

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Letter to the Editor

Post office provides gracious treatment

To the editor:
When we sometimes find ourselves expecting less friendliness and courtesy as we go about our business, isn't it refreshing to enjoy the gracious treatment we get at our Heppner Post Office.

(s) A.K. Felt

Creative Arts Club to meet at Kate's

Morrow County Creative Arts will meet Monday, January 24 at 1 p.m. at Kate's Pizza in Heppner. Those planning to attend should bring any project that they are working on, arts, crafts, etc. to share with the group.

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You are invited to a
**wedding reception honoring
Joe and Linda Halvorsen**
Sunday, January 23, 1994
from 2 to 5 p.m. at the
**Willow Grange Hall in
Ione, Oregon**

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Hermiston
Senior Center
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Mon. 6:30 p.m.

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Obituary

Terrel L. Bengé

Terrel L. Bengé, 83, of Heppner, died Saturday, January 15, 1994 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, Jan. 19 at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

Mr. Bengé was born Dec. 10, 1910, at Lexington to Ralph and Ella Driskell Bengé. He grew up in the area and graduated from Heppner High School and attended Oregon State University.

On Dec. 7, 1947, he married Mary Reininger Wallace at Portland.

He farmed on Social Ridge and Rhea Creek.

He was a lifetime member of Heppner BPOE 358 and a past exalted ruler; he was also a lifetime member of Al Kader Shrine Temple and the Heppner Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

Survivors include his wife, Mary at the home; daughters, Joan Hughes of Heppner and Lynn Marie McDonald of Omaha, Neb.; son, Michael of Washington, D.C.; sister, Luola Rehfield of Eugene; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. A son, Ralph, died earlier.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, or the Elks Eye Clinic, or a charity of choice, directly or through Sweeney Mortuary, PO Box 97, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, is in charge of arrangements.

Sheriff's Report

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

January 11: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a civil matter;

Morrow County deputy took a report on a burglary that occurred at Gerald Johnson's residence, Rt. 2, Box 322, Irrigon. A 22 handgun and a VCR was reported missing. Amount of value was unknown;

Morrow County deputy took a report from Frank Wetzel, Boardman, concerning a stolen vehicle. The vehicle was located later abandoned in some trees near Canal Road;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the Wilson Road Trailer Court for a juvenile with problems relating to a prior surgery. There was no transport.

January 12: Morrow County deputy took a report of a traffic hazard involving potato trucks on Laurel Lane near the Port of Morrow. The problem was turned over to the road department;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a family disturbance;

Morrow County deputy responded to 7th St., Irrigon, for a report of a prowler. Deputy was unable to locate anyone upon arrival;

Morrow County deputy assisted the Boardman Police Dept with a report of a prowler on Boardman Avenue. Deputy was unable to locate prowler upon arrival.

January 13: Morrow County deputy responded to an Irrigon residence to investigate a report of possible stolen property;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept. to a Heppner residence for a flu fire.

January 14: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept to a residence inside Heppner for a flu fire;

Morrow County deputy responded to Irrigon in regard to a problem that turned out to be a civil problem;

Morrow County deputy investigated a report of vandalism being done by juveniles;

Morrow County deputy responded to investigate a report of a fight in progress. Officers were unable to locate report, call was unfounded;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the BP station for a woman with an unknown illness. Patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

January 15: Morrow County deputy investigated a report of theft of services from the BP Sta-

tion in Boardman; Morrow County deputies responded to Irrigon for a report of a theft. Turned out to be a civil matter;

Morrow County deputy assisted with a family disturbance in Irrigon.

January 16: Morrow County deputy arrested Richard F. Hinz, 21, on a warrant for Failure to Appear on the charge of Driving While Suspended. Hinz was lodged at Benton County Jail;

Morrow County deputy responded to Kunze Road in Boardman for a traffic problem;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon Rural Fire Dept to a haystack fire near Mayville;

Morrow County deputy began investigating a theft of tools from the Boardman area. Amount of value was unknown;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a Boardman residence for a woman with an unknown illness. She was transported to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to a motor vehicle accident on Willow Creek Road. There was no transport. Victims had been transported by private vehicle;

Morrow County deputy investigated the report of suspicious circumstances at an Irrigon residence. Deputy was unable to locate anything;

Morrow County deputies assisted the Boardman Police Dept with a disturbance at a Boardman residence.

January 17: Morrow County deputy did a drive by on a complaint of loud music from the West View Drive area, Boardman;

Morrow County deputy arrested Marelino Rivera-Lomeli, 37, Boardman, for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants;

Wheat disease workshop set

A workshop on "Controlling Wheat Disease in Highly Erodible Land" will be held January 27 at 1 p.m. at the Willows Grange in Ione. The workshop is sponsored by the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Speakers will include Extension cereals specialist Russ Karow, Pendleton Experiment Station superintendent and plant pathologist Dick Smiley and Morrow-Gilliam crops agent Phil Nesse.

Disease that will receive special attention are cephalosporium stripe, dryland and strawbreaker footrot, barley stripe rust, stripe rust, barley yellow dwarf virus, and take-all. Disease identification and control will be emphasized.

The session is expected to offer three private applicator recertification credits. For more information call Nesse at 503 676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664.

Around the County
By Earl Woods, Jr.

If you read the January edition of the Extension Newsletter, you know that the Morrow County Extension Advisory Council voted to pursue the formation of a county Extension Service District. This translates to "We want out of the county budget." The council

states that they want "stable funding for our program," i.e., a tax base. Don't be surprised if you see other departments or programs doing the same thing, especially if the levy fails. Popular programs want to distance themselves from unpopular programs.

This brings me to a brief discussion of mandated services. In Oregon, the assessor, the treasurer, the sheriff, the surveyor, juvenile director, the clerk and the county commission are all mandated. The statutes also mandate that a Planning Director be appointed. All other county officials, i.e., accountant and road officials, etc., may be appointed and thus are not mandated. However, because of fuel and forest revenues which are directed to the road department by the state and federal governments, the road department for all practical purposes, is mandated, as are the child support officer, the emergency management director, the public health nurse, and veteran's officer. Some of the statutorily-mandated programs also receive state and federal monies, such as the assessor and the treasurer, who are partly supported by the tax grant, the utility fund and the assessment tax.

This means that in the event of a total levy failure, these programs will nevertheless exist at some level, while others would be eliminated. For example, the sheriff would still be funded, but there might not be any money for deputies. Also, county support for the museum, the Neighborhood Centers, senior services, Soil and Water and others would entirely disappear.

An interesting historical note came to light last week. It seems that back in 1897 there were a number of roads existing in the county that were viewed as public roads. This includes The Dalles Military Road, the Ditch Creek Road, the Ritter Road, the Copple Butte Road and several others. The Forest Service, which was created by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 wants those historic public roads to revert back to non-road status, and as a result got the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 2477, which stated that if Morrow County (and other counties) didn't assert a claim to those roads by December 31, 1993, that the roads would revert to the Forest Service. Our alert county commissioners picked up on HB 2477 and made a claim. See the January 4, 1994 Morrow County minutes to get a complete list of the roads claimed.

Remember a few weeks ago I spoke about the "turf wars" percolating in the North end? Jack Palmer, Boardman city manager wants to annex the 240 million dollar worth of anticipated value that the gas-fired Co-Gen plant at Coyote Springs would bring to the tax rolls. He wants to do this for the benefit of the city of Boardman. This would make Boardman the richest city, per-capita in the state of Oregon. The fact that the site is within the urban growth boundary for Boardman makes this theoretically possible. Mr. Palmer is waving a carrot, which is Boardman's potential water supply, in front of the folks at PGE. The Port of Morrow, and possibly the County, may go along with these plans if it would mean that they could get rid of their responsibility for the roads in that area, especially Columbia Avenue. We, the citizens of this county, need to stay on top of this very complex issue. There are some legal issues relating to strip annexation and the overall annexation agreement that could hurt people living in the other cities in the county and in the unincorporated areas of the county as well. We should urge our county and city officials to pursue this issue aggressively.

A committee has been formed to examine the issue of County Home Rule. Four members were selected by the County Court, four additional members were selected by state legislators who represent Morrow County and the ninth member was selected by the committee itself. Rollie Marshall was elected chairman, with John Prag to serve as vice chairman.

At this time, the committee is getting organized and doing some homework, preparing to address the issues that have generated notable public interest, such as restructuring county government. Eventually, public hearings will be held to allow comment, suggestions and criticisms from Morrow County citizens, so be ready. However, don't be surprised if this turns out to be much ado about nothing. Over half of the citizens of the state of Oregon are now under "Home Rule" charters, and in my experience, the quality of government is due primarily to the quality of the individuals occupying office rather than to the configuration of any particular system.

Finally, an article which appeared in the East Oregonian last week which purported to describe the 1994-95 Morrow County budget was factually flawed. The fact is, the budget for the coming year is less than that which was approved by the voters last year.

Correction

Melvin Lyle "Pinky" Allyn's name was incorrectly spelled in last week's obituary. The Gazette-Times regrets the error.

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| Green Peppers | 4 for \$1.00 | Banquet 46 oz. Dill Pickles | \$2.00 |
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| Western Family Chocolate Chips 12 oz. | 99¢ | Beef Rib Steak | \$3.50 lb. |
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