

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

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Hospital Board public meetings 'to clear air'

In an effort to clear the air and ask voter approval of its \$150,582 special levy on Tuesday, Aug. 8, the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board of Directors has scheduled two public meetings for next week.

The first meeting will be held Monday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Courthouse, Heppner and the following night a meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m., Riverside High School. The Hospital Board will have a moderator handle the meeting to keep things moving in an orderly fashion, according to Dick Sargent, board member setting up the meetings.

In recent months the Hospital Board and Administrator Bob Byrnes have come under fire from hospital employees and county residents for increased costs and personnel management.

Hospital Board Chairman Fred Martin replies, "We have some personnel problems that have been attributed to the administrator, whereas they are actually board policy decisions, but as the administrator, he carries them out."

The board will also explain the need for the special levy request of \$150,582, cut some \$39,500 from the last election on June 27 when voters turned it down.

The hospital needs equipment in nearly every department—from the laundry to the front office, according to Byrnes. In addition, the board and administrator are attempting to equalize wages for hospital employees that are grossly underpaid.

Board member Dick Sargent commented, "If the budget fails again and we're forced to cut back to within the six per cent limitation, we'll still have a hospital but we'll have to get rid of some people and some services—a substantial amount."

"People here must decide what level of health care they want available in Morrow County," echoed board member Hubert Wilson.

Faced with yet another problem—the lack of doctors in the community—the board has some thoughts and opinions to share on that issue.

Also on the agenda will be discussion surrounding the formation of a health care district in Morrow County, that would administer health care services to all residents and would have the taxing powers of a special district.

The board of directors of the special district would be elected from various parts of the county.

Three petitioners are needed to obtain signatures for the hospital district and the board has two persons from the south portion of the county, Mrs. Harry (Mary) Kennison and Orville Cutsforth. A person from the Boardman-Irrigon area is needed for a prime petitioner. The petitioners must obtain all of the signatures on the petition themselves, attesting to each signature.

Workers stop at Carty for safety reasons

A work stoppage at the Carty coal-fired power plant near Boardman was continuing at press time, idling most of the 700 construction workers involved with building the facility.

The walkout began last Friday, following the death on Thursday of a construction worker at the site. Loyal A. Vick of Spokane died en route to St. Anthony's Hospital in

Pendleton, after his chest was crushed while he was loading heavy boxes at a location about 10 miles from the main construction area.

Vick's death sparked a protest over safety conditions by fellow workmen at the plant, who contend that improved communication systems and more immediately available medical care could possibly have saved Vick, and

may save other workers who might suffer severe injuries at the construction site.

A number of workers began returning to their jobs after noon on Monday, kindling hopes by Portland General Electric and Bechtel Corp. officials that the protest was ending. However, on Tuesday morning, protesting workers

Cont. on page 7

School Board defers zone changes; hires new teachers

The Morrow County Board of Education deferred action Monday on a proposed school district zone change aimed at equalizing representation on the school board as county population patterns shift to the north.

A committee which has been studying county population projections with an eye towards more evenly distributing school board representation submitted a report during Monday's meeting. The report recommended converting two zones currently representing Heppner into countywide "at-large" zones.

Under the recommendations, the Heppner zones would not be converted to at-large zones until the terms of the district's two current board members, Dr. Wallace Wolf and Pauline Winter, expire. Winter's term expires in 1980 and Wolf's in 1981.

In its report to the board, the committee noted that "the original distribution of the district representation on the board was inadequate to provide equal representation in light of present and future population trends."

The committee considered, but finally rejected, increasing the number of board members from seven to nine, with the two additional board members to come from northern Morrow County.

Currently, school board members are nominated from single zones representing the communities of Boardman, Irrigon, Ione, Lexington, and rural Heppner, and two zones representing metropolitan Heppner. Candidates then must win countywide elections to receive seats on the board.

Action on the proposed zone changes was tabled during

Monday's meeting, since several board members were absent. Should the board approve the committee's recommendations, an election would be required next Spring in order for the zone changes to be made. No real change in board representation would occur until 1980, when Winter's term expires.

In other developments Monday, the board accepted the resignation of Heppner music instructor John J. Dawson and A.C. Houghton teacher Lee Ann Wilkes.

The board hired Kim Cooper, an Eastern Oregon State College graduate, as third grade teacher at A.C. Houghton; Kay Dawson, also an EOSC graduate, as kindergarten teacher at Boardman; Carol Faith, Eastern Washington, as speech therapist; Rod Fife, Lewis and Clark, as science teacher at Riverside Junior High; Joanne McGovern, University of Oregon, as language arts teacher at Riverside Junior High; Ralph Schuboth, Whitman, as math teacher and assistant track and basketball coach at Heppner High; Vanessa Thew, EOSC, as sixth grade teacher at Ione Elementary; Donna Weed, Idaho State, as Heppner kindergarten teacher; and Robert Carson as fourth grade teacher at A.C. Houghton.

The board re-elected Pauline Winter as its chairman, and voted to approve of a September field trip for Heppner and Riverside High art students to Seattle, to view the Egyptian King Tut exhibit.

In another development, the board accepted an early graduation policy for exceptional students.

Under the terms of the policy, students would be able

to receive high school diplomas in less than four years if they

—complete the board's required credits and competencies

—agree upon a plan for early graduation with their high school principals

—submit early graduation requests in writing no later

than one semester prior to the planned graduation date, explaining the educational or vocational reasons for seeking early graduation

—convince school officials that the early graduation would be in the student's best interests, on the basis of high school records, and post-high school plans.

County to get less federal funds than thought

The Morrow County Court learned this week that it would receive less revenues than anticipated for 1978-79, from the federal government for payments in lieu of taxes.

The money is received for federally-owned lands in Morrow County and in the past has amounted to about \$65,000 annually.

In a letter received from the Oregon Association of Counties, the county was told that allocation would be made based on a different formula this year, amounting to \$17,000 in revenues, a cut of \$48,000.

Judge D.O. Nelson said the cut in revenues puts the county in an even more precarious position financially.

"That's nearly \$50,000 that we were counting on to help with the budget and we'll have to find some places to cut it from," said Nelson. "It also means that we need voter approval of our request for \$246,655 outside the six per cent limitation."

The county's levy request will go before voters on Tuesday, Aug. 8 for the second time at the same amount.

The last vote on June 27 ended in a deadlocked 513-513 tie.

This year marks the first time in over a decade the county has sought monies outside the six per cent limitation. The budget is bare-bones, according to Nelson, who said there are no funds earmarked for new construction projects or other major capital improvements.

Weather by Don Gilliam

	Hi	Low
Wed., July 12	83	45
Thurs., July 13	92	53
Fri., July 14	96	59
Sat., July 15	94	60
Sun., July 16	78	61
Mon., July 17	79	45
Tues., July 18	82	47



Gazette-Times wins 5 newspaper awards

The Heppner Gazette-Times was one of four Northwest Oregon Newspapers that won awards of excellence in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspaper Contest presented at the group's annual meeting at Sunriver last weekend.

The Gazette-Times collected five of the 11 awards won by the four newspapers, including first place for Best News Story and Typographical Excellence and third place awards for Community Leadership, Best Editorial and Special Section.

The Hermiston Herald took first place in the prestigious General Excellence category for the second consecutive year for newspapers with more than 2,700 circulation. The Herald also placed first in sports coverage, second in Typographical Excellence and third in Best Editorial.

The East Oregonian earned a first place award among daily papers in the Special Section category and the Milton-Freewater Valley Herald earned a third place in the Feature Story category for weeklies with more than 2,700 circulation.

The Gazette-Times Best News Story award was for coverage of the Mary Lindsay murder, of which judges said, "...complicated legal entanglement handled with clarity. An unpleasant subject presented with good taste."

The Best Editorial award

was for a column on the proposed move of state welfare and family services office from Heppner, which the state reconsidered. Community Leadership came to The Gazette-Times for its stories surrounding the Heppner

Upper Willow Creek road will be closed to traffic

The road connecting upper Willow Creek with Ukiah will be closed from Monday through Friday of next week for paving, the U.S. Forest Service and Morrow County Court announced.

According to Ben Seminoe of the Heppner Forest Service office, the road will be closed from the end of existing pavement near Cutsforth Park to the junction with Forest Service Route 53-26, about halfway to the point where existing hardtop on the Ukiah side of the route begins.

By Friday night, the road is expected to be open from Willow Creek to the top of Coalmine Hill.

During the following week, from July 31 to Aug. 7 an eight mile section of the road will be closed from the beginning of existing pavement on the Ukiah side to the junction with route 53-26. A detour will be provided, so that traffic will be able to proceed around the construction site.

Child Development Center's problems last year.

The Special Section that received a third place award was last year's Fair & Rodeo section and the first place in Typographical Excellence was for the newspaper's

over-all readability, use of clear and concise headlines, photos and printing quality.

The awards were presented for the 1977 publishing year and newspapers were judged by the Nebraska Press Association.

Persons wishing to travel to Penland Lake during the coming week will have to do so from the Tupper side. Motorists may still reach the Ukiah area through the Umatilla National Forest by driving the

Shaw Creek Grade. Any questions on how to reach various points along the route during the paving period may be answered by contacting the Heppner Forest Service office at 676-9187.

DIAL 9-1-1 Emergency phone system installed

Dial "911" (Nine-one-one) if you need emergency police, fire or medical help in Heppner, Ione or Lexington.

The three communities activated their 911 systems last week. According to Pacific Northwest Bell, that brings to 18 the number of PNB communities in Oregon which use the simplified emergency call number.

"Because of the great distances and the time it takes to respond to emergencies in Morrow County, being able to get emergency help by dialing one number is important," said Morrow County Sheriff Larry Fetsch.

"Before, it was sometimes necessary to make four to six phone calls to get an ambulance, a fire truck and the police. Now we can take one call and dispatch all of them at once."

Heppner, Ione and Lexington agreed to tie their communities together with one emergency number in February this year.