

Flood plains still making news at year's end here

Flames demolished the home of the Donnie Papineau family in Lexington in October. Family members managed to flee to safety, but nearly all personal possessions were lost. The Lexington community held a benefit to aid their neighbors.

Rupert Kennedy, manager

of the Port of Morrow since its inception nearly a decade ago, was fired by port commissioners in November over "differences in opinion." Neither Kennedy nor the commissioners would go into detail over what led to the dismissal.

Tragedy struck the Papi-

neau family of Lexington again in late November, when Fred Papineau was killed when a load of logs he was hauling fell on him near Spray.

After five years of planning and three rounds of bidding, a contract for a new Morgan Street Bridge was finally

awarded in late November. Doug Coats Construction of Bend submitted the low bid of \$113,303, and announced that work on the span would probably begin in January.

A massive measles outbreak in the Willamette Valley prompted local health officials to launch a full-scale vaccination program in Morrow County.

The Heppner Mustangs captured the Columbia Basin Conference football crown, maintaining an 8-1 record in league play. Hopes for advancing past the quarterfinal stage in state playoff action were dashed, however, when

Heppner was beaten 25-7 by the Wapiti League champion Elgin team.

Heppner became the ping-pong capital of the world for a day in November, when table tennis pros from Haiti and Thailand met in town for a showdown for the world title. Directors of the tournament

said they selected the unlikely location of Heppner for the event, after terrorists reportedly threatened to disrupt the match when it had been slated to be held in South Africa. When the directors were informed by Elks Club manager Jackie Jensen that terrorism is unheard of in

Heppner (except for rodeo week), they were apparently impressed, and decided to hold the contest here.

Haiti ended up retaining its world title.

But the Morrow County sports story of the year reached a climax in late November, when the lone Cardinals capped an unbeaten football season with a 30-28 victory over MacLaren to become the class B champions for the state of Oregon.

Lone fans had never been treated to a more adrenalin jolting year of Cardinal football than during 1978. Several of the season's wins were pulled out in the closing seconds, giving the 1978 lone football team the well-earned nickname "Cardiac Cards."

Such a late-moment victory during the season's first game over Touchet High made the Cardinals the Washington state champs, in a sense, because Touchet went on to win the Washington state crown for its division.

Heppner joined Lone in singing the "flood plain blues" in early December, when a preliminary survey revealed by the Corps of Engineers showed that substantial portions of the city would remain in flood zone areas even with construction of the Willow Creek Dam. The Corps told city officials that even though the dam will eliminate flood peril from Willow Creek, runoff from Shobe and Hinton creeks would place large portions of the city in flood zones in the event of a catastrophic, "100-year" flood.

The development made city officials, including Mayor Jerry Sweeney, less than enthusiastic over building the dam. "The only reason the city went along with this dam was to eliminate the flood plain," said Sweeney. "I don't see how we can justify it now..."

Butter Creek rancher Charlie Daly was named Morrow County's Livestock Man of the Year by the county livestock association in December, and Heppner's Becky Fulleton was seen on national television, competing in the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City in the barrel racing event.

Defeated representative Jack Sumner of Heppner won a suit against Democratic primary challenger Chuck Bennett, charging that Bennett made untruthful campaign statements that damaged Sumner's campaign. Sumner was awarded \$147 in damages—the amount of his campaign debt. Sumner lost on a bid to hold a new election, based on the fact that Bennett's nomination was ruled invalid due to his statements.

The Heppner Christian Life Center Assembly of God revealed preliminary plans for building a new church, school and activity center in a pair of 72-foot diameter geodesic domes, to be built on property adjacent to Morgan Street. The proposal awaits action by the city planning commission.

Kinzua Corporation contracted with Portland's Emanuel Hospital Life Flight Helicopter ambulance service, to provide emergency aid for the remote community of Kinzua in Wheeler County, as well as for employees of the Heppner mill who may become seriously injured.

Randy Krueger was dismissed as city foreman, following an incident in which he was accused of crashing a city pickup while making a personal trip in the vehicle to Lexington.

The Morrow County School District began seeking names for two new school buildings being constructed in the county's North End. Currently being built are a new junior high in Irrigon and a new grade school in Boardman.

E.S. "Buddy" Toadvin was hired to replace Rupert Kennedy as manager of the Port of Morrow. In December the Port began negotiations with a Washington timber firm to use the Boardman facility for a log barging dock site.

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