

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

Heppner  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper  
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**It Takes  
Courage**

Sometimes the simple little things call for a disproportionate amount of courage. Like the other night at a school board meeting. When the vote splits three to three and it's your turn to vote, it takes a lot of courage either way.

The issue was whether the district continue requiring board members to live in any particular part of the county or not. The present system is a sort of hybrid of the two: some board members must live in a particular zone, some are elected from the county at large.

It all started 25 or 30 years ago (certainly long enough ago for most of us to have forgotten) when the five common school districts were consolidated into one administrative district. The deal then was for at least one board member to be elected from each of the former districts, and there was one member from each district, except Heppner elected three.

Ten years ago, after the 1980 census showed that the population had shifted from south county to north county, two of the directors from Heppner were changed to at-large positions. So today there are directors who live in the former Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Boardman and Irrigon districts and two at-large (one incumbent lives in north county, the other in south county).

Over the years, state law and U.S. Supreme Court interpretation of the 14th Amendment changed the law to require zones of nearly equal population size. Then the 1990 census gave pretty precise information about where they live. The present five zones simply will not meet constitutional muster because some of them are much smaller than others.

So at this month's board meeting, the question arose as to whether the seven school directors should be elected from zones of about equal size or whether they should all be elected from the county at-large. Before you understand the significance of that question, you should know that there are about 7,500 people in Morrow County. That would make a few less than 1,100 per zone.

The 1990 census shows about 4,100 folks live in Irrigon and Boardman and surrounding areas. It takes relatively simple math to figure out that four (a majority) of the seven zones, and thus directors, would live in or around Irrigon or Boardman. That could be particularly significant in the immediate future with the growth committee recommending 34 new classrooms, a new gymnasium and an auditorium among other facilities, all for north county schools.

So when the board split three to three on zoned directors versus all directors at-large, you can see that it must have taken lots of courage to vote with the zoned director side. Especially when you live in the area that will become the minority group.

Certainly it is not true that all issues will be decided by a north-south split. The truth is that most decisions are unanimous. The others split on some philosophical difference. But once in a great while, once or twice a year, a decision of the board has provincial overtones. Certainly this one did.

This month's action was not the final word. Early in January the board will look at a map showing the boundaries of the proposed seven districts. They may gerrymander boundaries to soften the impact (one of which is that it may turn out that three of the present directors would live in a single zone). Or they may find the map so unsatisfactory that they change their minds and adopt the at-large proposal. Certainly there will be a lot of pressure on the one swing voter to do just that.

It took a lot of courage to cast that one swing vote in the first place. It will take even more to continue on that course.  
As I see it, it's an even money bet.



**AS I  
SEE IT**  
By Ed Glenn

**Letters to the Editor**

**Cuts could drastically affect nursing home care**

To the Editor:  
One of the areas being impacted by Ballot Measure 5 are nursing homes. Here are the facts: Governor Roberts budget submitted to the 1993 legislature proposed cuts of over \$50 million for nursing home residents, the majority of who rely on state and federal Medicaid funding for care. If adopted, this budget could drastically impact the quality of care for the thousands of Oregonians depending on nursing homes for their care. How? By cutting off the provider's ability to give care. A typical 100-bed nursing home (with 60 percent of the residents depending on Medicaid) could lose \$15,000 per month or \$180,000 per year to run their facility. Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Heppner (with approximately 50 percent of the residents depending on Medicaid) could lose almost \$45,000 per year. Such cuts could force reductions in key staffing and other crucial necessities which would directly impair the quality of care in the facility.

The Oregon state legislature has the power to adopt the Govern-

nor's proposed budget, or to create an entirely new budget. Their decision can be determined by your involvement in the process.

Oregon's nursing home residents need your help. The most effective thing you can do is share your concerns with your state senator and state representative. Tell your legislator, either by letter or a phone call, how this dramatic measure is going to affect your friends and loved ones. Together we can make a difference.

Listed below are the addresses and phone numbers for our state legislators.

State Senator (28th District), Wes Cooley, 27430 Willare Road, Powell Butte, OR 97753, (503) 382-5021.

State Representative (59th District), Michael Payne, 1300 Walnut Street, Baker City, OR 97814, (503) 523-4360.

Sincerely,  
(s) Kevin R. Erich  
Pioneer Memorial Hospital  
Administrator

**Births**

**Kristine Ellan Griffin**-a daughter Kristine Ellan was born to Brenda and Patrick Griffin of Irrigon on December 10, 1992 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz.

**Taighler Ann Dougherty**-a daughter Taighler Ann was born to Dawna and Cliff Dougherty of Heppner on December 12, 1992 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz.

Grandparents are Maureen and Kenneth Howard, Lexington and Pat and Jerry Dougherty, and Oliver and Monique Devin, Heppner.

Great grandparents are Maurice Groves, Heppner and Marie Steagall, Lexington.

**Mathew Hal Warr**-a son Mathew Hal was born to Annette and Steven Warr of Irrigon on December 12, 1992 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 10 1/2 oz.

**The Trail News**

By Sandi Ford, OTRPC  
The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo committee wishes everyone a very happy holiday season.

For those looking for something to do on New Year's Eve, the New Year's Eve Benefit Rodeo will be held in Walla Walla, WA.

Heppner cowboys Mike Mahoney and Steve Curran will be competing at the Columbia River Circuit Finals in Yakima, WA January 8-10. The Wrangler Pro Rodeo will be held in Portland that same weekend.

The committee wishes everyone a safe and happy new year. Look for more rodeo news in 1993.

**Sheriff's Report**

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

December 22: Morrow County deputy began investigation of theft of gasoline from the Port of Morrow in Boardman;

Morrow County deputy attempted to locate a citizen for an emergency medical message;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington Fire Dept to a vehicle on fire on I-84, mile post 147, west bound.

December 23: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance to the clinic for a patient transport to the hospital;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of a report of careless driving in the Irrigon area;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of a report of the theft of a greeting card from an Irrigon resident;

Morrow County deputy cited and released Robert John Brehm, 22, Irrigon for Menacing, Theft III and Assault IV;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of suspicious vehicles in Ione. Vehicles were driving slowly by a residence, sometimes parking in the driveway and sometimes stopping in the street;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a Boardman residence. One male with an injury was transported to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

December 24: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept to a chimney fire on N. Court St.;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of criminal mischief. A lock was cut at the city of Irrigon pump station;

Morrow County deputy assisted the Boardman Police Dept on a noise complaint.

December 25: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a

residence in West Glenn Addition. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness;

Morrow County deputy responded to assist with an animal problem in Irrigon;

Morrow County deputy responded to a report of a disturbance which upon further investigation resulted in the arrest of Gary Dayle Hecker, 37, Irrigon, for Assault II and Criminal Mischief I. Hecker was transported and lodged at Benton County Jail.

December 26: Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a vandalism at a residence on Paul Smith Road in Boardman;

Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a traffic problem on I-84;

Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a juvenile problem in Irrigon.

December 27: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the lone EMT's and the Heppner ambulance to a residence in Ione;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray Fire Dept to a fire alarm sounding at the Spray High School. Page was cancelled en route. A worker was hanging a drywall;

Morrow County deputy began investigation of hay stolen from a ranch below Heppner.

December 28: Morrow County deputy began an investigation of two window panes broken out of the double doors on the east side of Columbia Junior High. It was unknown at press time if entry had occurred;

Morrow County deputy began an investigation of vandalism done to the Irrigon Marina bathrooms. The bathrooms had been spray painted.

**Scratch Pads**

various sizes  
**50¢ lb.**  
Gazette-Times  
147 W. Willow  
Heppner, Oregon  
676-9228

**GOOD OLD FASHIONED  
CRAB CRACK BANQUET**  
(Cracked Crab, salads, baked beans and garlic bread and beef.)

**Heppner Elk's Lodge #358**

**Happy Holidays!!  
New Year Gala**

**Music and Favors. Courtesy Car Provided.  
Come meet your friends and bring in the  
New Year!**

**Heppner Elks 358**

676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 N. Main

**COAST TO COAST**

YOUR

**SOURCE**

FOR

**SAVINGS**

Christmas Decorations 1/3 to 1/2 Off  
Quality Overstocked Items 1/3 Off

**BEST DEAL OF THE DECADE  
Quality Water Heater**

**\$84<sup>99</sup>** after rebate



**Happy New Year!**

**Coast to Coast**

Heppner WE CAN HELP YOU 676-9961

**Court Street Market**

111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643

**GROCERIES - MEATS - PRODUCE**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Prices Good

Dec. 30th through Jan. 5th

**Bottom Round Roast \$2<sup>29</sup> lb.**

**Top Round Steak \$2<sup>49</sup> lb.**

**Beef Rib Roast \$3<sup>35</sup> lb.**

**Top Sirloin Steak \$2<sup>99</sup> lb.**

**Turkey 55¢ lb.**

**Whole Fryers 78¢ lb.**

**Oranges 29¢ lb.**

**Mini Carrots 99¢ ea.**

**Reg. Carrots 29¢ ea.**

**Potatoes \$1<sup>19</sup> ea.**

**Green Peppers 4 for \$1<sup>00</sup>**

**Green Cabbage 4 lbs. for \$1<sup>00</sup>**

**Tater Tots 89¢ ea.**

**Salsa \$1<sup>00</sup> ea.**

**Hot Cocoa Mix 99¢ ea.**

**Snack Crackers \$1<sup>15</sup> ea.**

**Med. Cheese \$3<sup>99</sup> ea.**

**Closed New Year's Day**

**Market Report**

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1992

Soft White

Dec. \$4.20

Jan. \$4.22/\$4.24

Feb. \$4.26/\$4.27

March \$4.28

New Crop

July \$3.75

Aug. \$3.66

Barley

Dec. \$94

Jan. \$95/\$96

Feb. \$98/\$99