

# Gazette imes

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VOL 110 NO. 29 6 Pages Wednesday, July 17, 1991 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

## City celebrates 100 years of weather observations



George Miller (l) presents plaque to George Stillman

The city of Heppner and the National Weather Service celebrated 100 years of weather observations for the city in a ceremony Monday, July 15.

On hand for the event were George R. Miller, area manager, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service forecast office in Portland, Heppner city administrator Gary Marks, city weather recorder George Stillman, city crew foreman Dave Winters, city recorder Rene Devin, chamber of commerce president Bob Kahl and Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson.

Recording of the city's weather began in May of 1889 with Arthur Smith. Smith recorded until September of 1895. H.T. Bagley took over from December of 1895 to January 1896. R.E. Smith recorded in August of 1896 and Arthur Smith resumed recording from July 1897 to March of 1900. J.M. Kernan assumed the duties from January 1901 until May of 1903 when he died in the catastrophic Heppner flood of June 14, 1903.

Other recorders over the years were: J.H. Huddleston-Nov. 1903 to March 1904; Oscar Borg-June to December 1904; George Whiteis-May 1905 to Nov. 1909; Ralph Kenton-Jan. 1910 to Aug. 1911; Frank Gilliam recorded for 22 years from Sept 1911 to March 1933; his

brother Leonard Gilliam, who recorded 33 years-March 1933 to April 1966; and Leonard's son, Donald F. Gilliam recorded 15 years-April 1966 to May 1981. The city of Heppner has recorded since that time with George Stillman doing the recording since the city took over.

According to figures released by Miller, the hottest average month over the history of weather observations in Heppner was July of 1906 when temperatures averaged 94.2 degrees. The coolest temperatures were recorded in January of 1930 when the thermometer plummeted to an average of six degrees.

The wettest month was December of 1964 when monthly precipitation measured 4.4 inches. No precipitation at all was recorded in July of 1899, August 1893, September 1932, October 1917 and November 1939. Severe droughts were recorded from 1924 to 1941. The driest year was 1939 with only 7.81 inches of precipitation. 1942, however, has been the wettest year with 19.23 inches of precipitation.

The weather observations are a joint program with the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative States Research Service, the American Association of State Climatologists and the city.

## City needs council members

Heppner city administrator Gary Marks is seeking persons interested in serving on the Heppner city council.

Board member Rick Curtis has announced that he will be moving out of the area and another board member has indicated the possibility of his resignation because of health reasons, said Marks.

Marks said that he expects that another board member will be appointed to fill the remainder of

Mayor Cara (Costa) Osmin's term. Osmin recently married and moved out of the city limits.

Anyone interested in the positions should contact Marks at 676-9618. Although the positions were originally four-year terms ending December 1994, they would be up for election in November of 1992.

"It's a commitment," said Marks, but he stressed that the council meets only once a month.

## Swimming pool filters installed

New pool filters have been installed in the Heppner city pool.

The pool had been plagued by cloudy water caused by ineffective filters since swimming season last year.

Pool manager, Sarah Carlson said that since the filters were installed Friday evening, July 12, "the water is crystal clear. It was getting really cloudy on Friday," said Carlson. "I told the maintenance workers that we'd have to close the pool if we didn't get those filters in."

Until the filters were installed cloudy water necessitated that the pool be drained and refilled around every three days.

Carlson said that installation of the new filters took only 45 minutes to an hour.

Most of the money for the filters was raised by donations from businesses, organizations and individuals. Total cost for the project was \$6,324. Donations amounted to \$5,975, with a balance of \$349.40 left to be raised. City Recorder Rene Devin said that donations are still being accepted.

## Newcomers need to pre-register for school

The beginning of school is just over a month away. Families new to the Heppner/Lexington area need to register their school-aged children. Children entering kindergarten through 8th grade should register at the Heppner Elementary School office. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records when you come to register.

"The staff of Heppner Elementary and Middle Schools welcomes you and your child to our community. We look forward to an excellent and exciting 1991-92 school year," said a school spokesperson.

## Costa to step down as Mayor

Heppner Mayor Cara Costa Osmin, will preside over her last Heppner City Council meeting in August.

Because Osmin recently married and moved out of the city limits she will be forced to step down before her term expires on December 31, 1992, according to city administrator Gary Marks.

The city council has the authority to appoint a replacement to fill out the remainder of Osmin's term.

A mayoral election will be held in November 1992.

## School board ups business managers salary offer

The Morrow County School Board, at its regular meeting Monday night, July 15, upped their salary offer to district business manager Chuck Rhoads.

At the June meeting, the board had originally offered Rhoads and director of curriculum, Mike Wsiaki, a 4.5 percent increase and five additional non-contracted days. Their salary packages also included 20 vacation days, with no more than 30 days accumulated, 12 paid holidays and a 260-day work year with a one-year contract. Under the new offer Rhoads would receive a raise from \$37,183 to \$39,413 for 260 work days, but would not receive the five non-contracted days. Wsiaki would receive an increase from \$46,053 to \$48,125 for 260 work days and would retain the five non-contracted days. A non-contracted day is a personal leave or vacation day.

According to new district superintendent Ralph Reed, Wsiaki's proposed salary of \$48,125 is above the state average of \$46,944 for 260 work days for the same job title in a similarly-sized district, while Rhoads' proposed salary is below the state average of \$46,944 for 260 work days.

In other business the board awarded a Riverside High School roof modification project to Terrell Roofing for \$42,000;

-awarded a bid for three school buses to Western Bus Sales for \$146,372;

-approved a request for a non-resident student to attend Riverside High School;

-approved a request for a school bus to travel on a private road in Boardman;

-announced resignations of Kelly Rhea, Sam Boardman Elementary sixth grade; Jim Raible, Ione-LA/Spanish; Bill Kannard, Ione-basic math; Harvey Williams, Ione-industrial arts; Jocelyn Jones, Ione-science PE; Valerie Rickert, Columbia Jr High/Riverside High art; Marie Fuller-Riverside ERC; Kathy Hoskins, Sam Boardman/Riverside-vocal music; ReNae Bowling, Columbia Jr High-home ec; Lynn Brammon, Columbia-math; Mary-Jane Hansen, Columbia-Language Arts; read/LA/math; Liz Curtis, Heppner High-counselor; Mark Jones, A.C. Houghton-Chapter 1; and Kathy Rhoads, Sam Boardman-kindergarten.

-announced hiring of Carol Chapman for SBE 6th grade; Steven Schaber, Ione basic math; Robin Graff, Ione industrial arts; Carol Oord, Ione Science/PE; Becky Kington, CJH/RHS art; Smokey Joe Wightman, SBE/RHS vocal music; Pauline Curham, CJH home economics; Dale Peters, CJH math;

Mark Jones, RHS Chapter 1/reading/LA/math; Kathy Rhoads, ACH Chapter 1; Carol Atherly, Ione media specialist; and Susan Baker, SBE/ACH media specialist;

-appointed the Heppner Gazette-Times the newspaper of record;

-accepted the abstracts of votes of 995 yes to 993 no from the June 25 levy election;

-raised the school district borrowing limit to \$4.5 million, half the \$9 million budget (previous borrowing limit was \$250,000 in the event the district need the money until taxes were received in November);

-announced the expiration of four budget committee members' terms-Clint Krebs, Ione; Mark Lovgren and Dick Nuttbrock, at large; and John Prag, Boardman;

-administered the oath of office to board members Marcia Kemp, Molly Rill and John Rietmann; and

-elected Alan Holmes as chairman of the board.

## Merchants' Committee to meet

The Heppner Merchant's Committee will meet Tuesday, July 23, 6 p.m. at the Shoe Box.

Topics of discussion will include August's Sidewalk Sale.

## Radioactive emissions topic of meeting



Ken Niles

Over 100 people gathered at the senior mealsite Wednesday, July 10, to learn of a study concerning radioactive emissions at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near the Tri-Cities in the 1940s.

Ken Niles, nuclear safety information specialist for the Oregon Department of Energy, told of the

study and outlined a guide which has been established to help people determine whether they are at risk.

Niles said that the areas closest to Hanford, especially downwind of the nuclear plant, received the most radiation. The areas downwind include portions of Grant, Adams, Franklin and Walla Walla counties in Washington; and Umatilla and a portion of Morrow County. Small areas of Kittitas and Yakima counties were also affected. The guide, for 1944 to 1947 residents of these areas includes questions concerning consumption of milk-whether the milk came from downwind, a dairy or a family cow, whether the cow ate pasture grass, if those drinking the milk were infants in 1944 to 1947.

Niles said that it is not possible to measure the radiation a person received, but it may be estimated.

Niles said that the Hanford plant, which produced plutonium for nuclear weapons during the 1940s differs from nuclear power plants in operation now in that they produce power not plutonium for weapons, they are highly regulated, strictly

monitored and are safe. The nuclear power plant now located on the Hanford site and the Trojan nuclear power plant near Portland, release

"infinitesimal" amounts of radioactivity," said Niles. He said that beginning in 1946, Hanford installed filters on their nuclear weapons plant which drastically reduced the radiation. Hanford produces no plutonium now, and is involved in a cleanup that Niles says "will take decades."

Dr. Jeanne Berretta, who attended the meeting, said that persons who are determined to be high risk may be screened for thyroid conditions. According to a pamphlet distributed by Niles, about 30 percent of Iodine 131 (a radioactive material released from Hanford in large quantities in the '40s) collects in the thyroid gland if it is inhaled or ingested.

Symptoms vary and may take many years to develop, said Berretta.

Those wishing more information may write the Washington Department of Ecology, Mail Stop PV II, Olympia Washington, 98504 or call 1-800-545-5558.

## Port of Morrow to lease terminal to Tidewater

The Port of Morrow has negotiated a lease of its container terminal to Tidewater Barge Lines beginning July 15. This will allow the port to work on other projects, as well as continue to promote economic development in the county, according to a Port of Morrow news release.

In order to expand opportunities for the intermodal facilities, the Port and Tidewater agreed to a 15-year lease. Tidewater will manage and operate the facility, and will purchase a 4600 Manitowac crane and L-80 container handler along with other miscellaneous items from the port.

"It was a good opportunity for the Port to get back to the original intent of the facility," said a spokesperson for the port. When the terminal was built six years ago, it was operated by private enterprise. Shortly after, the terminal was returned to the hands of the port. Since that time container barging through the facility has grown to approximately half of the volume on the Columbia/Snake River System. The Morrow County port handled over 8600 containers in 1990.

The port expects no interruption in services during the transition, according to Port officials. The terminal will maintain its public use status, with barge calls expected

from various barge lines. Shippers throughout the region take advantage of the services available at the Port of Morrow terminal. Commodities barged through the port include hay cubes, bales, potato flakes, popcorn and flour.

Tidewater brings a 58-year old service record with communities in eastern Oregon and Washington along with terminal operation expertise to the Boardman operation.

With Tidewater beginning to barge solid waste as early as January, 1992, the timing of the lease couldn't have been better, they said. "We have been a partner with the port from the start when business was scarce and with the solid waste project beginning soon, this agreement is very timely," explained Tidewater President and owner Raymond Hickey. "We believe we can improve efficiencies and please our customers which are our goals."

Kent Goodyear, port commission president, echoed Hickey's assessment.

"The Port of Morrow believes teaming up with Tidewater will be a very positive step in jointly promoting the use of transportation along the Columbia/Snake River System," said Goodyear. "The port has many projects in the works and this will allow us to concentrate on expanding development."

## Sign up for weed assistance

The Morrow County Weed District is having a sign-up for cost-share assistance for controlling "A" list noxious weeds. These weeds include: rush skeletonweed, yellow starthistle, scotch thistle, spikeweed, purple loosestrife, dalmation and yellow toadflax, tansy ragwort and musk thistle.

Landowners and operators having problems with these weeds and who would like some assistance should stop by the weed district office or contact David Pranger, 676-5452 and fill out an application.

## Riding Club sets annual trail ride

The Wranglers Riding Club has set their annual trail ride for Sunday August 11. The ride will be about six miles with a potluck dinner to follow.

A cost of \$5 per person or \$15 per family will be charged to cover the cost of the meal. Non-members are welcome to attend. People attending must RSVP 676-5037 or 676-5822 by August 2.

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