

## Court discusses squirrel's listing as endangered

By Doris Brosnan

Public Works Director Guy Van Arsdale submitted an approach permit for a property owner. After discussion of some concerns, allayed by information from Van Arsdale, the court approved the permit. The director reported the finishing up of culverts on Social Ridge Road, work on the edges of Washington Street in Irrigon, and placement of most of the signs in the Irrigon area. During a discussion of numbering on Tower Road, the court noted the need to consult county counsel Bill Hanlon about ownership of that road. Van Arsdale again talked to the court about helping subdivision property owners set up local improvement districts or homeowners associations.

The court held a public hearing on a petition to vacate an easement, at which four individuals appeared. A map of the area was studied and testimony heard. The property owner noted that he no longer has plans to subdivide the property, plans that had been the purpose of the easement. Other brief testimony was offered. County counsel commented on the language in the dedication, and county assessor Greg Sweek noted concern over the granting of vaguely worded easements. The hearing closed, and the court then approved the vacation of the south easement in partition plat 1999-3.

The court approved purchase of a swamp cooler for Fair and Rodeo. They discussed an individual's request to purchase a lot presently used by the public works department and delayed action until after Van Arsdale assesses that use. With county counsel, the court discussed a contract with the consultant who will put together the Morrow-Baker partnership.

Planning director Tamra Mabbott addressed the court further about the status of the impact aid issue, of which she has spoken several times with Senator Wyden's administrative assistant. She reported that county counsel has a draft of an understanding between Umatilla and Morrow counties, to join strategies in further pursuing impact aid.

Mabbott suggested inviting the attorney with whom they have been working to speak to both counties. Some discussion focused on funds established for this purpose and Umatilla's role in financial responsibilities. Further discussion considered some options, strategies, and outcome possibilities in the counties' pursuit of impact aid. Both Judge Tallman and Commissioner Brosnan reported hopeful interpretations of the recent meetings with the Army and with the editors of the East Oregonian.

Boardman city manager Rex Mathers and building inspector Brett Cook addressed the court about the county building permit program. Changing from the state to a contract with the city of Boardman on July 1 seems on track, if a public hearing is held and if no action is taken to stop it. When questioned about an opinion on this matter from the state attorney general, Cook

reported not having heard yet.

The court met with 10 individuals to discuss the Washington Ground Squirrel's listing as an endangered species. The court heard concerns of an adjoining landowner interested in economic development but doubtful of the species' being endangered. The court heard from this speaker of some seemingly conflicting information, suggestive to the speaker that an appeal by the county would result in the overturning of the listing because ODFW did not follow appropriate procedures.

Tom Wolff spoke as representative of the Willow Creek Valley Economic group, the Heppner City Council and the Columbia Basin Board of Directors, which have voted to support an appeal of the decision, to support delaying the action as long as possible, and to support reducing the size of the area involved, respectively.

Another speaker noted a strong working relationship with ODFW but advocated requiring them to follow proper procedures.

County Extension agent Bill Broderick also recommended appeal of the process, encouraging the court to work with local ODFW personnel. He also expressed concern over a federal listing of the ground squirrel, which was requested on February 25. The question arose on what, if any, effect an "emergency" listing, as requested, would have on an appeal of the state listing.

Also questioned by another individual were the role of the local ODFW in the issue and the lack of notice to property owners on an issue so much out of the ordinary. He stated that the Port of Morrow is investigating an appeal.

Another speaker voiced a belief that a strong stand is necessary and a concern that other indigenous creatures could be listed. Other comments touched on an "independent source" handling the biology and on whether or not financing an appeal would be a burden to the county.

The court noted plans to meet with the port and ODFW and expressed the need for more information, while recognizing that an expedient decision needs to be made. Names of other individuals who might shed some light on the situation were also suggested.

Representatives of the Department of Revenue, Sweek, Hanlon and finance director Lianne Currin offered a presentation on utilities: an overview of the valuation of centrally assessed properties, unit valuation, market value, unit valuation process, calculation of utility valuation, figuring of apportionment of a production plant, apportionment of transmission and distribution plants. Review offered information on the Boardman coal plant and factors that impact the Boardman assessed value and trends. Coyote Springs Phase 11 addition was mentioned as expected by 2002. Some observations were shared, also, on "intangibles" coming up again in the legislature.

Broderick introduced to the court, Mario Magana, hired for the 4-H position in the north end of the county. The position, through the university, will be split 50-50 with Umatilla County. Magana, who said he was originally from Mexico, has

a master's degree and spent eight years in Washington. He voiced interest in helping the Hispanic community look beyond working in agriculture, focusing on developing programs for the community, rather than on traditional 4-H programs.

## Edna Peck PMH Nursing Home resident of the month



Edna Peck

By Pennie Miller, PMH & N

Edna Peck has been selected as the Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home Auxiliary featured resident of the month.

Edna was born in Heppner January 15, 1918, the third of six children born to Henry and Della Crump. Edna, who had three brothers and two sisters, often babysat for the Crawford family to earn spending money.

She graduated from Heppner High School and that same year, on June 20th, 1934, married Harold K. "Shorty" Peck, the son of Bert and Myra Peck.

Edna and her husband farmed the Peck Ranch and helped farm others. They had four children, three daughters, and a son who passed away from a heart defect when he was only six weeks old.

Edna raised their three daughters and helped on the ranch. Edna and Harold belonged to the Lexington Grange, the Heppner Elks Club and were members of the Christian Church.

The Pecks lived on the ranch on Upper Rhea Creek for most of their 66 years of married life. They now have their farm machinery exhibit, housed for many years at Shorty's Museum, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, at the new Morrow County Farm Museum. Please visit it when you can.

The Pecks' oldest daughter, Patricia Hardy, resides in Salem; their second daughter, Shirley Palmer, lives in Heppner; and their youngest, Marjorie Church, lives on the Harold Peck Ranch

on Upper Rhea Creek.

In July of 1999, Edna became part of the family at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home. Shortly after, Harold came to be with her and make sure she was being taken care of properly. Harold passed away shortly after.

"Edna is a joy to have in our little family. She is a member of our new hospital-nursing home auxiliary, which meets on the last Monday of every month."

Edna enjoys reading, crossword puzzles and find-a-word puzzles. She also enjoys visiting and is very helpful to other residents.

The Auxiliary also announces their upcoming raffle of eight different blankets, with eight winners.

Tickets will be on sale during St. Patrick's Celebration, March 18 in front of the Shoe Box. The blanket will be displayed at that time. Tickets will be available at \$1 each or six for \$5. Anyone

who would like to buy early should contact Pennie Miller, 676-5848, or Tonia Adams, 676-9616. The drawing will be held March 31 at 11 a.m. at the hospital. You need not be present to win, however they will not be able to ship out of town.

All proceeds go toward improvements for the nursing home.

In May the auxiliary will have its annual yard sale. Anyone who has something to donate should contact Pennie Miller or Frances Fred at 676-5848. The auxiliary will pick up. A date will be announced later.

## Fountain builder discovered

The builder of the stone fountain across from the Morrow County Fairgrounds has been discovered, according to Delpha Jones with the Morrow County Historical Society.

Jones says that according to Vic Groshens of Baker City, the fountain was built by his grandfather, Victor Alexander

Groshens. That fact is also confirmed by the younger Groshens' aunt, Clementine Helgeland, says Jones.

The elder Groshens, a stone mason who also constructed the Morrow County Courthouse, built the stone fountain around 1923.

## Ione Little League sign ups set

Ione Little League sign-ups will be held Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the Ione High School cafeteria.

The cost to participate is \$25, due at sign-up. Birth certificate copies are required on all new players.

## Karen's Korner

Items of Health - Tobacco Prevention by Karen Masshoff

The January 5, 2000, issue of the Gazette Times introduced me as the new Morrow County Tobacco Prevention Coordinator. Since then I have had opportunities to meet some of you through the Chamber of Commerce and during visits to various businesses. I am looking forward to meeting even more of you as spring arrives and we are more out and about.

It is a rare individual who would challenge that tobacco use is bad for our health. We all know a great deal about this subject, but there are underlying streams of information that don't enter our everyday consciousness. Therefore, it is my intention to pass on, in this twice-monthly column, some of the "gems" that come across my desk and through my e-mail.

One of the amazing items to me is how we as a culture have cloaked tobacco use and addiction in legend, mystique and romance, especially out here in the "Wild West." Our image of the early folks in this area may be that of the lone, hard-drinking, deadeye tobacco-spitting range rider. Do some images die hard?

Tobacco use here in the Northwest actually goes back centuries to the Native Americans who generally chewed it rather than smoked it. The Tlingit and Haida mixed the dried leaves of Nicotiana quadrivalvis with burnt abalone or clam shells. The resulting mixture could be chewed "as is" or formed into pellets with tree resin for sucking. Often this use had spiritual and medicinal implications. It took the European settlers, however, to set us on our present course with different forms of smoking.

In the columns to come, I will cover a little history/folklore, the nature of tobacco addiction, the medical, economic and social impacts of tobacco use. Please call me with your comments: 541-676-5421 in Heppner, 481-4200 in Boardman, or 922-5880 in Irrigon.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to O.R.S. 86.705, et seq. and O.R.S. 79.5010, et seq. Trustee No.: 09-WM-18832

Reference is made to that certain trust deed made by BERNARDO HERNANDEZ AND MINERVA HERNANDEZ AKA BERNARD HERNANDEZ, as grantor, to MORROW COUNTY ABSTRACT & TITLE, An Oregon Corporation, as trustee, in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, A Washington Corporation, as beneficiary, dated May 30, 1996, recorded June 4, 1996, in the mortgage records of MORROW County, Oregon, in Book M, Page 48183. The beneficial interest under said Trust Deed and the obligations secured thereby are presently held by WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK. Said Trust Deed encumbers the following described real property situated in said county and state, to-wit:

LOT 5, BLOCK 3, BOARDMAN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BOARDMAN, MORROW COUNTY, OREGON.

The street address or other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be:

113 BOARDMAN AVENUE  
BOARDMAN OR 97818

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the above street address or other common designation.

Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and a notice of default has been recorded pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 86.735(3); the default for which the foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due, the following sums:

Payments at \$ 468.12 each	\$ 3,744.96
Payments at \$ 0 each	\$ 0
( 05-01-99 through 12-15-99 )	
Late Charges:	\$ 163.87
Prior accumulated late charges:	\$ 29.25
Beneficiary Advances (with interest if applicable)	\$ 0
TOTAL:	\$ 3,938.08

ALSO, if you have failed to pay taxes on the property, provide insurance on the property or pay other senior liens or encumbrances as required in the note and deed of trust, the beneficiary may insist that you do so in order to reinstate your account in good standing. The beneficiary may require as a condition to reinstatement that you provide reliable written evidence that you have paid all senior liens or encumbrances, property taxes, and hazard insurance premiums. These requirements for reinstatement should be confirmed by contacting the undersigned Trustee.

By reason of said default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by said trust deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following:

UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE OF \$39,555.64, AS OF 04-01-99, PLUS, FROM THAT DATE UNTIL PAID, ACCRUED AND ACCRUING INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 13.000% PER ANNUM, PLUS ANY LATE CHARGES, ESCROW ADVANCES, FORECLOSURE COSTS, TRUSTEE FEES, ATTORNEY FEES, SUMS REQUIRED FOR PROTECTION OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDITIONAL SUMS SECURED BY THE DEED OF TRUST.

WHEREFORE, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will, on April 27, 2000, at the hour of 11:00 A.M., in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, at THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE MORROW COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 100 SO. COURT STREET, HEPPNER, County of MORROW, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee.

Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.753 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and trust deed, together with trustee's and attorney's fees.

In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any.

DATED: December 15, 1999

REGIONAL TRUSTEE SERVICES CORPORATION  
f/k/a INTERSTATE TRUSTEE SERVICES CORPORATION

Successor Trustee  
BY (s) Deborah Kaufman  
DEBORAH KAUFMAN, SECRETARY  
720 SEVENTH AVENUE, SUITE 400  
SEATTLE WA 98104 (206) 340-2550  
Sale Information: (206) 654-5545

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF KING

I certify that I am an authorized representative of trustee, and the foregoing is a complete and exact copy of the original trustee's notice of sale.

*(Signature)*  
Authorized representative of trustee

Published: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000  
Affid

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