

Bring 'em Back

Ooops, the Gazette-Times was caught short! Although extra papers were printed, the demand was very heavy for the G-T issue of June 12. Anyone who does not want his copy (or hasn't thrown it away) can bring it back for his money, so it can be resold.

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, June 19, 1969

Price 10 Cents

It's Getting Hotter

	HI	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	83	58	—
Thursday	86	53	—
Friday	76	52	—
Saturday	80	47	—
Sunday	83	51	—
Monday	85	49	—
Tuesday	89	50	—

## County Said Disaster Area; Cost Figures Not Yet Given

By KIT ANDERSON

"I haven't had my boots off for a week."

The speaker was Vic Groshens, and as he made the statement, he stood in those boots on the bottom of the Heppner City swimming pool cleaning the walls.

Groshens was one of many Morrow county residents who worked to finish the cleaning up of damage from flood waters that hit here last week.

No official estimates of the total damage have been made, but state and federal officials have been, and will be here, as the cleanup continues.

The county was declared a "limited emergency disaster" area by Gov. Tom McCall last week.

Groshens said Tuesday that the swimming pool, hardest hit of any city property, has been cleaned and refilled, but could not say when the pool would be opened.

The major factor in the reopening of the pool is the cleaning of motors damaged when water and mud entered

the pump house of the pool.

The main pump motor has been sent out of town to be cleaned, Groshens said. Motors for the burners which heat the pool's water are being cleaned here.

Some 700 cubic yards of mud were washed out of the pool with jet sprays. The job took three men one and a half days. Young people in the city have responded with volunteer labor, Groshens noted, and have worked for a week. Groshens, Bud Springer and Wayne Harsin have all worked an average of 14 hours a day, the city superintendent said.

In addition to what was taken out of the pool itself, 15 loads of mud and debris were taken from the pool deck, he said.

### Working on Streets

Streets in Heppner that were hard hit from flood waters are still not clean, although most of the mud has been cleared. Groshens made no estimate of the costs involved in the cleanup, as the city hired the work

The city crew itself spent 1½ days clearing debris and pushing mud from the city streets.

### County Roads Surveyed

Four men representing state and federal bureaus were surveying county roads this week, and are expected to continue through Friday, according to County Judge Paul Jones.

"We are making a detailed survey to establish not only a dollars and cents damage estimate but also cost of materials for repair," the judge noted.

Three state engineers working on the survey include Scott Coulter, Hal Reynolds and Robert Poole. John Schultz is representing the Bureau of Public Roads.

Jones said Tuesday the surveyors saw more damage than they had expected, but the judge himself said there was less than he had expected.

Jones said he was estimating the loss on county roads at about \$125,000. This is less than 50 percent of the damage resulting from the floods of 1964 and 1965, the judge said.

All but "third-rate roads" are now open, according to Jones, and those not open now will be opened within a week, he said.

Some roads still have one-way traffic, but culverts washed out have been replaced, the judge said.

The county, unlike the city, is keeping a running account of its expenditures from flood damage. More than \$3,500 was spent in the first week after the flood.

The state of emergency declared by McCall makes the county eligible for federal funds to repair its roads.

### Federal Emergency Undeclared

But at the same time, a state of emergency declaration by federal agencies has not been made, Jones said he was anticipating this action.

Such a move would make federal funds available to farmers and homeowners as well as city and federal governments.

A representative of the Small Business Administration was here Tuesday, but Jones said no firms in Heppner indicated any interest in getting funds.



ALL ALONE IN A SEA OF MUD is Wayne Harsin, City of Heppner employee, as he washes down the city's swimming pool early this week. The city crew washed seven feet of mud, a result of last week's flood waters, out of the pool by using fire hoses. As of Tuesday, the pool was refilled and workmen were cleaning the deck and poolhouse. (G-T Photo).

## School Budget Underspent, District R-1 Directors Learn

Morrow county schools will underspend their budget for 1968-69 by some \$25,000, the district's board of directors learned at its regular meeting Monday night.

The figure may be as high as \$30,000, District R-1 Superintendent Ron Daniels told the board.

But the underexpenditures is just a step toward paying an \$81,000 deficit which the schools

started with at the first of the fiscal year.

"It looks a lot better than it did a year ago," Daniels said.

The superintendent noted, however, that the entire budget was very well balanced with the exception of salaries and the contingency funds, which together make up \$21,000 of the surplus.

The board accepted four resignations at the meeting, and was told by Daniels that hiring of a new principal for Heppner High school has been postponed until June 23.

Sue Jones, librarian aide at Heppner High; Linda Rigby, secretary at the district office; and Sharron Barrick and Nicki Pierce, both teachers at Riverside Junior-Senior High, turned in resignations at the meeting.

Daniels said the reason for postponing selecting a successor for Richard Carpenter at HHS was to allow administrators to talk to potential applicants at a statewide meeting this week-end.

The superintendent did say that one applicant was being looked at very seriously, but declined to name him.

The directors hired four new employees, including one at HHS, two at Riverside and one at the district office.

Thomas Shear, a graduate of the University of Oregon, will teach art at Heppner Elementary and high schools; Mrs. Celia Mitchell, an Oregon State University graduate, will teach English and Girls P. E. and coach girls' sports at Riverside, and Lynn Bowman, a graduate of North Dakota State University, will teach Home Ec and girls' P. E. and will coach girls' sports at Lone High.

Mrs. Forrest (Gail) Burkenbine of Heppner will take over Mrs. Rigby's position at the district office.

The board also approved contracts for all classified employees in the district.

Daniels spoke of two maintenance problems facing the district, telling directors of the sand blow problem at Riverside High and of a damaged bridge at the bus shed here.

He said the blow problem was "at least 50 percent the responsibility of the contractor" who built the school.

According to the superintendent, the blow emanated from the contractor's removing grass from the sand when he buried debris from the site.

The bridge at the bus shed had sunk six inches at one end, and Daniels asked for the school district attorney's opinion on whose responsibility it is to maintain the bridge.

The directors also approved a contract with Bob Smith of Ontario to make a three-year study of district building needs. If the district did build, Smith would be the architect under provisions of the contract.

In other business, the board: —Approved a change in the list of property insurance agents.

—Paid all Riverside, Title I and regular bills.

—Approved its meeting calendar for next year.

—Ordered driver's training cars for next year.

—Authorized the clerk to call for service bids for next year.

—Voted Jack Sumner as its new chairman and Max Jones as its new vice chairman.

## District Fire Crews Practice Thursday

With eight fires in the past week in the Heppner forests—all small, all set by lightning and quickly extinguished—the Heppner, Ukiah, and Dale Forest Service districts' Fire School at Tupper this week takes on urgency.

According to Loren Lucore, who is in the process of transferring from Heppner into the supervisor's office in Pendleton, the grass crop in the forests is tremendous. If it dries out, the potential for fire will be very high.

On Thursday, the Fire School schedule calls for a fire to be set so the trainees can have practice in putting it out.

The Fire School at Tupper began Tuesday, June 17, at 1 p.m. and will end Friday, June 20, at 3 p.m. The forest crew teaching staff numbers 18, while there are 28 trainees from the three districts, Heppner, Ukiah, and Dale.

## Board Hears Scenic Area Testimony

By RACHEL DICK

While Morrow, Grant and Umatilla county residents were digging out debris from last week's flood, and debating ways of averting the too-many-times repeated damage from the cloudbursts which hazard this country, the Oregon Scenic Area board met at the Morrow county courthouse to consider designation of 10 nearby highway stretches totaling over 175 miles, as scenic areas.

In favor of the proposed areas were Andy Sherwood and Harold Thorburn of Portland, who have visited the highways in this part of the state several times this spring and who presented slides to show particularly the wild flowers blooming along much of the proposed scenic area.

Speaking in extremely mild opposition—he objected to only short stretches of the 176.35 miles which are being considered for the scenic designation—was Roger W. Emmons, an attorney from Salem, who represents the outdoor advertising industry.

Emmons' remarks extolled the beauty of view from most of the proposed highway areas. His occasional objections pertained to short distances because, he said, the strips did not fit the criteria, "a site of historical significance or affords a view of unusual natural beauty."

The miles of highway under consideration are nearly all close to Heppner. One starts at the now-famous Shobe Canyon and runs nearly to Ruggs. Another begins a short distance west of Ruggs and extends almost to Condon, while yet another is the 5½ miles just this side of Hardman. The highway from just south of Hardman to the Spray Junction is another strip under consideration.

In addition to these areas is the road between Kimberly and Monument, and a strip from near Pilot Rock to close to Battle Mountain.

The purpose of the hearing was to listen to proponents and opponents of parts or all of the designated mileage. The testimony, which was taped, will be considered at a later date by the members of the board, who had traveled part of the roads in the scenic areas under consideration and who planned to see the rest of the highways later Monday and on Tuesday.

Within areas designated by the board—which does not designate all areas under consideration—advertising signs and junkyards are prohibited although leniency is extended to owners of pre-established signs and structures. The Act permits directional or other official signs or notices, signs advertising the sale or lease of the property upon which they are located, business signs appearing on the premises of the business, and warnings of underground cables.

Some well-known historical sites and scenic highway stretches, such as from Battle Mountain south toward Long Creek, the miles east of Monument, and along the John Day river, are among the several thousand miles in Oregon already designated scenic areas by the board.

Heppner rancher Orville Cutsforth had all the luck he needed last week when engine problems beset the airplane he was flying in the Yukon territory. Cutsforth first found the Alcan Highway, then a 7,000-foot emergency landing strip, where he landed.

After landing, a helicopter crew who just happened to be there on the ground, just happened to have all the necessary tools to repair the engine trouble.

"Somebody was really looking after us on that trip," Cutsforth said of the events.

They must have been. He just had to fly over a 100-mile lake of floating ice to get to the highway.

He played the car's spotlight to the right over the fields around the Marcel Jones place and was startled to see a chocolate brown mass of water rolling towards town.

Gilman whipped the car around, hit the siren and headed for town to sound the alarm.

"Want to go look around?" said Raymond.

"No, you go if you'd like. We've got to get this budget read." Arnold went down back of the hotel, came back on a run.

"Reggie has to get his car out, or he'll lose it," our shop foreman exclaimed as he approached. "Water is really rolling behind the hotel."

Big Reggie got the message. He left his linotype machine and headed down the street. It was the first time we'd ever seen Reggie run.

We donned a raincoat and rain hat but never thought about putting on boots, which we have readily available.

Heading back of the hotel, we hit the water. Only a few steps into it, and we could feel the silt around the feet in the low loafer-type shoes.

A car drove slowly east on Willow into the path of the torrent. Amazingly, the nonchalant driver turned up Chase, right against the crushing current.

The water surged over his headlights and onto the hood. The car shuddered and stopped. It seemed that it would be engulfed for sure. But somehow the driver got it moving ahead, took a sharp right and found sanctuary on the hotel parking lot. Its sides were covered with mud.

Word of the plight of the swimming pool spread quickly. We went up there, looked at the water rushing down Main street, carrying all manner of debris with it.

Carl Spaulding stood with us, wondering about the plight of his daughter and son-in-law whose house is in the flood area.

## Night of June 9 Flood Held Many Interesting Experiences For G-T's Sherman

By WES SHERMAN

It started as a routine evening on Monday, June 9, at The Gazette-Times office. It was to be a quiet week. News copy was well in hand, advertising layouts were made, and the co-publishers were preparing to proofread the long Morrow county budget.

We had no idea that history was in the making. Outside, the city firemen were having the fire drill. We could hear them banter back and forth, punctuated by the occasional roar of the big trucks.

At 9 o'clock the rain started in torrents, enough to cause Mrs. Sherman to look up from her typewriter and say, "Boy, it's really coming down."

A few minutes later, Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine pushed open the front door a crack. Rain water was running down his white fireman's hat and dripping on to his turnouts.

"It's raining," he said with a grin.

The torrent intensified and within 15 or 20 minutes, the wall of the flood siren started. It took a while to sink in, for the fire trucks' sirens had sounded incidentally a few times during the course of the drill.

We stepped outside. Arnold Raymond and Reggie Pascal, also curious, came out of the back shop to join us under the metal awning. There were no flood waters in sight.

Probably just a false alarm," was one of the comments. City Police Officer Dean Gilman was cruising in the patrol car when the downpour started. He had a visitor from Alaska with him.

When the heavy rain hit, they started talking about floods. "You know, you can sort of smell these floods coming after you've been around here for a while," he told the dubious Alaskan.

They headed up the Condon highway to check around. "In fact, I think I can smell one right now," Gilman declared. He told the visitor that they have sort of a sulphurous smell.

The water seemed to recede and we decided to wade up by the pool to take a picture. Standing in the water at right angle to the current, we tried to focus the camera, but the current kept jarring us. Every few seconds from out of the darkness would come a small log, a tree branch or a plank, broadside. We tried to hop over them, but one gangly tree branch hooked the raincoat and threatened to dump us into the slimy mass. We managed to shake it.

The water deepened, surging up around the knees. We decided it was time to get out and turned to go, but it wasn't easy.

No longer braced against the current, the roaring water threatened to upset us. After doing an impromptu water ballet, trying to gain balance by swinging the camera around in the air, we managed to stay upright and slogged out of the water.

Carsten Brandhagen stood in front of his house, across from the swimming pool. His front yard was filled with debris. His car was parked a few feet away on higher ground, with his small son inside.

Brandhagen made his way into the house, leaving the boy behind. The lad grew apprehensive, hopped out of the car and came up to us.

"Is the water getting higher?" he asked in shaky voice. "Carl and the writer said that it was." The boy turned and pointed to the house. "My daddy's in there!" he screamed.

We assured him that his daddy would be safe, and he quieted down. But we understood his concern, for it was a frightening scene.

—And that is how the flood developed on June 9, 1969, just five days before the anniversary of the Great One of June 14, 1903.



HARMLESS SHOBE CREEK meanders along at the Howard Pettyjohn place south of Heppner. (G-T Photo).