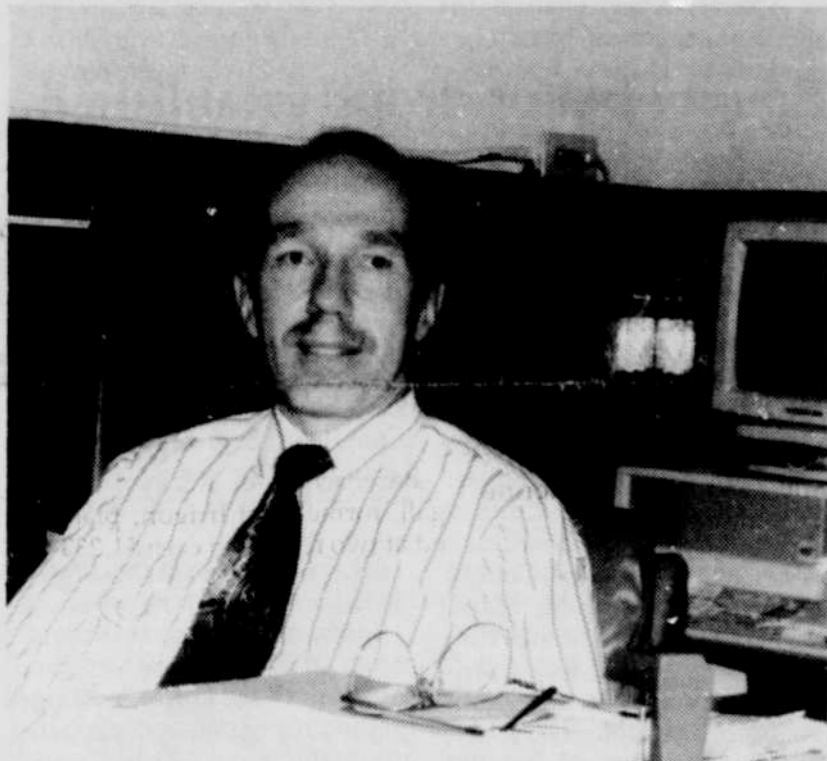


HEPPNER



D.A. Earl Woods foils escape attempt



Morrow County DA Earl R. Woods, Jr.

There was some excitement at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner around 9 a.m. last Thursday, Oct. 26, when Nolan Wayne McClatchy, 28, Hermiston, attempted a daring escape from the circuit courtroom located on the second floor of the courthouse.

McClatchy had just been convicted of two counts of second degree burglary and three counts of first degree theft and was sentenced to serve 240 days in the county jail.

Judge Jeff Wallace had ordered McClatchy to take a seat in the back of the courtroom to wait for the sheriff. Instead McClatchy jumped up and sprinted out the back door of the courtroom, passing by a startled group of approximately 30 citizens who were serving as jurors in an unrelated criminal case.

District Attorney Earl Woods, who had just prosecuted McClatchy, gave chase and pursued McClatchy down the stairs, out the back door of the courthouse, through the parking lot, down the driveway and into a residential area across from the courthouse.

County Judge Louis Carlson, 66, and Emergency Service director Casey Beard, 46, heard the commotion and also gave chase.

A passerby yelled that McClatchy was in Willow Creek approaching the bridge. Carlson and Beard headed for the bridge and Woods went back upstream in case McClatchy doubled back. McClatchy did double back and came up the bank where Woods was

waiting for him.

Woods, who was alone, but being watched by jurors from the upstairs windows of the courthouse, confronted McClatchy and ordered him to take a face down position on the ground.

Instead, McClatchy charged

Woods, attempting to knock him out of the way. Woods punched McClatchy in the jaw as they met and McClatchy went to the ground. Woods jumped on him and took him into custody.

McClatchy was handed over to Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun, who escorted McClatchy to the Sheriff's office for transport to jail.

Judge Carlson reported that he tore a hole in his pants and leg during the chase and Beard commented that "it's awful hard to run in cowboy boots."

Woods, who is nursing a swollen right hand, charged McClatchy with third degree escape.

McClatchy, 28, outweighs Woods, 52, by 30 pounds. However, Woods was with the Army Special Forces (Green Berets) in Vietnam, is a former police officer and is currently a lieutenant colonel in the Oregon National Guard.



Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson



Emergency Management Director Casey Beard

MCGG burglar apprehended

Robert Eugene Gregory, Jr., 42, Hermiston, was arrested in Clackamas County in connection with a burglary at the Morrow County Grain Growers shop in Lexington Friday, Oct. 20.

According to Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago, Gregory was allegedly selling tools off the side of the stolen 1994 flat-bed pickup, with Morrow County Grain Growers painted on its side, when he was spotted by an off-duty Clackamas County Sheriff's deputy.

The deputy ran the pickup's plates, discovered that it had been stolen and apprehended the suspect.

Tools and a firearm were also recovered.

Raffle to benefit local museum

The Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts (MCCAC) will raffle off a painting by Tina Sharp as a fundraiser to benefit the Morrow County Museum.

Tickets for the painting, which was donated by Pauline Matheny, will be available at the MCCAC sale, Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, and from local businesses.

Bus drivers and school district still at odds

By April Hilton-Sykes

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 59 has notified the Morrow County School Board that OSEA will file a contractual grievance against the board "if the board makes a unilateral decision to contract out the district's student transportation services."

The board and the union have yet to reach an agreement in the contract for the bus drivers employed with the school district.

"OSEA has tried to be an equal partner with the board in solving problems, but the board's refusal to bargain in good faith, recognize savings that have been identified by bus drivers and work together for long term solutions to issues have left the Morrow County Classified disappointed and upset," said Mary Kay Brant, OSEA field representative.

Morrow County School District Superintendent Chuck Starr maintains that the district has tried to reach an agreement with the union. "We've made every effort to complete nego-

tiations," said Starr. He said the school board approved a tentative agreement August 31 which was proposed by the bus drivers. That proposal, which was turned down by county OSEA membership, specified a 20 percent reduction in salary and health benefits for bus drivers only. Under that agreement, bus services would not be contracted out.

Starr added that the board agreed to meet with OSEA Oct. 20, but, he said, "They refused to bargain with us."

A June 30 decision by the Employment Relations Board ruled against the school board, saying that the board had not bargained in good faith when they decided to contract out bus services. The ruling dictated that the district return to a status quo that was in place prior to the decisions made concerning contracting busing services.

OSEA says that the district has not returned to status quo. Starr, however, maintains that it has.

One of the major factors in deciding to contract bus ser-

vices is savings, according to Starr. Chapter 59 representatives said that they identified \$36,000 in yearly savings to the district and that those changes were implemented. They say that their wages have already been reduced by 20 percent when the district went to a four-day student week.

Starr says that the district would save money over and above the \$36,000 if they contracted bus services to the low bidder. "We know we can save at least \$75,000. It pencils out to around \$96,000" said Starr. "We respect our employees. We know they've done a good job. The issue is that we know we can save money by contracting out."

Starr said that substantial savings would occur in the area of health insurance. He says that the district pays \$387 per month per employee for health benefits for the employee and their family year round. Bus drivers typically work four hours a day, four days a week, during the months school is in session.

Currin, Steagall

win rodeo events

The Columbia River Circuit Finals Steer Roping Finals, held recently in Walla Walla, saw a relative newcomer in the event take home a victory. Ron Currin, 34, of Maupin, formerly of the Buttercreek area, won the average in 57.3 seconds on three head, earning \$1,257.

Before 1995, only \$549 of Currin's approximate \$200,000 in Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) earnings came from steer roping. Most of his earnings came from steer wrestling. But last winter, Currin was invited to participate in a timed-event competition requiring him to compete in all the timed events.

"I kind of got interested in steer roping after that," he said. "It's a lot of fun. I really enjoy the sport."

Bareback rider Rocky Steagall, formerly of Irrigon, placed at two rodeos to earn \$1,233 and move up to 18th in the Crown Royal world bareback riding standings. Steagall, of Sanger, CA, scored 75, placing third at the Wild Rogue Pro- rodeo in Central Point, earning \$663. He finished second at the Trinity Valley Exposition PRCA Rodeo, in Liberty, TX, with his 77 point ride, earning \$760.

Farm ownership meeting scheduled

The Morrow County Oregon Wheat Growers League has organized a seminar on farm ownership and transfer of ownership Thursday, Nov. 16, beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the fair annex building in Heppner. The workshop will conclude by 3:30 p.m.

Alice Mills Morrow, Extension family economics specialist from Oregon State University, will present the workshop. Subjects will include how farm businesses are owned, when and how ownership will transfer to others, and business and family transitions related to the ownership change. A \$5 admission fee covers the cost of materials. Preregistration is required. Contact the Morrow County Extension Office, 676-9642; Judy Rea, 422-7445; or Holly Weimar, 384-4231.

MCGG annual meeting Nov. 6

The Morrow County Grain Growers annual membership meeting will be Monday, Nov. 6, at the fairgrounds in Heppner, starting with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The program will include reports from company officers, election of directors and associate directors and adoption of changes in the company by-laws and articles of incorporation.

The six nominees for the four director positions are Ron Becket, Virginia Grieb, Dana Heideman, John Luciani, Lyle Peck and Keith Rea. The nominees for associate directors are Travis Harrison, Mike Jones, Ken Klinger and Brian Thompson.

Featured speaker this year will be Linda Greep, director of community relations for the Evergreen School District. She has also played more than 25 lead roles in musical theater



Linda Greep

productions and is hosting and producing "Kids on Cable", a Vancouver television show featuring youth and teens.

Babysitting will be provided for the meeting in the dormitory building.

Landowners denied park district petition

The first two groups of landowners petitioning to have their property removed from the Willow Creek Park District have been denied their request, according to the office of Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson.

March 28 voters in the district, comprised of Heppner, Lexington and Ione and sur-

rounding area, had approved a \$975,000 Willow Creek Park District bond issue to build and equip a swimming pool in Heppner and a three-year serial levy at \$36,000 a year to operate the pool.

A public hearing has been scheduled for a third group of petitioners on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 1:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Courthouse.

John Bristow resigns from Port board

Commissioner John Bristow announced his resignation from the Port of Morrow Board of Directors recently. Bristow cited his recent retirement and health concerns as his reasons for resignation. He joined the Port of Morrow Commission in October 1986 and has served as president of the commission the past 1 1/2 years.

According to the Port policy for filling vacancies, the Port will advertise the position and a committee will be selected with representatives from each community in the county to review the applicants. The

committee will make recommendations to the commission which will appoint replacements.

The appointee will serve until the next Port election in March 1997. If elected at that time, the appointee would serve out the term of the commissioner who vacated the position.

Applications for the commissioner position will be available at the port office. Applicants must be residents of Morrow County. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3.

CBEC annual meeting set Nov. 12

The 51st annual meeting of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner on Thursday, Nov. 2. Registration will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner at

6 p.m. and the business meeting at 7 p.m.

Items on the agenda include election of four three-year directors and other business.

The public is invited to attend.



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