Angeles or even Beavertron.

However, there is some talk that it would be nice if our children had a chance to find a job locally when they graduate from high school. Or college. That might apply to half of them. The other half are destined for a Wall Street brokerage job, or ambassador to Iceland or astronaut. Or something like that.

We are propagating about 120 new adults every year. Half of them over 20 years would total about 1200 new workers who would need jobs that don't now exist. That might be the growth goal, about 60 new jobs every year.

Now those are jobs for our own kids, jobs that will support our own grandkids, so they ought to be pretty good jobs. No minimum wage job, even at Oregon's highest in the nation rate, will do. Let's say 150 percent of minimum wage for starters. That's better than \$7 per hour. And we can't be having our own kids drawing rocking chair half the time so let's say these new jobs must run not less than 10 months of year. That means that as a bare minimum these new jobs should pay \$12,000 a year.

Whoa. Say, that pretty well eliminates most of the jobs at Hermsiton Foods, doesn't it? And makes the prison jobs look pretty good? Well maybe it's a good thing we lost both of those. And it pretty well destroys the tourist business too, you can't raise our grandkids on a summer-time motel night clerk job.

The other part of industrialization is the addition it might make to the tax base. That becomes even more important with Measure #5 in place. Growth in tax base is the only hope that government can grow and we all want that, don't we?

Well, if tax base growth is important, maybe we have another requirement: for every job created we should have capital construction of say, \$50,000. For the 60 new jobs every year, counting the new home each would build, there would be \$4-5 million in new assessable property. Over the 20 years that would mean a little more than 10 percent increase in the present assessable value of the county.

With that kind of plan, we'd know pretty quickly whether a specific new industry fit the specifications. If it did, it would be worthy of community support: reduced tax incentives, government sponsored loan programs, land, building and financing incentives, that kind of thing. If it didn't, then it might happen anyway, but we wouldn't be giving away the farm to get a substandard industry.

And we'd have a time-line to tell us how far ahead or behind schedule we were. Sixty new jobs every year, period. When we're ahead, we can sit back and save our energy for enjoying some of the reasons we live here. When we're behind, we can get off our duffs and go look for a new industry, what a novel idea.

The Strategic Plan might have looked a lot different than it does.

Chief Rathbun's Tips

Parents please take the time to explain to your children about crossing the street and walking in the lane of traffic during cold, snowy weather that it takes longer for a car to come to a stop because of the slick road conditions. There have been reports from motorists about several near accidents involving children. Take extra precautions when crossing streets during snowy conditions and motorists should drive slower than usual to help prevent unnecessary accidents.

A change purse was found near the Red Apple Market on December 21 and turned in to the Heppner Police department. Please call and describe.

4-H News

7 Munchers
By Joe Kindle, Reporter
On January 6, the 4-H group the 7 Munchers will have a can and bottle drive. The proceeds will go to the Neighborhood Center.

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