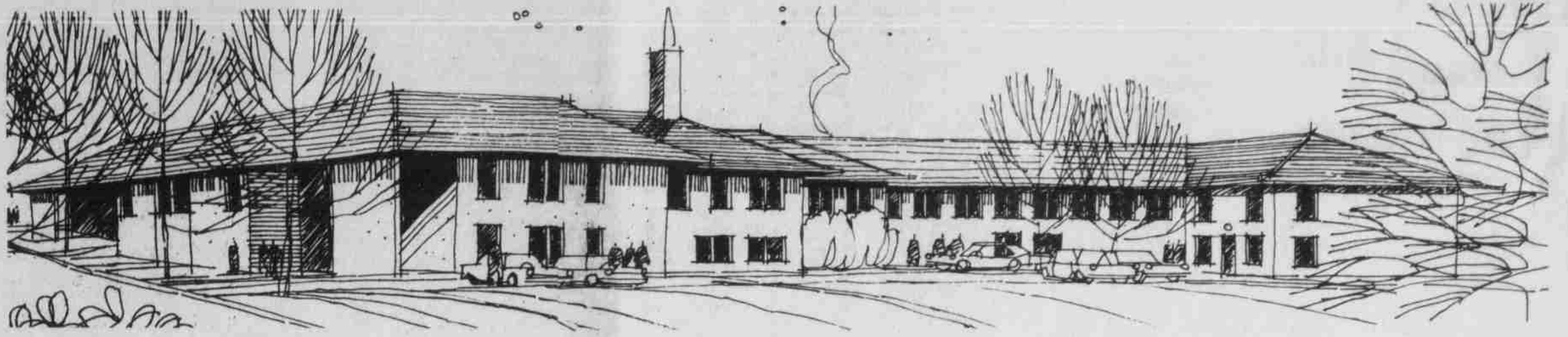


New \$1.1  
million  
expansion view



# Hospital expansion faces tough test

By Tom Franks  
The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board has approved preliminary plans by Afseth, Jacobs & Schmitz, architects, for a \$1,158,164 expansion of the 27-year-old hospital in Heppner.

Approval of the plan, by the Medford architectural firm, along with an application for a certificate of need from the State of Oregon, are among the latest procedures needed to gain approval for construction of a north wing on the present facility.

The proposed plan will add 12 nursing home beds to the facility and place the present 20 acute care hospital beds into the new section.

The \$1.1 million addition will also allow for expansion of X-ray facilities, lab facilities, and respiratory care department. It will allow for a new emergency out-patient area and provide four private rooms as well as eight two-bed

wards. In addition, there will be increased space for administrative offices, increased storage capacity and more space for maintenance and laundry facilities.

The plan calls for increasing the footage of the hospital by 10,975 square feet and remodeling another 3,725 square feet.

Also included in the design is more waiting room space, added parking space and

location of the nursery near obstetrics.

According to Bob Ewell, Tri-County Health Services administrator, the hospital design approved by the board will provide the latest advanced medical service affordable to the community.

The plan is not in competition with advanced medical services in other communities, but it does allow for basic primary care in the service area without requiring patients to travel elsewhere.

One example would be the updating of X-ray to allow for upper and lower gastro-intestinal pictures which are a basic medical service now requiring a trip to Pendleton to complete.

Such service could be done in Heppner with the physicians traveling to Heppner once the facility is complete, Ewell noted.

Consideration of the certificate of need is expected to be

considered about May 27. According to Ewell, Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Hermiston has claimed Heppner and areas further south to Mitchell within their service area in a certificate of need now up for consideration by the State.

The two certificates are in conflict in consideration of the number of nursing home beds allowable in the region. Pioneer Memorial would not be able to support a request for a

primary care hospital without nursing home beds. On the other hand, the approval of the Hermiston request would take up the number of allowable nursing home beds.

Unless there is some give in requests or in the determination at the State level, the Pioneer Memorial Hospital request could conceivably die on the planning table.

Hospital board members earlier expressed the opinion that expansion of the hospital

is a necessity at this time. Modernization is necessary to keep the hospital from declining in the near future to an out-patient clinic.

Among items behind such thinking is the X-ray equipment which was installed 27 years ago and requires lengthy exposures to obtain suitable pictures, especially of obese or large people. In addition, the equipment is less than optimum compared with newer equipment.

Heppner bowlers  
on top — 8

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

WEATHER

	High	Low				
Mon., April 25	83	52				
Tues., April 26	65	35				
			Measurable precipitation			
Wed., April 20	61	27	thus far in April .07 hundredths of an inch. Normal for			
Thurs., April 21	67	43	Fri., April 22	77	41	April 1.33 hundredths. Lowest
Fri., April 22	77	41	Sat., April 23	83	41	April of record .09 hundredths
Sat., April 23	83	41	Sun., April 24	88	46	in 1956.
Sun., April 24	88	46				

VOL. 94, NO. 17

HEPPNER, OREGON

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 1977

12 PAGES

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### News Briefs

#### Foster grandparents coming

The Foster Grandparent Program is coming to Morrow County. John Brenne, project director, Pendleton, met with some key civic leaders in Heppner Tuesday to make plans for introducing the program in Morrow County in the next few weeks.

To help sponsor the project, the Thorne Family Film will be shown at Vert Auditorium in Pendleton May 4 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and senior citizens.

#### North Morrow tour

There is still time to register to tour the fast growing northern part of the county, see developments at the Carty site, Boardman town, and the very modern Gantenbien Dairy, according to Birdine Tullis. May 5th, the bus will leave Heppner at 9:00 a.m. to visit the many new developments, and will return by 4:00 p.m.

All women and men are encouraged to pre-register at the Extension Office, Heppner, 676-9642, for the guided tour of north Morrow.

#### School night planned

A special Back to School Night is planned for the public. 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 2, at Heppner High School. The event will feature a variety of entertainment.

#### Prom court named

The Junior-Senior Prom Court at Heppner High takes place Saturday. Prom Court, elected by juniors, is comprised of Guy Kenny, Deb Holland, Sally Matheny, Dave Allstott, Carl Christman and Steve McLaughlin.

#### Lexington council meet

The next meeting of the Lexington City Council has been scheduled Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, according to Mayor Lee Padberg. Agenda items were not immediately available Wednesday.

#### Blood drawing low

Thirty-one persons successfully donated blood during a drawing held this week in Heppner. The turnout was poor in light of a 115 pint quota. Another drawing may be scheduled this fall.

#### Ione date changed

The Ione City Council has re-scheduled its first May meeting for the first Monday of the month. According to city officials, the meeting will be held at City Hall beginning at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 2. The meeting had been announced earlier for May 3.

#### Spring concert May 3

The annual spring concert for Ione schools will be held Tuesday, May 3, at the Junior High School cafeteria, beginning at 7:30 p.m., school officials announced.

The concert will feature work of the high school choir and four bands.

The junior and senior high bands will combine for the concert. The fifth and sixth grade bands will also combine to present other compositions.

## Drought worsens daily here

By Wil Phinney

It's unanimous.

If the area doesn't get a substantial rainfall in the next two weeks, not only will the drought set a record for April precipitation, but it may mean the loss of more farm acreage.

"The situation gets worse every day," Morrow County Extension Agent Harold Kerr said this week, following a week that averaged almost 75 degrees daily and brought the earth no moisture.

Six Eastern Oregon counties may soon be declared disaster areas because of the dryness, but Morrow County isn't one of them.

The six counties are Sherman, Gilliam, Malheur, Harney, Lake and Klamath. Gilliam and Sherman are neighbors to the west while the southeastern border of Oregon is made up by the remaining four counties.

The designation, which would be made by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, would make low-cost government

loans available to farmers and ranchers who face crop and livestock losses because of lack of water.

Governor Bob Straub has asked for federal disaster status for all 18 Eastern Oregon counties, along with Jackson County in southern Oregon.

Gilliam County, our neighbor to the west with the towns of Arlington, Condon, Fossil and Spray, faces the loss of 40 per cent of its cattle by sales. The county is hit with little livestock feed.

So while the drought has had the wheat farmer in the headlines lately, it adds the cattleman now. Morrow County is no exception.

"Complaining," that's the word from MC Extension Agent Mike Howell on the plight of cattlemen in the area. "It looks like November out there," Howell said of the dryness.

"It's pretty dry," Howell said, "in fact, it's real dry." Howell said he'd had "lots of calls" from concerned livestock owners who are getting ready to head for the hills.

### Voters say NO

## Second budget goes down

Nearly half of the registered voters in Heppner turned out Tuesday, April 26, and defeated, by 20 votes, a proposed city budget increase over the six per cent limitation. The unofficial tally was 190 yes and 210 no.

A special meeting of the City Council has been called for 7:15 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at City Hall to canvass the votes. The council meeting will be followed by a meeting of the city budget committee at 7:30 p.m.

It was the second time that the budget went to a vote. The first vote was held April 5. At that time, only 265 persons voted and the budget was defeated by 7 votes. The tally was 129 yes, 136 no.

City officials and the budget committee classed the proposed budget as the lowest possible to propose while maintaining all expected city services.

The proposal, put to the voters, called for a budget of \$46,455 outside the six per cent limitation for a tax increase of 75 cents per \$1,000, using current valuation.

During the first vote, approximately 31 per cent of registered city voters turned out. The second vote drew

almost 47 per cent of the registered voters. The opposition to the budget picked up an additional 13 votes in the larger turnout.

The initial projected budget was more than \$100,000 over the six per cent limitation. The initial budget included, among other items, a 10 per cent salary increase for city employees, nearly \$3,000 for dog control and other increases for

materials and services.

The budget sent to voters was cut to \$46,455 over the six per cent limitation by offering a six per cent increase to city employees, dropping the proposal for dog control, along with other major cuts.

Action Thursday night is expected to center around removal of \$46,455 from the budget, with cuts made across the full spectrum of all city

services outside of the bare essentials. Among the cuts contemplated by some city officials would be closure of the swimming pool, reduction of the police force, reduction of library services, reduction of street services and any other cuts possible outside of essential services to provide fire protection, utility and sanitary services and some police protection.

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Howell said allotments from livestock pasture lands in the Willowa and Ukiah areas are probable.

Because of the dry grazing lands in the forests, Howell said cattlemen may be eyeing earlier "turn out" dates. Instead of September, Howell said August dates could face cattle and their owners.

The problem then arises as to where to bring the cattle back to, Howell said. The usual alfalfa and wheat stubble that greets cattle in the fall, may be gone.

The vicious circle, steered by Mother Nature, brings the concern back to the farmer.

Howell said he knows of some cattlemen in Morrow County who are being forced to sell some of their livestock because of lack of grazing lands. In Gilliam County, 40 per cent of the livestock herds have already dwindled to the sales.

The threat of a 60 per cent crop loss or even greater is still looming in Morrow County.

Larry Mills, Morrow County Grain Growers' manager, terms the loss already at half.

"We've got to have rain within ten days or two weeks," Mills said. "Shallow spots are starting to burn already. Normally, they don't show until the end of May or first of June. They'll just get bigger and bigger."

Some of the wheat in the county is still alright, Mills noted. Buttercreek, Eight Mile and Heppner flats in the south, along with irrigated lands in the north, still are okay. The south is "starting to hurt now" though, Mills said, and the hot, windy weather this week wasn't beneficial.

"The crop is about 60 per cent of last year," Mills said, "right now." It'll get worse with no rain. Some fields will be abandoned.

West of Ione, Mills said, if the land doesn't get moisture, they "won't get anything."

Farmers agree that the worst two elements that can be cast on the wheat right now are more wind and heat, exactly what it got this week.

For three days in a row, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, temperatures reached over the 80 mark, on Sunday reaching almost 90. Dusty winds dried out what little moisture there was in the soil. Monday night it rained. But the only way a person could tell was from the dusty water spots on their car hoods. The wind made it less than measurable.)

Kerr said the wind and heat are the "worst two things that could happen." But, he was still optimistic. "If we can get some storms, some major storms, most can still recover," but without it, we'll have a "real serious situation."

"We're looking at half the normal yield for the county," Kerr said of wheat predictions. But that figure will be revised down, as the drought continues, Kerr said.

"Two weeks," Kerr said, "without rain and it'll be really hard, really hurt." The agent said the rains must yield at least an inch or two, because the "ground is so dry, the first inch will be absorbed in dust."

Don Gilliam, weather recorder at MCGG, adds even a darker shadow to an already dismal report.

The worst April precipitation on record was in 1956 when the earth received .09 inches of rain. This year, with less than three days to go in the month, the rainfall measures .07.

The normal for April is a wet 1.33 inches.

Gilliam said that in 1956 some recall, the crop production wasn't that bad. But the following year it was.

While farmers and ranchers alike ponder their situation today, they can't help but look to a bleak future. With no water, the crop can't grow. Without the crop, livestock feed can't be produced.

The forecast: more of what everyone is getting pretty sick and tired of: nice weather.