

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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## Airlift

Heppner physician Wallace Wolff is placed aboard an Emanuel Hospital "Life Flight" helicopter ambulance, after suffering a heart attack while making rounds at Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Thursday. Jen Springer of Dr. Wolff's Heppner office reported Wednesday that she had spoken with the ailing physician by telephone, reporting that he "sounded cheerful" and was "doing real well." Dr. Wolff, one of only two physicians in Morrow County, is expected to spend at least the end of this week in Portland's Good Samaritan Hospital, Room 410.

## Heppner physicians acknowledge need for additional doctor

### Plans mulled for \$201,000 grant

Heppner's doctors now agree that the community needs an additional physician. According to the minutes of a Joint Conference Committee meeting last week of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board and the hospital's medical staff, "It was the opinion of the physicians present and the board that there is a need for another physician."

Attending the meeting were Dr. Wallace Wolff, Dr. Joe Gifford, Dr. L.D. Tibbles and Dr. H.S. Huber, hospital board members Alice Bartlett, Ed Dick, John Maas and Fred Martin, and administrator Bob Byrnes.

Concurrence on the need for an additional doctor followed a lengthy discussion on the

subject, according to the minutes.

Following the meeting, Byrnes said that an "excellent rapport" existed between the physicians and board members attending the session. The Joint Conference Committee was established to coordinate planning and policy at the hospital between the facility's medical administrative staffs.

Also discussed at the session were plans for implementing an anticipated \$201,000 federal grant earmarked for new X-ray equipment and for building an addition to the rear of the hospital for a new emergency room, doctors office and waiting room.

The Joint Conference Committee also talked about improvements and new equip-

ment needed in the hospital's surgery, obstetrics and emergency departments, and discussed the problem of providing anesthesia for surgery, in light of the fact that there is currently no anesthesiologist

or nurse anesthetist on the hospital staff.

The medical staff and the hospital board are "aggressively pursuing" locating another doctor in Heppner, Byrnes said.

## Hospital public meeting scheduled for Tuesday

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees has scheduled a public meeting to explain and seek comment on the Northwest Medical Foundation study recently completed concerning the hospital.

The meeting will be held in the Heppner High School cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Northwest Medical Foundation's report outlines operations, staffing, administration and physical plant data and makes some general recommendations. The PMH board and administration are now seeking public comment on the report to plan for the hospital's future.

The public is encouraged to attend.

## Benefit slated for fire victim Rosemary Cox

A rotation-donation benefit dance for the Rosemary Cox family, victims of a house fire last week, will be held by area taverns and lounges this Saturday.

Mrs. Cox, who recently suffered a broken leg, and her daughter were staying with family in Lexington when the fire occurred. Her son, Larry, age 18, was at home and escaped from the blazing house with only the clothes he wore.

The house, located on Green Street, and all the family's personal belongings were destroyed in the 4 a.m. inferno, and minor damage from heat was reported to have occurred to adjoining houses.

The Heppner Volunteer Fire Department responded to the early morning blaze and were hampered by icy streets, zero temperatures and live power lines in their effort to control the blaze. The house was totally engulfed in flames when Cox was awakened by smoke, and flames were shooting 50-70 feet in the air when firemen arrived on the scene.

Mrs. Cox wears a size 32 waist in mens pants, size 12 ladies clothes and size 10 shoes; Larry wears a 38 waist pants, extra large shirts and size 13 shoes; and Robin, age 11, has been supplied with sufficient clothing, according to friends of the family.

## Sudden thaw brings flood waters to Morrow County

A two-month accumulation of snow and ice dissolved into a torrent of floodwater Tuesday, as temperatures climbed to the mid-40s, triggering some of the most severe flooding in history to several areas of Morrow County.

Hardest hit by the high water was Ione, where runoff peaked shortly after sunset Tuesday, leaving nearly the entire portion of the community on the Willow Creek side of Main Street submerged under a debris-filled coating of muddy water.

High water climbed nearly three feet up the sides of Ione High School and entered the building, leaving mud and debris in every classroom and spoiling a large quantity of food stored in the cafeteria

area. The basement of the grade school was filled with flood water, as was the school complex's swimming pool and athletic field.

An army of volunteers from the Ione community was busy Wednesday pumping out flooded areas, shoveling mud from classrooms and repairing damaged equipment.

The flooding forced the cancellation of classes at both schools. At what time the buildings will reopen for students remains a question mark, as does Ione's weekend sports schedule.

Community spirit was very much in evidence throughout the town as Ione neighbors helped each other remove flood debris from lawns, start flooded cars, pump out base-

ments and clean up flooded rooms.

Preliminary reports indicated that no one was left homeless by the flooding, although property damage was significant in the lower lying areas, particularly to mobile homes within a block's distance from Willow Creek.

When floodwaters were at their peak around 9 p.m. Tuesday, a number of streets were impassible, and several parked cars were filled nearly to the roof with the murky runoff. There were no reports of injury. Many small sheds and outbuildings washed away.

Phone service was temporarily interrupted in several parts of town during the flood period, but electricity and city

water service continued to function. Near the high school, the bridge across Willow Creek leading to the Gooseberry area was impassible, causing a lengthy detour for farmers of that section of the county.

The Willow Creek valley was submerged from canyon wall to canyon wall near the confluence with Rea Creek. A number of haystacks and farm buildings were damaged by water near this area, and silt, debris and ice chunks littered pastures and hay fields along the valley from Heppner to Cecil.

Probably the highest dollar loss from the flooding was done to county roads and bridges. Washouts, slides and

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## Morrow School Board, BMCC posts are up for grabs on April 3

Two positions on the Morrow County School Board and one slot on Blue Mountain Community College's Board of Directors will be up for grabs during the April 3 school budget election.

Morrow County School Board posts that will be open are for Zone III in Ione, currently held by Harold Snider, and Zone IV, Lexington, currently held by Irv Rauch. Persons interested in running for the two positions must file petitions of candidacy with the Morrow County Clerk by Feb. 26. The petitions may be obtained at the Morrow County Schools district office in Lexington, or by asking at the local school buildings.

Also up for election will be six positions on the school board's advisory committee. Those posts becoming open will be Heppner positions 4 and 6, currently held by Dean Wright and Jerry Dougherty; Ione positions 2 and 3, currently held by Sandra Murray and Harold Holtz, and Boardman positions 3 and 4, currently held by Barbara Hug and Burrell Cooley.

Candidates for the advisory posts must go through the same filing process as candidates for the school board positions.

The BMCC board of directors position up for election on April 3 is an at-large post, currently held by John Hansell of Hermiston. The position is a four-year term, which begins on July 1. The only requirements for the post are

that the candidate be at least 18 years of age and a resident of either Morrow or Umatilla county.

Deadline for filing for the BMCC post is 5 p.m. on Feb. 27.

Persons interested in run-

ning for the position are urged to contact BMCC President Ron Daniels for petitions and assistance. Petitions require 25 signatures or payment of a \$10 filing fee.

Hansell has indicated that he intends to file.

## Teacher re-hiring to be discussed

The Morrow County School Board Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday to consider the re-hiring of probationary certificated personnel (teachers and specialists) at Heppner Elementary and Heppner High School.

The meeting will be held in the library at Heppner Elementary.

A total of 26 probationary personnel at the two schools are expected to receive action on whether or not they will be rehired. New teachers and specialists in Morrow County undergo a three-year probationary period.

Advisory Committee members are Chairman Jim Wishart, Frank Pearson, Sharon

Harrison, Dean Wright, Gail Hughes, Jerry Dougherty and Steve Peck.

Tuesday's meeting will be held in executive session. The Advisory Committee is charged with making recommendations on personnel and other matters to the Morrow County School Board.

## Warm spell shortens Kinzua Corp. layoffs

A weeklong layoff of 28 employees at Kinzua Corporation's Heppner mill operation is expected to end at the start of the coming week.

The 28 workers were laid off last Monday, following a month of unseasonably cold weather which froze peeling blocks, resulting in a lack of sufficient wood to run all three shifts at full strength.

But this week's warm spell apparently thawed the timber enough to allow the mill to resume operations at full bore.

Affected in the layoff were workers in the plywood plant's graveyard shift, and one lathe operation on the swing shift. The shutdown had been expected to last at least two weeks.

Laid-off graveyard shift workers are being summoned back to their jobs on Sunday night, with the swing shift

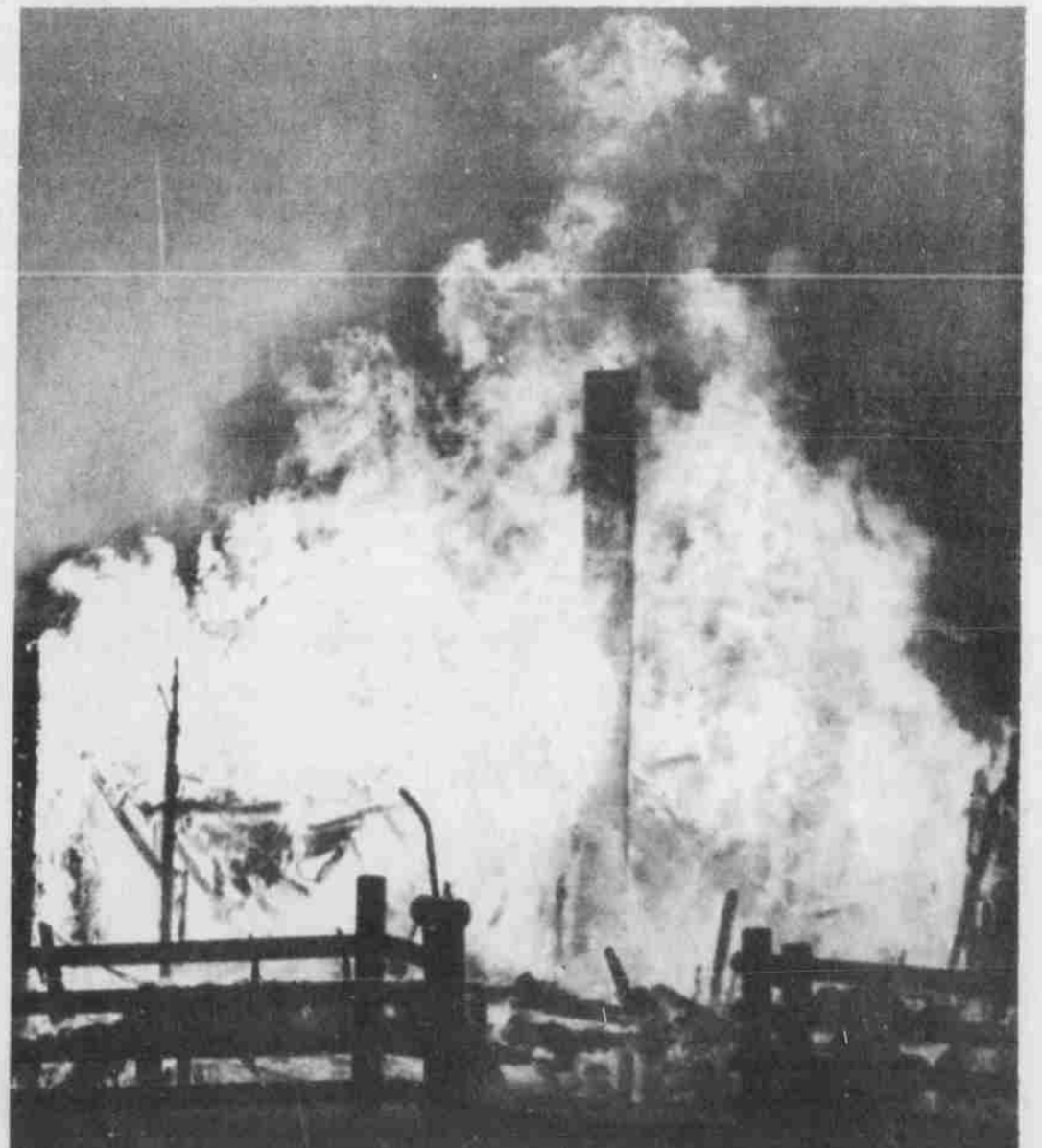
lathe operation scheduled to be back on line again on Monday.

## 'Town Hall' meeting set for Heppner

A "town hall" meeting for Heppner residents will be held Monday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Courthouse.

The meeting is being sponsored by the City of Heppner in cooperation with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a private, not-for-profit group.

It is hoped that a large segment of Heppner's population will turn out for the informal meeting so the City can obtain information about what the public feels are problem areas and good points within the town.



## Home destroyed

An early morning blaze last Friday totally destroyed a house on Green Street in Heppner occupied by the Rosemary Cox family. No one was injured in the fire, however, the family lost all of their personal belongings.