

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 29 8 Pages Wednesday, July 17, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Courthouse crane lift to cause road closures

The date for the crane to lift the clock tower and the bell off of the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner will be July 23. This date may be subject to change if weather conditions or other variables are not favorable.

Northwest Crane Service will bring in their 225-ton crane around 6 a.m. and begin their set-up. If all goes well, the work should

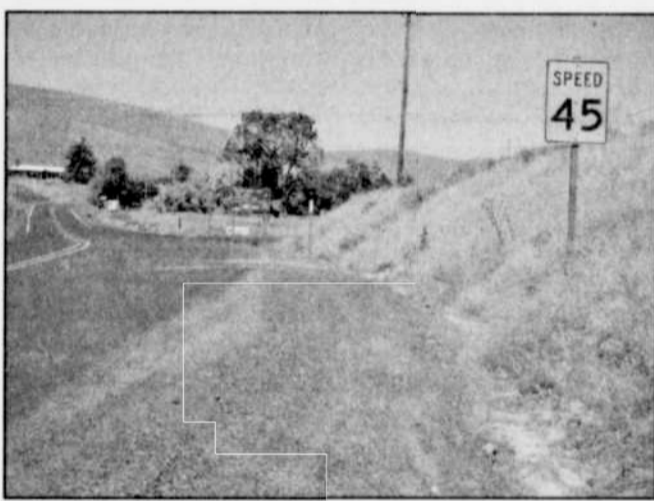
be completed well before noon.

The courthouse will be closed all day on July 23 for the safety of the employees, the public and the contractor. There will be additional work to be completed after the clock tower has been removed; this work can be best completed while the courthouse is closed.

Safety zones will be

-See COURTHOUSE ROAD CLOSURES/PAGE FOUR

Speed limit changed on 207 south



For those who haven't noticed, the speed limit has changed on Highway 207 south out of Heppner, also known as the Condon Highway. A 45 mph speed zone now extends outside of the city limits, to just the other side of Willow Creek Rd.

Local streets, sidewalk closed for construction



Workers use heavy machinery to tear out sidewalks on Quaid street in Heppner. The street, currently closed to through traffic, is one of three current projects taking place in Heppner. -Contributed photo

Construction has begun on Quaid and Elder streets in Heppner. These streets are now closed to through traffic.

Also, demolition has begun on the Baltimore

walkway (the sidewalk between Northwest RV park and library, leading to the elementary school).

Residents are asked to note that the sidewalk is now closed.

Fair edition deadline July 31

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo are coming up. That means the yearly fair edition of the Gazette-Times is also upon us.

The G-T would like to remind everyone that the article and advertising deadline for the annual fair edition is July 31 at 5 p.m.

Fair articles may be

emailed to: editor@rapidserve.net, Fair advertisements can be emailed to: megan@rapidserve.net or sent to P.O. Box 337, Heppner.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Harvest yields improving, still below average



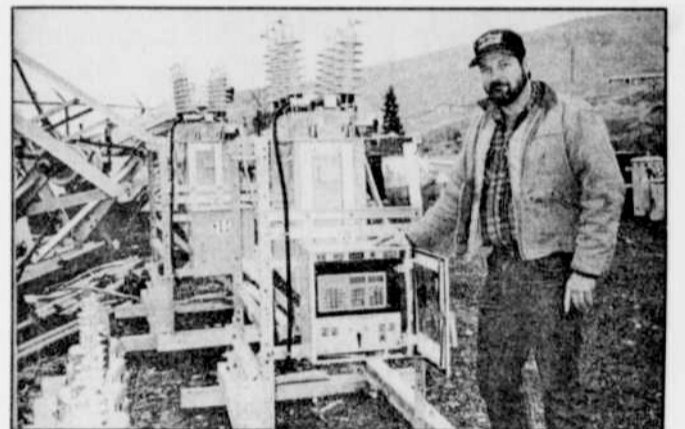
Pictured: Morrow County Grain Growers employee Taylor Disque oversees the dumping of a load of wheat at an MCGG grain elevator as harvest gets underway in Morrow County. Duane Disque of MCGG says harvest has moved to the Lexington area but that it may be as much as another week before it moves up around Heppner. He also says yields are improving as they get further into the season. "They're still down below the county average but yields are a little better as they're coming in, better than the eight to 20 (bushels) we were seeing last week," says Disque. "It's hard saying if we go further south toward Heppner if they'll get better." Disque said the yields were about what he expected but that he didn't know if they matched others' expectations. "I don't know what everyone else was expecting—with no rain, and then frost damage—I don't know if they were expecting in the 20s." -Photo by David Sykes

Retired lineman recalls 40 years with Columbia Basin

By David Sykes

If you'd rather sit behind a desk than work outside, then don't go near the job retiring Columbia Basin Electric lineman Bill McDowell has held for the past 40 years. Whether rain or shine, snow or fog, McDowell has rolled out of bed each morning venturing out with his crew to make sure the rest of us have the electricity so important to our daily lives.

And making sure we do have that electricity has always been the most sat-



Retired lineman Bill McDowell in his earlier days with the co-op.

-See MCDOWELL RETIRES/ PAGE SIX

Boardman fire department not keeping up with Port construction

Chief says more equipment and manpower needed

By David Sykes

With all the economic activity at the Port of Morrow and new projects coming down the road, the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District is going to need new equipment and people to meet the fire protection needs of the future, Rural Fire Chief Marc Rogelstad told the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) Board of Directors at its meeting Monday.

Rogelstad said the construction of new facilities by ConAgra and, especially, VA Data, which is building new data centers at the Port of Morrow, is straining the fire department to its limit. In the future, he said, it will not have the equipment or personnel necessary to fight fires effectively at the Port.

Rogelstad was at the CREZ meeting asking the board for a clear picture of the financial assistance the fire district may receive from CREZ now and into the future. He was asking the board because the zone was formed as an economic tool to entice new businesses and jobs to the Port of Morrow. It offers deals to businesses locating at the Port with lower "fees"

instead of property taxes. The fees are paid directly to CREZ, which will in turn give the money to special taxing districts—such as the fire district—directly impacted by new construction, employees and activities at the Port.

The Enterprise Zone has been very successful so far lining up, among others, new data centers and a large

expansion of the ConAgra food processing facility. As fire chief, Rogelstad said he has kept an eye on construction to make sure his department can handle the expanded fire-fighting needs of the new facilities.

"Right now I have only five volunteers I can rely on in this community (to respond and fight fires)," Rogelstad told the CREZ

board. "I have four paid staff but they were funded with grant money which has dried up."

He also said the new, taller buildings at the Port are beyond the reach of his current fire trucks and he needs a new \$1 million-plus, 100-foot aerial fire

-See BOARDMAN FIRE SEEKS CREZ FUNDS/PAGE SIX

Workers 'dig into' fair preparation



Heppner man Dale Bates captured this picture of workers finalizing work on the Morrow County Fairgrounds water system to get it ready for the centennial fair Aug. 14-17. They were "really getting into it!" Bates said. -Contributed photo

HARVEST HOURS-

MONDAY - FRIDAY - 7 am - 6 pm

SATURDAY - 7 am - 5 pm

Closed Sundays

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396

For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcg.net

