

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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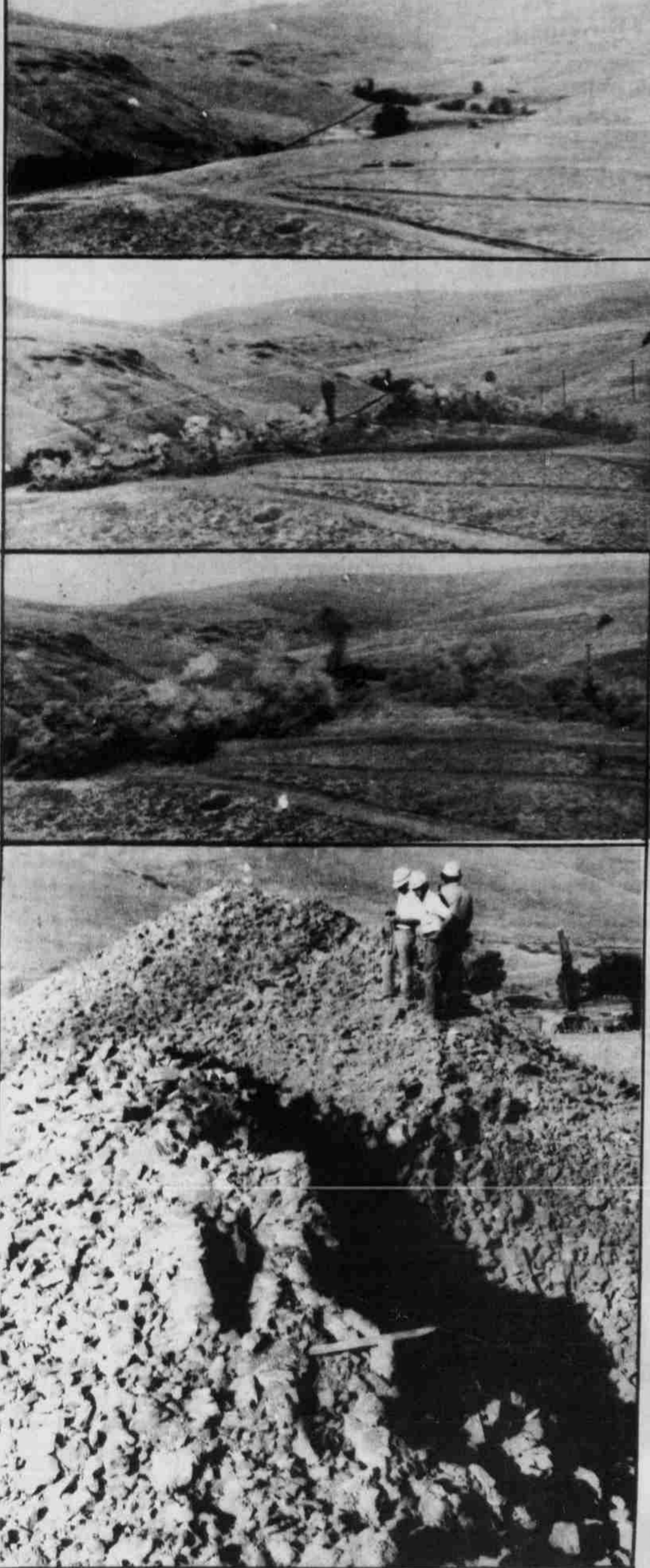
HEPPNER, OREGON

## Weather

BY THE CITY OF HEPPNER

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., Aug. 4	83	52	
Wed., Aug. 5	89	58	
Thurs., Aug. 6	98	59	
Fri., Aug. 7	99	62	
Sat., Aug. 8	98	60	
Sun., Aug. 9	95	58	
Mon., Aug. 10	98	62	

## Kaboom!



What will 15,000 pounds of dynamite do to a hillside? Reduce it to rubble, that's what.

Peter Kewit construction company set off a large blast late Friday afternoon at the dam construction site just outside of Heppner.

The blast was set to go off at 3:30 but was delayed for several hours. When it was finally touched off it produced quite a show.

A sloping area across Balm Fork, up on the hillside, was drilled earlier with over 1,000 twenty-foot holes. The holes were packed with dynamite and another brand of explosives. The area was cleared, and double checked for stray bystanders, who may have wandered in.

Spectators were perched on the hillside across from the blast site, some with cameras at the ready. On a given signal from the powder man the charges were set off.

Rock and dirt lifted up in the air and a loud boom was heard. When the dust cleared the former flat area had been transformed into a broken mass of dirt and rocks, with one large 15-foot ridge standing in the center.

The blast went off as planned, workers said, and the broken ground can now be scooped up and removed. A rock crusher will be moved up to the site and begin making rock for road construction work.

## \$525,000 Election requested

By MARY ANN CERULLO

A request for an election on Tuesday, September 15, was certified by Barbara Bloodworth, Morrow County Clerk, last Wednesday. Commissioner Dorothy Krebs reported.

The one-year road levy election will ask voters to approve a total of \$525,000 for road improvements.

\$375,000 is to be used to match funds from the state for the completion of Bombing Range Road.

\$150,000 will be for asphalt and supplies to continue the present level of road maintenance.

County Court moved to support the road levy during a court session July 22.

In other business, Morrow County Court received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Jean Jepsen of the Juvenile Council because of increased responsibilities at home. The court accepted Jepsen's resignation which was effective immediately.

## District short \$92,000

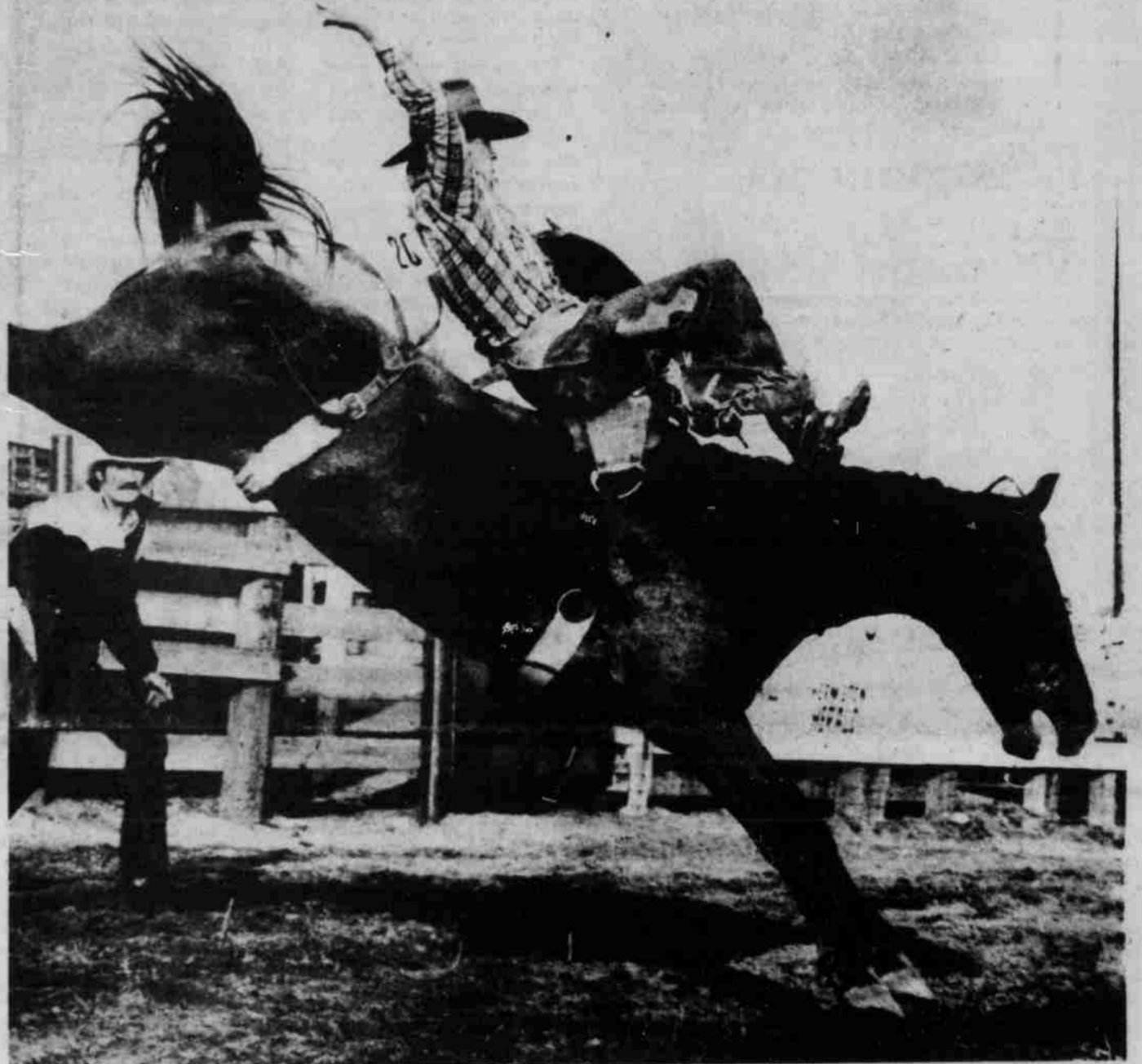
Morrow County School Superintendent Matt Doherty said last week that the school district will be short "about \$92,000" in basic school support this year.

The district had been trying to anticipate how much school support it could count on from the state this year, but until the state legislature adjourned two weeks ago school administrators really did not know how much the state would pare the program down.

"We'll be short about \$92,000 more than we anticipated in this year's budget," Doherty told the Gazette-Times. "But I'm relieved it's not the \$280,000 we at one time thought it (the shortfall) might be."

"It's at least something we can depend on now," he said.

## Rice takes 1st in saddle bronc event at National High School Rodeo



Lee Rice in competition at the National High School Rodeo.

photo by Fields Foto

Heppner was officially put on the map during the National High School Rodeo Association competition held July 27 through Aug. 2 at Douglas, Wyoming.

Lee Rice of Heppner won first place in bareback competition. Rice who has been riding for around 11 years, is

the first Oregon cowboy ever to take a first place in the NHSR. The Oregon team ended up 8th in the nation.

Rice, 17, the son of Dick and Carol Rice, scored 70 in his first go-round, 70 in his second go-round, and 75 in the short go to take the prize. He won two plaques (one for each

go-round), a pair of boots, a hat, a saddle, and a buckle for his efforts.

Jeff Bailey, also from Heppner, won his first go-round for fifth in the nation.

Also competing from Heppner were Cliff Dougherty and Tony Currin in calf roping; Earl Hammond in bareback;

and Tara Mahoney in poles and breakaway.

A Stanfield cowboy, Wade Burtch, competing for the Heppner team, won first go in the saddle bronc for third in the nation. Chris Dahl, Redmond, ended up fifth in the nation in the saddle bronc event.

## Men burned, wheat, combine destroyed in fire

An Ione man, Kenneth James Smouse, and his son, Kenneth, are "doing well," according to a Pioneer Memorial Hospital spokesperson, after sustaining burns in a wheat fire that broke out around 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Fires have taken their toll as both soaring temperatures and harvesting have continued the past week in Morrow County.

According to a neighbor of the Smouses', Vera Rietmann, she and her husband, Wayne, lost 100 acres of wheat in the fire that burned two members of the Smouse family, destroyed the Smouses' tractor,

burned 300 acres of wheat and stubble and destroyed a combine on the Ralph and Montie Crum ranches and broke out windows of a tractor belonging to Smouse.

Another man injured in the fire, Barney Rea, was treated at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and released. A pickup belonging to Keith Rea was also caught in the fire and damaged.

According to the Rietmanns, the fire came within 400 feet of their home and within 200 feet of their grain elevator. Mrs. Rietmann said that their home and elevator could have been destroyed if it

had not been for Mei and John Boyer who battled the blaze from an airplane. The Boyers operate Gar Aviation Service out of Lexington.

Rietmann said onlookers estimated the blaze shot about 30 feet in the air.

"It was an extremely dangerous fire. People risked

their lives to fight it. We really do appreciate their help," said Mrs. Rietmann. "It was lucky that more people didn't get hurt."

## It's Fair & Rodeo time again



When Tom Simonton comes to town to paint area business windows, fair and rodeo time isn't far behind. Simonton, whose colorful

scenes have previewed the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo for many years, hails from Pendleton.

## Verduzco denied retrial

A motion for a new trial for Jose Mario Mendoza Verduzco, convicted of murder by a Morrow County jury July 15, has been denied by Judge W.W. Wells.

Verduzco was found guilty of the April 25 slaying of Antonio Delgadillo Guzman near the H-Bar-W tavern in Boardman.

According to defense attor-

ney F.E. Glenn, reasons for the motion for a new trial included allegations that the jury that convicted Verduzco did not truly represent the county's population and did not include members of ethnic groups as it should.

Verduzco is being held in the Umatilla County Jail until a presentencing investigation is completed.