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Sandhollow farmers and ranchers and their hired men volunteered their equipment and labor to assist the County in patching the numerous potholes that stretched the length of the well-travelled road before harvest started. Morrow County's road department had money budgeted for the materials needed but didn't have the manpower available to put the asphalt on the road. Pictured here are Ken Turner, Bill Kenny, Rick Hill and Dan Nix. Following the crew in his personal grader was Don Evans, who worked the cold mix into the holes before the county rolled the repairs. Turner said each member of the four-man crew pictured shoveled about five tons of asphalt last Thursday and it took five days to complete the job.

Getting it done

City water drinkable according to Lexington, Ione officials this week

There are no problems with water supplies in Ione and Lexington, city officials in both cities said this week, despite a report from the Environmental Protection Agency that those cities and 129 other water systems were not informing the federal agency of the results of their water sampling.

"Those 131 systems are leaving their 24,000 customers in the dark," Don Gipe, coordinator of the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Program said last week in a press release to area newspapers.

Ione Mayor Linda LaRue said she had the water samples taken by the city's maintenance man and sent them to a private laboratory in The Dalles. It was her understanding that the laboratory would forward the results directly to the EPA. That wasn't the case and LaRue will be sending the test results directly to Portland. She was displeased with EPA's action of sending out the press release as was Lexington City Recorder Lois Allyn without informing the city of Ione.

Mrs. Allyn does the water sampling herself by simply filling out a bottle of outside or inside water and mailing it first class to the Eastern Oregon College laboratory in La Grande. The tests come back and she forwards them on to Portland.

She said Lexington didn't get the reports to the EPA on time. But Mrs. Allyn couldn't understand all the flap about the water systems, since Lexington's water has been found okay.

Heppner wasn't one of the cities listed among the non-reporting water systems and asked about any possible water problems. Mayor Jerry Sweeney says the city tests its water religiously. "We have good water and add very little chemicals," he said.

Both Ione and Lexington officials said the State Health

Division used to do the sampling for the cities but after the first of the year, the practice was stopped.

Contacted in Portland about Ione and Lexington's response to the statewide press release, EPA's Gipe said that some of the 131 systems listed were non-reporting and some non-monitoring but all were informed in the last two years that they should report their

samples monthly. "If there isn't regular monitoring, there could be contamination entering at any one point," Gipe commented.

The Kinzua Corporation was also named in the report but according to Personnel and Safety Manager Dan Sweeney, the company sends quarterly samples to the State Public Health Laboratory in Portland to make tests of their

domestic water system; those reports are forwarded to the EPA. There have been no reports of problems with Kinzua's water, Sweeney said.

While Kinzua receives free water tests for their quarterly samples, the cities of Ione and Lexington pay for their samples to be tested. The EPA is now requiring testing of Kinzua's wells for chemical content.

Five enter guilty pleas

Five defendants entered guilty pleas in District Court Monday at the Morrow County Courthouse.

Rick Rea, 18, Bombing Range Rd., and Delbert Turner, changed their pleas from not guilty to guilty to a charge of delivery of a controlled substance in Judge Jack Olsen's Court and multiple charges by District Attorney Dennis Doherty were dropped. Both defendants also plead guilty to a charge of false swearing.

Richard Hamlett changed a plea to guilty to a charge of controlled substance.

A pre-sentence investigation has been ordered for the three cases—the last under the adult indictments of the Morrow County Grand Jury investigation drug problems in the county. Monday's pleas involved marijuana. A case is still pending against a juvenile involved in the drug investigation.

Tamara McKenzie, Boardman, changed her plea to

guilt of possession of a controlled substance and will undergo a pre-sentence investigation.

Robert William Hoffman, Boardman, plead guilty of the felony of driving while suspended, Nora Pourrier, Irigoien changed her plea to guilty to a charge of first degree burglary.

J.C. Helsel, Hermiston, plead not guilty to a charge of theft of property from an Ione service station last February.

Lions begin project to clean up Willow Creek channel

The Heppner Lions Club in association with the Heppner Water Control District will be conducting a channel clean-up and debris removal project on Willow Creek July 14.

The object of the project is to reduce the hazard of flooding caused by debris dams. According to local officials, the last flood waters contained 40 percent debris and silt and 60 percent water. Saturday's work will involve

removing trash and debris from the channel and cutting brush and small trees in the channel that cause debris dams to form.

The project is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., July 14. Participants will meet at the Alfalfa Street bridge. Volunteers and property owners are encouraged to pitch in and reduce the danger of flooding in Heppner.

Any property owner along

the creek that wishes to offer assistance or provide access is encouraged to do so. Brush removal will be confined to that area below high water. If any property owner does not wish to have brush removed, they should contact volunteers as they work in the area. If visibly mark any brush they wish to save. Any vegetation that provides bank stability in critical areas will be left.

Health care board recommends more budget cuts before vote

The Morrow County Hospital Board decided at a special meeting Monday night at Columbia Basin Co-op in Heppner to recommend Wednesday to the County Court that \$23,737 be trimmed from the county hospital levy when placed before the voters in August.

In the second trimming operation following a levy defeat this year, board members first heard three and a half hours of budgetary recommendations by the medical and nursing staff with Dr. Joseph Gifford as spokesman, then met for an hour later and recommended the following reductions: accepting the medical personnel's recommendation that monies be trimmed in the budget for physician services because of the possibility of not obtaining a new doctor until January 1, the board made a \$33,639 reduction in physician relief (weekend service, malpractice and insurance, reducing the income by \$20,000; reduction of \$3,900 from physician recruitment, reduced the physician's salary by \$12,500, thereby reducing the income figures by \$18,744; added \$2,342 for reimbursement of telephone billing for individual patients, increased laboratory expenses by \$4,000 and proposed \$6,000 as the increase in income from lab fees in following the recommendation from the hospital staff that money could be saved by instituting in-house procedures rather than sending the work away and rent on the house used by the hospital administrator was increased to \$225 per month or \$2,700—board members said there would be no change in the budget; it would be balanced on the income side of the ledger.

No change was made in the financial requirements recommended for the North Morrow County clinic of \$157,140 despite a motion by board member Dan Sweeney who said, "We have to realistically weigh how many votes we are going to get from the north end."

North end board members contended that such a move could cost the hospital levy issue a greater number of votes than in the second levy, defeat June 26.

Irigoien Member Gladys Hobbs advised the board to give that area more services besides the North Morrow Clinic and said if funds for north end medical care are removed, there would be a strong voter reaction against August's third levy try.

"They would take that as a direct slap in the face," Hobbs said.

Board member Ed Dick said he would be reluctant to remove support for the north end clinic and Chairman Fred Martin agreed.

In making their budgetary recommendations, the board also made no changes in the already slashed planning and development funds and indicated no change in the \$87,000 contingency fund, noting that salary negotiations are not completed yet with non-union employees.

County Court officials will decide whether to accept the recommendations at a special hearing Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the County Courthouse. If the court goes along with the

proposals, that would mean a \$68,737 cut in the original levy proposal submitted to the voters in the first levy vote May 22.

In Monday night's session, the medical personnel which have formed a professional association, made several recommendations regarding the future hospital budgetary planning.

Speaking for the professionals, Dr. Gifford said the main concern of the group was medical care.

His question of "How many times the budget can be presented to the voters" drew a response from Ed Dick. Dick said there was no limit to the times the levy could be submitted to the voters but failure of the levy would pose problems in property tax assessments.

Gifford asked what alternatives the board was looking at should the levy fail again. Responded Martin: "We can't operate a public institution on a deficit. We would have to close the place down unless a way is found to operate it on revenue. I wouldn't promise anyone that it would stay open."

Said Barlett: "It can't operate with a deficit. The decision would rest with the County Court."

Chairman Martin said there has only been one month this year that "we have come close to breaking even" and noted that the facility has been subsidized for years. Dick reported the hospital had a \$53,000 deficit in 1978, and lacked \$71,000 in 1971. "It's nowhere near self-operating."

"If you think we are going to operate without a subsidy, you're chasing a rainbow," Martin said.

The professional association recommended that \$6,000 could be realized in income from doing work in the laboratory rather than sending it to other laboratories, selling the clinic leased by Dr. Gifford for \$42,000 (the board said that would be a County Court decision and might not result in income to the hospital budget); trimming the \$127,990 earmarked for physician services because of the possibility that a physician hired would not start until after January 1; charging patients for medical phone calls outside the area; speci-

fyng directly in the budget, travel funds for nurses attending educational courses, rather than lumping them under administration and cutting the surgical expense by \$5,000 because of the probability of not having a surgeon until after January 1.

The board held firm to its insistence that surgical expenditures be left in the budget. Chairman Fred Martin was concerned the board would be criticized in the community if it cut out the surgery expense.

Responded Gifford, "It would take a lot more than an itinerant surgeon" to reinstate surgery at Pioneer Memorial.

Gifford said the medical association was questioning the budgeting of a fetal monitor and said the two physicians had not been asked about it and recommended purchase of what he felt was a less expensive I.V. transfusion pump; asked that the amount for physician recruitment be reduced and volunteered his services to raise funds for financial inducements to bring new physicians into the area.

Postmaster thanks hospital staff for emergency care after fall from roof top

Heppner Postmaster Hubert Wilson, recuperating from a broken back, sustained when he fell off the city hall roof five weeks ago while tarring the surface, says he received the best care he has ever received at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Wilson is now at home after spending several weeks in the hospital. He wears a custom-fitted steel brace to protect his spinal column from further injury. When he fell off the roof, he crushed three vertebrae and fractured a fourth.

He told the Gazette-Times Monday that the hospital personnel which took care of him "were far superior to other hospitals" which he has been in, relating the nursing staff's care during his hospital stay.

A former hospital board member, Wilson said two of the nurses would move him gently upon request without arousing the pain that he has had to endure since his accident.

"There was concern they were showing me."

Wilson also praised the quick response of the ambulance crew which transported him to the hospital. He and his son, Clayton, were working on the city hall roof when the fall occurred. Wilson, who intermittently blacked out from the fall, landed on the concrete sidewalk directly in front of the city offices. The screams of his son were heard by the Randall Petersons who phoned for the ambulance.

It took only about three minutes, says Wilson, for the ambulance to arrive on the scene. The crew used what the Postmaster described as an "old fashioned hay fork" with tines to lift him into the vehicle.

And he praised the quick



Thanks hospital

Wearing a steel brace, Heppner Postmaster Hubert Wilson is recovering from his fall six weeks ago off the roof of Heppner City Hall. He says he received excellent care at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and credits the quick attention and availability of the facility for his well-being.

work of Dr. Joseph Gifford in lifting an elastic brace over the injured area.

Wilson said the Kennewick physician who designed the specially fitted brace for him, said the quick action by Gifford eased his medical problems.

He will have to wear the brace for two years and while sleeping at night must wear an elastic brace.

It was expected by many that he would have to spend at

least 10 weeks in the hospital. Hubert was discharged about 3 weeks early because of the special brace.

While in the hospital, he received about 98 cards and numerous flowers from people in the community.

Asked why he felt the care was much better at Pioneer Memorial than other larger hospitals, Wilson said "Most of the people are a little

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