

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
Katie Wall Editor

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Court discusses land exchange and usage benefits

At the Dec. 11 meeting, the commissioners discussed the benefits of the land exchange and usage plans on Riverside Avenue to the museum and the pool. They approved proceeding with a lot-line adjustment and easement and cross-over agreement between the county and the Willow Creek Park District.

The last culvert on the Juniper Canyon project was to be installed on that day, with expectations of the road's being open for traffic by the end of the week. The graders had worked on Little Butter Creek, French, Piper Canyon, Pointer, Turner, Lovgren, and Valby Roads.

In other business:

-The Court approved two permits, one for access to Baker Lane and the other to Umatilla Electric for an overhead power line on Washington and Eighth Street. The commissioners also approved a rock-pit agreement with Cliff Dougherty on Sandhollow.

-The County has received a hangar-reconstruction grant for the airport.

-The Court discussed the State's inspection of the dairy buildings at Three-Mile Farms and authorization of occupancy.

-The Court approved a contract between Behavioral Health and Cascade Behavioral Health for chemical dependency treatment referrals for ODS health plans. It approved a contract between Behavioral Health and Nancy Huddleston for respite care services. It also approved replacing the Behavioral Health fee scale in order to comply with state regulations.

-The commissioners heard an update on the status of the appeals against the speedway project near Boardman. And they learned of a reimbursement of the education expenses paid for an employee at an unaccredited university, and they made certain that policy now requires proof of accreditation before approval of future continuing-education agreements.

-The Court continued a discussion with a landowner who had submitted a pipeline permit application. After clarifications of several details, the Court agreed that the landowner has the right to locate in the right-of-way, subject to county specifications.

-The Court read Carol Michael's letter of resignation from co-chair of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee. The Court read a letter from the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District and appointed Ray Grace as the county's representative on the referenced working group, which addresses funding for equipment, CRP, stream rehabilitation, and other related projects.

-The Court viewed the October Sheriff's Reserves Activity Report and heard a review of the levels of training they receive. They approved the use of one department car for the reserves.

Actions for previous meetings included:

Nov. 13: The commissioners heard an update of the Juniper Canyon project. Anson Wright Park had closed for the season on the previous Sunday. The commissioners approved three road permits for Umatilla Electric Cooperative. The commissioners approved the bid - fully financed by the State of Oregon Parks - on the property designated for the ATV Park.

Nov. 27: The commissioners approved the purchase of some office equipment for the Behavior Health, Health and Accounting departments. They signed certificates of appreciation for Fair Board members Sheri Gregory and Alan Holmes. Cutsforth Park was also closed, during the previous week. They learned that the bid on the property had been accepted, and the process was moving into "phase two." Arrangements had been made to remove the fir tree on the north side of the courthouse because it died during the summer. The commissioners received a weekly report on the Juniper Canyon project. They approved eight permits for various entities, for approaches and placing of lines. The Court also read ten bids on the provision to the county of fuels, oils, and lubricants. And it approved twelve tax refunds. They learned of the first payment by Columbia River Processing for the school bond pursuant to the enterprise-zone agreement. The commissioners accepted the employees' union proposal for the union to pay Air Life insurance for part-time employees. They also approved an order authorizing exemption from competitive bidding in procurement of hardware for the incident response information system because of "sole source and emergency conditions." They approved Title II road and cabin improvement project for the Northeast Oregon Forest Resources Advisory Committee. They approved the Associate Planner's attendance at a planning seminar in Portland. They approved a replacement furnace at the museum out of building maintenance funds. They approved changing the title of "Mental Health Secretary" to "Office Support Specialist." They granted the tax collector authority to make refunds of less than \$500 without Court authorization, until further notice.

Dec. 4: The Court awarded the following bids: diesel, gas, antifreeze to Morrow County Grain Growers; lubricants to Devin Oil; rodent control at the parks to Dobyns Pest Control. They noted that Dobyns is donating services for the 4-H building. A professional service has been asked to review the problem of moisture in the basement of the courthouse. The Court appointed Stacy Miller to the Fair Board and re-appointed Mark Jones for another term. Consensus of the commissioners was to agree to proceed with a land exchange with the City of Heppner on Riverside Avenue.

Births

Hannah Noel Palmer- a daughter, Hannah Noel, was born Nov. 20, 2002 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Jennifer and Jason Palmer of Heppner. She weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces. Her grandparents are Loren and JoAnn Christenson of Imbler and Roger and Shirley Palmer of Heppner.

Jordan Rose Rollis- a daughter, Jordan Rose, was born Nov. 25, 2002 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Crystal Lorraine and Charles Lee Rollis of Heppner.

Deziree Monet Garza- a daughter, Deziree Monet, was born Dec. 2, 2002 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Yavonne Elaine Jimerson and Rafael Rene Garza, Jr., of Irrigon.

Shawn Howard Banks, Jr.- a son, Shawn Howard, was born Dec. 3, 2002 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Vicki Lynn and Shawn Howard Banks, Sr., of Irrigon.

Eric Patrick Prouty- a son, Eric Patrick, was born Dec. 5, 2002 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Kalinn Ann VanGorder and Bart Emery Prouty, Jr., of Boardman.

Tax training and service to be offered

AARP and the IRS will be offering free tax preparation to local residents beginning Feb. 4, 2003. This service is open to everyone.

Heading the local area effort is Leann Rea of Boardman. Currently she is looking for volunteers to help with the tax preparation. Classes will be offered Jan. 20-24, 2003 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hermiston Library. Persons interested in taking the class should RSVP by Jan. 10, 2003.

Residents from lone will be able to go to the Lone City Hall, the first Tuesdays of the months of February, March and April to have their taxes prepared. Residents from Heppner may go to the OSU Extension office, on Hwy 207, the second, third and fourth of Tuesdays of February and March and the second Tuesday of April.

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DA's Report

Michael A. Mullikin was found in violation of probation allegations for Burglary in the First Degree. Mullikin's probation was continued/reinstated and he was sentenced to 90 days in jail. His probation was extended for a period of six months from the original expiration date.

Edward Zonora Pallanes pled guilty to Contempt of Court, a Class-U misdemeanor. Pallanes was sentenced to 90 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation, completion of a misdemeanor alcohol package to be provided by Morrow County Behavioral Health and pay \$224 in fines.

Stephen K. Pavletich pled guilty to Invasion of Personal Privacy, a Class-A misdemeanor. Pavletich was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, 80 hours of community service, which may be completed in Gray's Harbor County, WA, and pay \$874 in fines.

Justice Court Report

Jason Scott Colcord, 39, Pilot Rock, Truck Speed, 67/55, \$127 fine.

Matthew Byron Phillips, 32, Heppner, Driving While Suspended-infraction, Driving Uninsured, and Improper Use of a Temporary Permit, \$553 fine.

Jared D. Eckman 21, Lexington, VBR 74/55, \$77 fine.

Beryl Lynn Stillman, 48, Lexington, Taking a Cow Elk: Closed Season, \$431 fine and one year probation.

Julie Michelle Wenzel, 30, Heppner, No Driver's License, \$77.

Mark Andrew White, 53, Heppner, Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance, \$69 fine.

Edward Mason Shank, Jr., 46, Portland, VBR 70/55, \$59 fine.

Felicity Rosa Lovell, 19, Springfield, Open Container and MIP-alcohol, \$132 fine.

Gazette deadline change

The news deadline for the Dec. 25 edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times will be Friday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m. The news deadline for the Jan. 1, 2003 edition of the paper will be Friday, Dec. 27, at 5 p.m.

The office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Dec. 26, with regular hours resuming Friday, Dec. 27. And will be closed again, Jan. 1, 2003, with regular hours resuming Jan. 2, 2003.

Marriage Licenses

Dec. 12: Hector Bustamante, 30, Hermiston and Letisia Jaime, 18, Hermiston.

Umatilla Army Depot provides project updates

As of Dec. 12, the following updates have occurred at the Umatilla Army Depot:

Liquid Incinerator 1 (LIC 1) Update:

-Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Army Umatilla Project Manager authorized resuming feeding liquid "surrogate" testing material (i.e., a degreaser and dry cleaning solution) to LIC 1 on Dec. 6.

-Surrogate feed activities resumed Sunday and continued this week.

-Preparations are underway for the first of two consecutive eight-hour 90 percent or greater feed rate tests.

-Two high-temperature mini-burns are scheduled to follow. The mini-burns, which run for approximately four hours, will test metal emission levels. The first mini-burn will be at a half feed rate to demonstrate the furnace is working properly. The second mini-burn will gear up to the 90 percent or greater feed rate.

Other Testing Continues:

-Testing activities are continuing on the LIC 2, Deactivation Furnace System (DFS), Metal Parts Furnace (MPF), Brine Reduction Area (BRA) and processing lines.

-The DFS kiln and afterburner are up to operating temperature.

Related Information:

-The actual state-required surrogate trial burns for each furnace take place after "shakedown" tests have confirmed furnace parameters established in the permit have been met.

-Surrogate trial burn, testing on the facility's four furnaces will continue into 2003.

-The same testing process will be repeated with chemical warfare agent for each furnace and related systems.

GASP III Litigation:

-The trial has been suspended until March 2003 due to the judge's schedule.

Employment:

-WDC employment is at 625. Expected work force for agent operations is approximately 750 employees.

-Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) employment is at 247. Expected work force for agent operations is approximately 325.

For additional information, contact:

-Mary A Binder or Jim Hackett, UMCD Public Affairs Office, (541) 564-5312 or (541) 564-5418.

-Outreach Office, 190 E. Main, Hermiston, (541) 564-9339.

-Pre-recorded updates on public toll-free information line, 1-888-866-5928.

Obituaries

Melvin Dean Connor
Melvin Dean Connor, 63, of Heppner, died Saturday, Dec. 14, 2002, at St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, WA.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Dec. 20, 2002 at 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Heppner, with concluding service and burial to follow at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

He was born Nov. 14, 1939, at Heppner, to Albert and Mary Morgan Connor. He was raised at Heppner and attended local schools, graduating from Heppner High School in 1957.

He entered the U.S. Army on the Buddy System with his brother, Nelson Connor. The two were stationed at Karlsruhe, Germany for two years, and at Fort Lawton, near Seattle for six months. He was discharged in April 1961.

In 1962, he married Shirley M. Nash at Heppner.

He worked at Kinzua Lumber until a back injury forced him into semi-disability. In 1979, he went to work at Farley Motor Company as a parts manager. He worked there until Jim Farley retired in 1990. He was also declared totally disabled at that time.

Although disabled, he quickly learned to be chief laundryman and house cleaner, according to the family. He never found himself wanting to be the dinner cook but was more than willing to do dishes immediately following a meal. He was always willing to lend a helping hand.

He enjoyed his wife and family and enjoyed cars, woodworking, jigsaw puzzles and his dog, Buddy.

He was an associate member of the United Methodist Church in Heppner.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley Connor of Heppner; daughters, Deann Stookey of Beaverton and Penny Tandy of La Grande; sons, Greg Connor of Pendleton and Eric Connor of Redmond, WA; six grandchildren and one step-grandchild; brothers, Nelson Connor of Heppner, Morgan Connor of Gresham and Gary Connor of Springfield; and sisters, Colleen Williams of Aloha and Darlene Drake of Fairfield, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Keith.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Cancer Center, P.O. Box 1477, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Sharlet Fraters

Sharlet Fraters, 81, of Pocatello passed away, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002, at a local rehab following an illness.

Fraters was born, Dec. 27, 1920, in Bend, to Anna and Fred Gallagher. She married Charley Fraters Dec. 21, 1937.

Fraters moved to Pocatello in 1957. She served as an Avon representative for 13 years and also loved hunting, fishing and traveling.

Fraters is survived by her sons, Tony, Bob and John of Pocatello; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her husband, parents, two sons, two brothers, one sister and one grandson preceded her in death.

Graveside services were held Monday, Dec. 16, 2002 at the family plot in Heppner.

Arrangements are in the care of Downard Hansen Funeral Home.

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