

HEPPNER

# Gazette times

50¢

VOL. 120 NO. 13 8 Pages Wednesday, March 28, 2001 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Co-gen plant may be operating by mid-April

The co-generation plant at the South Morrow Industrial Park (formerly Kinzua mill) should be up and operating by mid April, plant manager Doug Dubuque told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Tuesday.

Dubuque, who came out of retirement to head up the restarted electrical generating plant, said there will be about 16 full time jobs to operate the plant, which will produce about 10 megawatts of electricity by burning wood waste.

"The jobs will pay between \$14 and \$17 an hour with full medical benefits," Dubuque said. The start up was good news for the community which saw 136 jobs go away when the Kinzua mill closed two years ago.

Many of the same people who worked at the co-generation plant when it was built are coming back to work there, Dubuque said. "I went out and looked for the ones who ran it before. That will cut down on our learning curve," he said of the operation.

It will take approximately one truck load of wood waste per hour to fuel the plant. Dubuque said several sources are being looked at now, including using waste from the Potlatch wood growing operation in north county, and bringing waste from Pilot Rock.

He said a large portable chipper will probably be brought in to chip logs and other waste to fuel

the plant. "We're probably looking at around 8,000 loads of fuel coming in here per year," he said.

A new fuel handling system which will lift the entire truck to dump the hog fuel is now being installed to make unloading more efficient. "You've probably seen the trucks coming through town (with the equipment)," Dubuque said.

There are also plans to add a second generator to the plant, which would produce an additional 3 megawatts of power.

Dubuque said everything at the plant is now being inspected to make sure it is working well, and added that the equipment looks in pretty good shape. The plant is a joint venture between former Kinzua owner Greg Demers and the Port of Morrow,

which owns the industrial park. Demers and the port will split the profit from operation of the plant, and they have a 10 year operating agreement with 5 year options to renew.

"I'm very positive about this," Dubuque said. "I see good things from this for the community."

On April 17 a Department of Environmental Quality public hearing will be held to renew the permit to operate the plant. It must be okayed by the DEQ before operation can begin, and Dubuque urged Chamber of Commerce members to attend and voice their support for the permit and the operation. The public hearing will begin at 6p.m. at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner, with public testimony starting at 7 p.m.

## BMCC schedules area classes

Blue Mountain Community College has several classes scheduled for the Heppner area starting shortly after spring break.

Residents of the South Morrow County should have received a flier of BMCC spring term classes within the past couple of weeks. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of class offerings for the area should contact Anne Morter, BMCC coordinator, at 422-7040.

"Beginning Golf" has been added to the schedule. This class will be

held on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning April 12 at Willow Creek Country Club. The six-week course costs \$30 plus \$20 for a temporary membership to WCCC for all non-members.

Spanish Basics I and II are being offered on Mondays and Wednesdays at Ione Elementary School. The instructor has offered to move the class to Lexington or Heppner if there is interest in those locations. Contact Morter for further details.

## Volunteers stuff envelopes for marketing effort



Ten thousand is a lot, as volunteers stuffing envelopes have found out this past week. The volunteers are stuffing 10,000 envelopes as part of the Zero Money Marketing Plan, which is attempting to attract businesses and jobs to the South Morrow Industrial Park (former Kinzua mill) in Heppner.

The Marketing Plan (which uses mostly donated labor and services), under the direction of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Corp. (formerly HEDC), is using direct mail, signs, news releases and telemarketing to find businesses that may be interested in locating and providing employment at the park. Following the closure of the Kinzua Mill, and loss of 136 jobs two years ago, the park has been taken over by the Port of Morrow. The Port currently has located two employee type tenants at the industrial park: Miller Manufacturing, and the soon to be activated co-generation plant (see related story this issue).

Above (left to right) David Sykes, Debbie Koffler, Ron Lindner, Marsha Kemp and John Edmondson put Heppner brochures and fliers about the site into envelopes in preparation for mailing.

## Greg Smith criticizes Vera Katz' anti-beef stance

State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) has joined other legislators to support Oregon cattle ranchers. This comes after the news that Portland Mayor Vera Katz had proclaimed March 20 the "Great American Meatout Day."

"I support cattle ranchers 150 percent. Their contributions to Oregon's economy are priceless," said Representative Smith. "I deeply resent Mayor Katz for portraying a false image that beef is harmful to consumers and the environment. I'm here to represent the citizens of District 59, not participate in that type of nonsense."

According to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, cattle and calves are the largest commodity, other than nursery stock, in Oregon.

"Now to have the mayor of Oregon's largest city, with the largest port for imports and exports with 55 percent of the greater Portland area jobs directly related to the Port of Portland, to assign a proclamation that infers that by eating beef people

will die, have strokes, get cancer, diabetes, or contact infectious diseases is absurd and could cause tremendous harm to not just cattle producers, but all Oregonians," said John V. Hays, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. "Mayor Katz should be promoting US beef, which is the safest in the world."

Earlier, state representatives and senators throughout the capitol wore baseball caps, displaying their support for beef producers in Oregon. Said Representative Smith with a smile, "Tonight, I will be enjoying a pot roast in honor of Mayor Katz."

Representative Smith represents Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Sherman, Wheeler and portions of Morrow and Wasco counties.

Below is the "Meatout" proclamation signed by Portland Mayor Vera Katz: "Whereas a wholesome plant based diet of whole grains, vegetables and fresh fruit

reduces the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and other chronic and infectious diseases that cripple and kill nearly 1.5 million Americans annually and

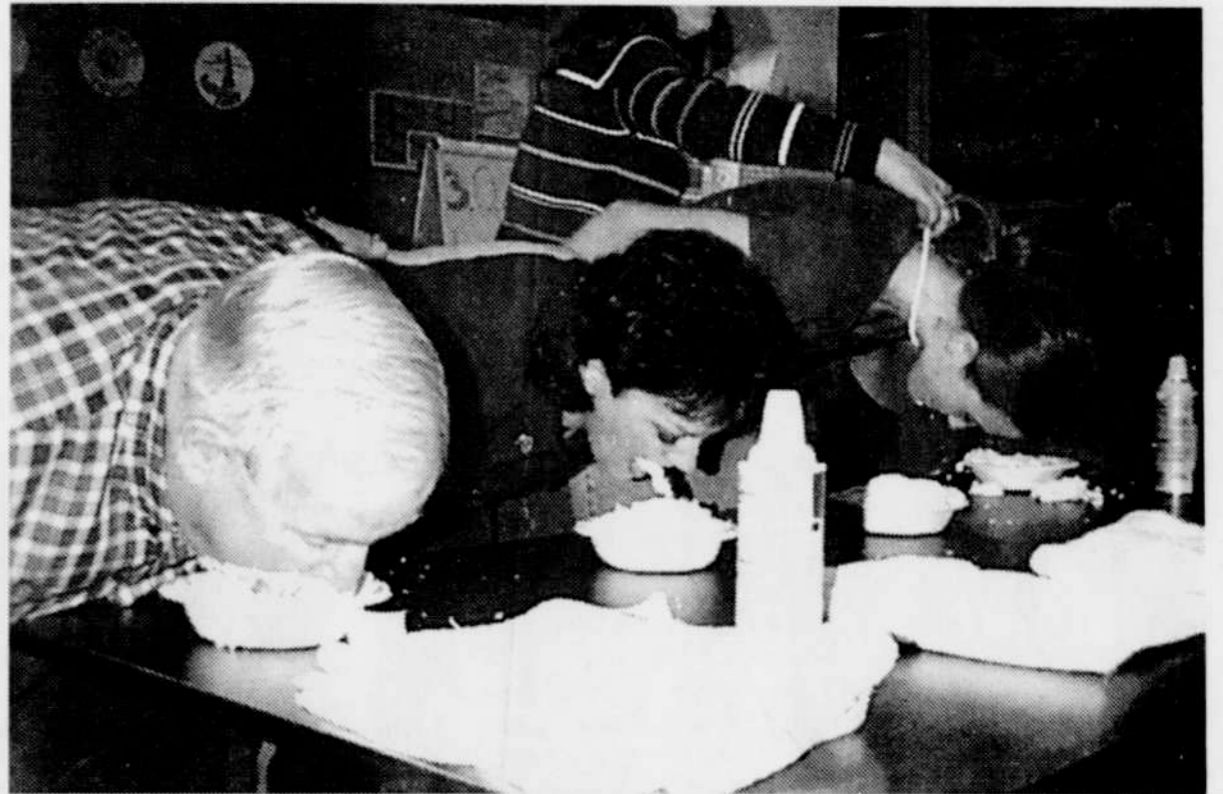
"Whereas such a diet helps preserve topsoil, water, energy and other production resources that are essential to human survival, and

"Whereas such a diet helps preserve our forests, grass lands, and other wildlife habitats and reduces pollution of our waterways by soil particles, debris, manure and pesticides, and

"Whereas for the past 15 years many dedicated Great American Meatout volunteers have encouraged neighbors to explore such a diet

"Now, therefore I, Vera Katz Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses" do hereby proclaim March 20, 2001 to be "Great American Meatout Day" in Portland, and encourage our citizens to explore a wholesome diet of whole grains, vegetables and fresh fruits."

## Pie in the face



Students and visiting "dignitaries" didn't look so dignified during a contest at Heppner High School last week. The contest consisted of fishing a piece of gum from a whipped cream pie and then blowing a bubble. The first to blow the bubble won. The activity was a part of a motivational presentation at the school, co-sponsored by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

## Court hears Boardman senior center request

By Doris Brosnan

Representatives of the Boardman Senior Center spoke at the March 21 session of the Morrow County Court to report fund raising results and efforts to obtain grant funding for the building of a center. They explained the center's current operation and the plans for the future and requested funding help from the county.

In discussion of the issue, Commissioner Dan Brosnan asked for the estimated annual operating expenses and Commissioner John Wenzholz noted the need to treat all such centers in the county consistently and the need to follow the process for a tipage-fee funding request. The Court heard that a commitment from the county would be necessary within the next two months and Judge Terry Tallman explained that the court is supportive and would have to include the request in the budget process.

Surveyor Ron McKinnis requested from the Court the purchase of a reconditioned 36-inch-format copier and a stand. Judge Tallman explained that the purchase would be funded by the assessor's office, public works, the surveyor's budget and possibly the planning department. The Court approved the purchase. McKinnis added that the sale of maps produced with the copier will add revenues to the surveyor's budget.

County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth submitted a two-year contract with a company for maintenance on the ballot counting machine. The Court examined the details of the contract, asked Bloodworth several questions and agreed to have the contract reviewed by County Counsel Bill Hanlon.

County Assessor Greg Sweek described for the Court the properties petitioning for annexation into the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District and parcels that property owners are preparing to petition for inclusion. The Court initiated the annexation process for territory into the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District.

Sweek also reported that, despite the tape drive replacement, the tape backup still is not functioning properly. He expressed concern about efforts to correct the problem, reporting that ESD plans to replace the controller next.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported completion of the Blackhorse Bridge project, work on the Balm Fork Bridge and the new guardrails on Morter Bridge, and work on Four-mile and Gooseberry. O'Brien also reported that two employees are attending mine-safety training. He told the Court that the Boardman City Council has agreed to cost-share some work on Columbia Avenue. He announced that the ODOT vacuum sweeper will clear the county parking lots on March 30.

O'Brien awaits the agreement for the Ruhl Pit and the Court expressed concern about the delay's possible effect on the county's work schedule. O'Brien reported that two employees are now working on weed control.

Work continues on development of a cost factor for crushing, O'Brien said. He also described an attempt to develop a list of maintenance projects on county buildings. Use of a form will help in planning and prioritizing time and budgeting, O'Brien noted. The repainting of the courthouse windows and the need for repainting the clock tower

to avoid rot problems are examples for the use of a prepared form.

Other actions of the Court include:

- approval of annexation of territory into the Oregon Trail Library District;
- approval of a replacement printer for the sheriff's office;
- allocations of vehicles from public works;
- agreement to change from four years to two years the time period in the management salary scale for moving from Step B to Step C, effective with the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

## School budget meeting April 2

The Morrow County School District will hold their first budget committee meeting on Monday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the district office.

## Account to benefit injured woman

An account at the Bank of Eastern Oregon has been set up to help Lexington resident Shari Stahl who was injured in a motorcycle accident on March 18.

Stahl, who broke her back in three places and dislocated and broke her hip in the accident, has undergone hip surgery and is still hospitalized at Oregon Health Science University.

Donations will help with Stahl's expenses.



**TIME TO  
CHANGE YOUR  
STUDDED TIRES**  
See the Tire Department at  
**Morrow County Grain Growers**  
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at [www.mcggn.net](http://www.mcggn.net)