

# City To Keep Present Mountain Water Source

## Heppner Gazette Times

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IT CAN HAPPEN HERE...

### Tornado Scares, But Damage Light

#### HUGE HAIL STONES DROP FROM STORM

Yes, it was a real "twister" the first tornado to be seen in Morrow county in almost 70 years.

The much-talked-about tornado which formed shortly after noon last Friday on the McElhigott ranch southwest of Ione and travelled about 20 miles before the long black funnel finally dissipated at the outskirts of Lexington, caused more excitement among those persons who watched its progress than any act of nature seen here in many years.

The twister was accompanied by high winds and heavy rain and hail from the parent storm to which it was attached, but fortunately damage was only minor. As far as can be determined no buildings were struck though the funnel passed within a short distance of several ranch houses and barns and finally dissolved within a mile or so of Lexington where steps were hurriedly being taken to get school students into a safe place in the building.

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Master of ceremonies will be Gordon Pratt, vice-principal of Heppner high school and the dinner will be served by members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority of Ione.

The banquet is open to the public and tickets are on sale at the First National Bank, Turner, Van Marter and Bryant insurance and the Gazette Times. It is scheduled to start at 6 p. m. with a social hour, president Jack Angel announced.

#### Job Development Plan to be C of C Speaker's Subject

Tickets went on sale early this week for the chamber of commerce annual banquet to be held Monday evening, April 22 at the Heppner Legion hall.

Main speaker for the event will be Phil Bladine, publisher of the McMinnville News-Register, and an active member in the McMinnville chamber of commerce. He will tell of the well-known "McMinnville Plan" which was developed by that city's chamber and business men to attract industry to the area which would provide additional payroll. Bladine was active in the formation of the plan and will explain how such a proposal could be put into effect here.

Other features of the banquet will be a report on the year's accomplishments, the presentation of awards and the calling of a portion of the bonds sold by the chamber to finance installation of the lighting system at the rodeo field.

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#### Crippled Children's Clinic Set May 15

The semi-annual crippled children's clinic will be held at the offices of the Umatilla county health department in Pendleton May 15, it was announced this week by Mrs. Velma Glass, Morrow county health nurse.

This is a diagnostic clinic sponsored by the crippled children's division of the University of Oregon medical school. Dr. Donald Smith of Pendleton will be the examining orthopedic specialist and other personnel such as the medical social worker, physical therapist, etc., will come from Portland.

Any resident of Morrow county under the age of 21 years with a crippling condition may attend the clinic for diagnosis without charge. Application forms are available from the Morrow county health department in Heppner. An appointment must be made, so persons wishing to attend are asked to request an application form so they will be assured of an appointment. The public health nurse will assist with filling out the application and she may be contacted by calling Heppner 6-9911.

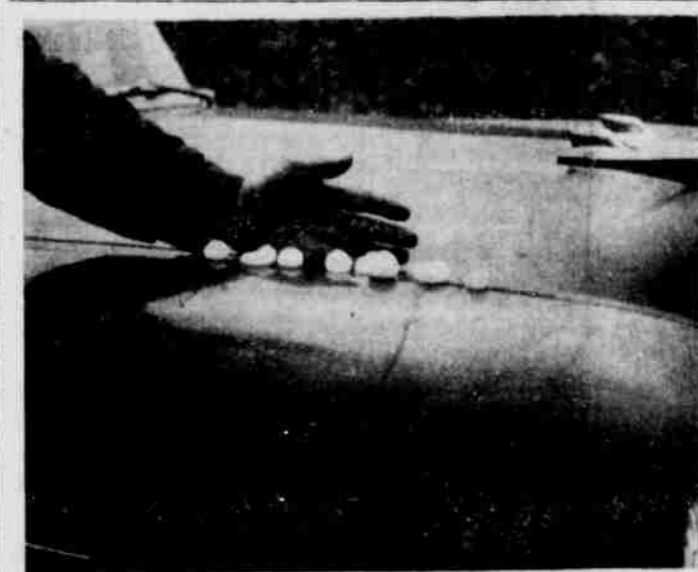
#### Funds Started for Church Window

Valby Lutheran church is establishing a fund to put a stained glass window in the new Hope Lutheran church now under construction in Heppner. It will be a memorial window for the pioneers of the Valby church, it was stated.

Persons interested in aiding the fund may contact Mrs. Laurence Becket.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Doolittle returned Tuesday from Portland where they visited a week with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Perrott and son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doolittle. In Aumsville they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Akers.

NO, NOT GOLFBALLS... HAILSTONES— Last Friday's thunderstorm which brought a tornado to sections of the county also dropped some huge hailstones in certain areas. These were picked up near the west city limits of Heppner and had been on the ground 15 to 20 minutes before being photographed. Another group of big ones is being kept in a freezer at the Gazette Times office to prove to Doubting Thomases that Morrow county can also grow man-sized hail. The hail belongs to state patrolman Bill Labhart, on whose car fender the stones were placed for photographing. (GT Photo)



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#### Rainfall Records Continue to Fall—As Does Moisture

March set the all time record for rainfall at Heppner, and from all appearances the month of April is out to set another one, figures from the Heppner weather station indicate.

Continuing storms over the county dropped .57 inch of rain here during the past week to bring the April total to 1.14 inches. During the entire month of April 1956 Heppner received only .09 inch and the 10 year average is only 1.49 inches. The 40 year average is even less at 1.37.

Leonard Carlson, Gooseberry observer, reports 1.20 inches for April and 10.72 since September 1, 1956, the crop year.

Heppner has received a total of 7.34 inches since the first of the year, a record which is continuing to get better as time goes on.

Records at the Heppner station during the past week showed:

	Max.	Min.	Prec.
Thursday	62	44	—
Friday	59	40	.24
Saturday	58	35	.11
Sunday	63	46	.03
Monday	61	34	—
Tuesday	54	31	—
Wednesday	58	40	.19

#### Enlarged X-ray Program Planned by TB and Health Group

At the annual dinner meeting of the Morrow county TB and Health Association held at the Wagon Wheel Tuesday evening it was voted to give free chest X-rays at the hospital on the first Wednesday evening of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p. m. instead of just twice a year as in the past.

It was reported that Morrow county was second in the state percentage wise in seal sales for the year, receiving \$1,474.50 during the sale. It was also reported that 794 chest X-rays had been given at the hospital, to incoming patients, during the year.

P. W. Mahoney discussed incorporating the association and it was voted to incorporate with the four top officers as the incorporators.

Mrs. L. E. Dick was appointed seal sale chairman for the coming year and the officers, president, Mrs. Herman Green; vice president, Mrs. Lowell Gribble; treasurer, Mrs. W. W. Weatherford and secretary, Mrs. Kenneth Peck were unanimously reelected for another term.

The president appointed a committee of Mrs. Velma Glass, L. E. Dick, Mrs. Robert Penland and Mrs. Noel Dobyns of Ione to investigate and formulate plans for the association to sponsor a scholarship to a girl interested in nursing.

The nominating committee for next year named Mrs. William Labhart, Mrs. Lowell Gribble, and Mrs. Kenneth Peck.

#### Two Top Honor Students Are Named at HHS

Heppner high school's top honor students were named this week. They are Miss Mary Jo Stewart, valedictorian, and Gerald "Jay" Sumner, salutatorian.

Miss Stewart, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Stewart, has attended Heppner high school for two years, and her grade point average for her full four years of high school is 3.96.

In addition to a top grade point average, she has served on the Hehlich and Mustang staffs; as president of the National Honor Society; secretary-treasurer of Quill and Scroll; GAS vice-president; a member of the Pep Club; was chosen Girl of the Month for April; a member of the volleyball team, band, Letterettes and the FBLA. She has been a delegate to two press conferences. Other activities include Rainbow for Girls, 1956 local United Nations contest winner and winner of the Elks most valuable student award.

Jay Sumner completed his four years of high school work with a grade point of 3.91. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sumner.

Jay's activities include: editor of the yearbook, member of the National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, band concert master, sergeant at arms of the student body, student council member, class president and parliamentarian, Boy of the Month for October, FBLA member, delegate to four press conferences and he was acclaimed in the upper one percent of the nation in algebra knowledge as a freshman.

He was a delegate to Boys State, national Boy Scout jamboree, and was Heppner high math contest winner as a sophomore. For two years he has received honorable mention awards for outstanding under-classman journalistic contributions.

The two top seniors will receive their awards at graduation exercises May 22.

#### Lt. Loren Piper Receives AF Wings

Lt. Loren E. Piper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Piper of Heppner, graduated April 12 at Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas. He was in the 3545th pilot training group and received his Air Force wings at the graduation.

For the next six months Lt. Piper will be with the 3565th navigation training wing stationed at James Connally AFB at Waco, Texas.

#### RUMMAGE PICKUP

Anyone having rummage for the Civic League sale May 3 and 4, which needs to be picked up may call 6-9725 or 6-9284, it has been announced. It may be left at Jack's Chevron station if desired.

#### Pilot Critical After Plane Crash

Vern Green, 31 year old Hood River pilot suffered critical injuries Friday afternoon when the light plane he was piloting crashed just east of the Lexington airport runway. The plane spun into the ground only a short distance from the Lexington-Echo highway from an altitude of about 300 feet.

Green had taken off from the Lexington field only a few minutes before on his way back to Hood River, but apparently storm conditions caused him to change his mind and return to the field. In making his landing approach turn, he apparently was caught in a squall over the canyon which sent the ship out of control.

Green was brought to Pioneer Memorial hospital after being extricated from the wrecked Taylorcraft plane. It required the use of back saws to cut him from the plane's framework.

The pilot suffered multiple compound fractures of both legs, concussion and severe head lacerations and his condition is still listed as serious. He is married and the father of three small children.



VALEDICTORIAN of Heppner high school graduating class is Miss Mary Jo Stewart.



SALUTATORIAN of HHS senior class is Gerald "Jay" Sumner.

#### Elks To Sponsor Saturday Morning Easter Egg Hunt

The Heppner Elks lodge will sponsor an Easter egg hunt next Saturday morning at the court house lawn for all county youngsters up to the sixth grade. The scramble for prize eggs is scheduled to start at 10 a. m.

Included in the hundreds of colored eggs hidden in the area will be 20 prize ones worth a silver dollar, or other prizes, to the finders. The front lawn will be reserved for pre-school children, the rest for those up to the sixth grade.

The committee in charge of the hunt is Mrs. Tom Wilson, chairman, Mrs. LaVerne Van Marter, Mrs. John Hartman, Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Jr., Mrs. Everett Keithley, Mrs. William Labhart and Mrs. Jack Van Winkle.

#### Heppner P-TA To See Style Show

The Heppner F. H. A. Chapter of the Heppner high school will give their annual style show at the P-TA meeting Wednesday evening, April 24 at 8:00 p. m. in the multipurpose room of the new school.

Mrs. Homer Hager will be program chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, hospitality chairmen and the hostess committee will be Mrs. William Labhart, Mrs. Paul Hisler and Mrs. Don Bellenbrock.

#### GRADUATION DATES SET

Graduation for Heppner high school has been set for Wednesday evening, May 22 and for the grade school Thursday evening, May 23. More particulars will be printed at a later date.

Leonard Gilliam left Tuesday by plane for Campbell, Calif., where he will visit for about 10 days with his brother C. C. Gilliam.

#### Pipeline Renewal To Start, Summer Supply Assured

The City of Heppner will start immediately on a program to replace nine miles of worn out water supply pipe line with new steel pipe, it was decided by the council Monday night at a special meeting called to cope with the suddenly serious water supply problem.

Bids will be asked for by next council meeting on the purchase of two miles of steel pipe which will be sufficient to solve the immediate problem, and plans will be developed within the next two or three months to finance the remainder of the project.

Only two weeks ago the council received a report from its engineers concerning the renewal of its antiquated water supply system from its upper wells 13 miles above town on Willow creek, and it was planned by the council that a study of the proposal, which included the suggestion that new wells be drilled, be made during the next several months. The sudden change in the water picture, caused by the rebuilding of the Willow creek road, under which a portion of the city's pipe line runs, was the reason for the immediate action by the city.

The entire nine miles of the line is in need of renewal, and the council has been giving the work serious thought over the past year, as to feasibility and methods of financing. The engineers' report was a major step in determining this program. Work on the road rebuilding, however, has caused many breaks in the 41 year old concrete line during the past few weeks, and it became apparent that if the city was to have adequate water this summer, something had to be done immediately.

Cost Scaled Down The engineer's report estimated the cost of replacing the more than nine miles of old pipeline (Four miles of the total length are now steel) at about \$193,000, and suggested the idea that the city consider drilling new wells closer to town as a cheaper way to get water. Council discussion centered about the rapidly falling water table in the county and fear was expressed that several expensive wells might be drilled without finding a supply sufficient to furnish the city. It was pointed out that one 600 foot dry hole was drilled before the present "lower" well three miles from town, was brought in which supplies about 350 gallons per minute. It was also feared that additional wells in the same area could very possibly tap the same water source as the present well, making it useless.

Several council members expressed the feeling that although the cost of bringing water from the upper wells might be expensive, the supply was proven and the water is rated as second best in the state of Oregon. Many cities must bring their water many times farther, it was pointed out, and still don't have as good water as is available here. Cost of replacing the critical two-mile section was set at approximately \$25,000 and the council felt that the entire nine miles could be laid for considerably less than the engineer's estimate of \$193,600. Money for the present work will be gleaned from budget money for the current year, and from next year's budget which starts its fiscal year July 1.

Bonds May Be Needed After more study is given to the job, the council will probably be forced to ask the people to approve a bond issue for an undetermined amount to complete the work. It had been hoped that about one mile of the line could be replaced each year, without the necessity of bonding but engineering showed that the present line would be planned to follow the new Willow creek road which is an even grade, while the old line follows a path on the south side of Willow creek for most of its distance and goes over many ridges and into numerous canyons, causing serious pressure and breakage problems.

The council action in deciding not to abandon the upper wells was based on its own judgment of the water problem and the feeling that most residents desired that the city continue to get most of its water supply from the excellent wells at the forks of Willow creek.

The lower well, owned by the city, is used only during the summer months, or in emergency when the upper pipeline is out of order and is considered excellent protection against loss of supply. It alone cannot supply enough for summer use when (Continued on Page Six)

HOOD RIVER PILOT, Vern Green, is in serious condition in Pioneer Memorial hospital from injuries suffered when his light plane crashed in this field near Lexington airport. See story (Photo by Scott McMillan)