

BESSIE WETZELL
U OF ORP
NEWSPAPER LIB
EUGENE OR 97403

HEPPNER



50¢

Gazette
Times

VOL. 114 NO. 50 8 Pages Wednesday, December 13, 1995. Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

BEO marks 50 years of service

The Bank of Eastern Oregon (BEO) marked 50 years of service in Morrow and Gilliam counties in 1995 and has planned celebrations at each branch to commemorate the anniversary.

Special open houses will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Arlington branch on Friday, Dec. 15; the Ione branch on Tuesday, Dec. 19, and the Heppner branch on Thursday, Dec. 21. Refreshments will be served and drawings will be held for a gold coin giveaway. An open house was held at the Condon branch on Dec. 12.

The bank was chartered in 1945 as the Gilliam County Bank in Arlington. The new Arlington branch was built when the construction of dams on the Columbia River forced the city of Arlington to move up the hill to escape the rising water.

According to bank records, the original bank was started with \$25,000 in capital and only a handful of shareholders. As the bank grew, the need for capital also grew and capital was increased in 1957 to \$120,000. Capital and undivided profits have continued to increase over the years and shareholders now number over 200. The Arlington branch is currently managed by John Moffit.

The Ione branch was authorized in early 1959 and opened in June of that year. The original building had housed the

Bank of Ione, which closed during the Great Depression. BEO continued to use the original vault of the Bank of Ione until the new building was built and completed in 1980. The site of the present bank was the location of the original Bank of Ione. Mardean Patton handles operations at the Ione branch.

Heppner received its branch in 1957. The branch grew quickly and in a few years was the largest of the bank's branches. The Heppner branch houses the chief accounting office, which is responsible for the total operation and management of all the bank's branches. George Koffler manages the Heppner branch.

The bank opened its most recent branch in Condon last May. This branch is also managed by John Moffit.

A financial services department and a mortgage department have also been recent additions made by the bank.

Officers of the bank are George Koffler, president and chief executive officer; Linda LaRue, vice president and cashier; Harley Sager, vice president; Rollie Marshall, Richard Wood and John Moffit, assistant vice presidents, and Jeanne Pettyjohn, assistant cashier. The bank's board of directors consists of Koffler; Bill Jaeger, chairman of Condon; Alfred "Bus" Clough, Arlington; Don Briston and Joel Peterson, Ione, and Ned Clark and Bob Kahl, Heppner.

St. Pat's Committee seeks auction items

The St. Patrick's Day Auction Committee held its first meeting to begin organizing for the 1996 Auction. The committee is seeking donations of auction items from the community to support the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

"Now is a good time to make room in your closets and garages for all your upcoming Christmas acquisitions," said Delanne Ferguson. "The items you donate to the auction indirectly support our community image as 'a little touch of Ireland' during the St. Pat's celebration in the spring."

In addition to "treasurers", auction donations can also include services or opportunities, such as escorted hunting or riding trips, babysitting services, garden care, or home re-

pair work.

Volunteers are available to pick up large items at your home or business. Call Steve Rhea, days 676-9113, Mike Mills, days 676-9141, Dan Brosnan, days 676-5382 or the Murrys, days 676-9158 or evenings 676-9631, to arrange for pick-up service. Small items can be left at the Kuhn, Spicer and Mills office on Main Street or at Dan and Doris Brosnan's house.

The auction is the main fund source for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Although St. Patrick's Day would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of many volunteers, several thousand dollars are required each year to cover expenses for publicity, brochures, entertainment and facilities rentals.

Meeting set for UP property owners

A meeting for property owners who have land adjacent to the Union Pacific railroad

line is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 18, at Willows Grange in Ione, at 7 p.m.

Heppner Council give green light to housing program

The Heppner City Council gave the green light Monday night, Dec. 11, to an effort proposed by city manager Gary Marks to develop a housing rehabilitation grant request for low and moderate income homeowners in Heppner.

The council held a public hearing to take comments from the public related to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is available through the Oregon Economic Development Department. CDBG grants can be used to develop housing rehabilitation programs, build community facilities that primarily benefit low and moderate income residents, provide handicapped accessibility improvements and for technical engineering support for qualified projects.

"I am in strong support of the city applying for a CDBG grant to upgrade the community's housing. It (a housing rehabilitation program) is an important part of improving out housing stock," said John Edmundson, who testified at the hearing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the council authorized Marks to prepare a grant application for a CDBG housing rehabilitation program. Under such a program, the city could qualify for as much as \$300,000 to be distributed to low and

Family faces tough times this Christmas season



Jeanette and Don Townsend

By April Hilton-Sykes
Most of us have heard the expression, "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Don and Jeanette Townsend of Heppner have had to drink an awful lot of lemonade for too many years, but some members of the community are trying to make that lemonade taste a little bit sweeter.

A community Christmas tree has been set up at Heppner TV to help the Townsend family during some very tough times. Carol Mitchell, senior service coordinator with the Area Agency on Aging of CAPECO, says that anyone wishing to help the Townsends may bring donations, gifts or food items to place under the tree until Dec. 22.

"We hope the community will see this as an opportunity," said Mitchell. "By everyone giving a little, we can make a big difference. Heppner is such a caring community that we know we can meet this challenge." Mitchell says that the family's need is largely financial, but added that anything anyone can give will be very much appreciated.

Don Townsend has a condition resulting from a virus that doctors believe may have been contracted overseas. He had served in the Philippines, Korea and Okinawa in the Marines.

He has had four surgeries, during which most of his pancreas was removed, his gallbladder and part of his small intestine. He is fed by tubes and has to take morphine and Tylenol III to control his pain. He has lost over 70 pounds and his once strapping six foot frame is down to only 102 pounds.

While Don had been sick for the last three years, he had been able to work up until the last surgery Nov. 21. He is now bedridden except for short trips to the bathroom and will be disabled for life. They hope that another surgery will eventually enable him to eat and cut down his feeding tube to eight hours during the nighttime only. He faces more tests and the Townsends don't know if his condition will improve.

The last two surgeries have amounted to over \$250,000 and the cost of Don's medication is astronomical. Jeanette said that a half month's supply of his medication had cost them \$258 a month. Walmart, she said, however, "has been very nice" and cut the cost of a half month's supply down to \$158.

When Don has surgery, Jeanette has to stay in a motel to be near him. They found an inexpensive motel, but still, at \$46 a night for a discounted room, the costs add up. To top it all off, the last trip to the Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital, the muffler fell off their car.

The Townsends have few options to pay their bills and make ends meet. They are unable to get welfare because they have no children and, because she "makes too much money", they say he doesn't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. She

had been working for Senior and Disabled Services and Capeco around 230 hours a month and providing services for 15 people, giving medications, insulin, cleaning houses and bathing clients.

When Don became ill, she was told she should put him in a nursing home or adult foster home and think about getting a legal separation or a divorce, so he would qualify for assistance. "I couldn't let him go, unless I absolutely couldn't take care of him," she says. So, she cut down her work hours at Senior and Disabled Services to around 28 hours a month, serving five people. She also supplements their income by cleaning homes and the local Elks lodge, taking in ironing and letting out rooms in their rented home. The Chamber of Commerce contacted them about providing lodging during the Heppner St. Patrick's celebration and the Townsends provide rooms for overflow clientele from the Northwestern Motel. Their last boarder, however, skipped out without paying rent while they were at OHSU for another surgery. He not only cut out on the rent, but left a big mess at the house.

The Townsends were recently able to get \$147 dollars a month in food stamps and Jeanette says they will be able to get Social Security insurance which will provide funding for most of Don's medical care. The insurance won't cover previous medical bills and the family doesn't have enough money to pay their rent. Last month the Neighborhood Center helped with the rent and they were able to pay their lights, water, garbage, television and a few other bills. Home Health comes twice a week to assist with medical care and his mother, Joyce Breeding, also of Heppner, comes in once a day. Jeanette says that Carol Mitchell and her husband, David, have also helped out. "She is a godsend," adds Jeanette.

Unfortunately, this is not Jeanette's first experience with tragedy. She cared for her first husband, Sumner Earlywine, for 11 years before he passed away. He had suffered two massive strokes which resulted in complete paralysis. The home Jeanette had near Cutsforth Park caught on fire because of wiring and burned in May of 1994.

While things seem overwhelming, Jeanette tries to keep a positive outlook. She admits to being a workaholic and struggles a little with the amount of time she spends at home. The couple enjoys playing bingo. She likes to embroider and make crafts and still keeps their modest home spotless. He likes to fish and hunt, but can't get out to do that, so watches television and plays solitaire. Before he was bedridden, Don had started up though the chairs at the Elks. The pair, in a May-December romance (she is 50 and he is 30) have been married for only four years and remain devoted to each other. "It's what's in the heart that counts," says Don.

Man killed in I-84 vehicle rollover

An Everett, WA, man was killed and five others injured in a rollover accident Sunday, Dec. 10, near Boardman.

The men had been traveling west in a Crew Shuttle Co. van around 3 p.m. when the vehicle encountered ice on Interstate 84 and rolled several times before coming to rest in the eastbound lanes. The van was transporting a Burlington Northern Railroad crew from Pasco, WA, to Vancouver, WA.

Two of the men were ejected from the van. The driver of the vehicle, Doug C. Thomas, 42, a shuttle company employee, was ejected from the van and was declared dead on arrival at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

Dennis D. Cotton, 56, Vancouver, was in critical condition Tuesday with multiple fractures at Good Shepherd Hospital.

Carl Cagle, 53, Teague,

Texas, was transported to Good Shepherd and then to Kadlec Hospital in Richland, WA. He was listed in satisfactory condition with fractures.

The other three men, James Bonnin, 58, and Curtis Buck, 48, both Portland, and Jason Dimmick, age unavailable, Vancouver, were treated at Good Shepherd and released. Both Boardman and Irrigon ambulances responded to the scene of the accident.

The accident is under investigation, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's office.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

December 4-10, 1995			
	High	Low	Precip.
12/4	54	36	.03
12/5	43	28	.01
12/6	43	21	.05
12/7	36	29	.00
12/8	45	19	.00
12/9	23	16	.06
12/10	23	19	.12

Visit our
OPEN HOUSE
Friday, December 15
Have Refreshments - Say Hello
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396