

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., May 3	68	38	
Wed., May 4	70	43	.95
Thurs., May 5	56	42	.37
Fri., May 6	69	44	.11
Sat., May 7	58	36	.28
Sun., May 8	50	38	.12
Mon., May 9	54	36	.01

VOL. 101 NO. 19 THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1983

10 PAGES

25

HEPPNER, OREGON

Cause of fire still undetermined

The cause of a fire that destroyed a half-block of business buildings in downtown Heppner early last Wednesday morning is still not known, Heppner Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine said Monday.

The fire which seemed to break out in the Bottom Drawer, was reported at 2:12 a.m. The Heppner Fire Department responded and almost had the blaze contained at one point when water from a pump truck ran out and fire hoses had to be connected to hydrants, allowing enough time for the flames to spread rapidly. Members of the Hermiston Fire Department joined Heppner firefighters at about 4:30 a.m. With the aid of the Hermiston men and their pump truck the blaze was finally knocked down, however, Heppner firemen continued to douse the rubble and stayed on the scene until 9:30 that evening.

S & J Market, the Bottom Drawer, the Post Office and the old Post Office building were completely destroyed. The Shoe Box received extensive damage, while the LeBush Shoppe and Peterson's Jewelers both received minor damage.

Many Heppner residents turned out to help evacuate stores and businesses, and then helped the more fortunate store owners move merchandise back in the next day.

Nothing was salvaged from S & J Market, the Post Office, or the building that housed Curt and Jana Lee's Bottom Drawer and a custom meat cutting shop. Jerry and Joyce Hollomon of Shoe Box were able to save a partial amount of their stock.

A temporary Post Office was set up by noon Wednesday at the old city library, next to city hall. Postmaster Ken Nairns announced Tuesday that the office would be moved to the union office next to Western Heritage Federal Savings and Loan Assoc. on Main St. "hopefully this weekend." The union office will be located in the old welfare office behind Coast to Coast.

School board to meet, consider policies

The next regular meeting of the Morrow County School board will be held May 16 at Riverside High School in Boardman. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

Items the board is expected to consider include board procedures in matters related to school closure, school advisory committee responsibilities,



Jerry and Joyce Hollomon opened their businesses in the West of Willow building this week after fire heavily damaged their building last Wednesday morning.

The two Post Office buildings were owned by the Heppner Investors, and the newer building had been leased from them by the government.

The postmaster said if the investment group rebuilds, the space will be leased again for a permanent Post Office. "We plan to stay in the downtown area - hopefully in the same place we were," he said.

One of the investors, Jack Van Winkle, said the group does plan to rebuild in the same location for a Post Office.

The Shoe Box and Talk-n-Tops are open for business in the West of Willow building, across the street from the Hollomon's burned out store building. Jerry's Barber Shop will open at a later date. Although all of the burned-out business owners are waiting for their insurance companies to settle, Hollomons want to reopen in the same location.

"That's what we're shooting for," said Joyce.

Scott Adkisson, who with his wife Jeannie, own S & J Market, said he guessed their loss to be about \$170,000. "We'd like to rebuild, but we'll have to wait and see what happens with the insurance," he said.

Buz Lynch, whose wife, Kathleen, owns the building that housed the Bottom Drawer and the custom meat cutting shop, gave a similar statement. "We're waiting for the insurance - and then we will decide." Lynch said they had no loss estimate yet.

Jim Hayes, president of the Heppner Economic Development Corp., said, "At this point

there are too many unanswered questions" to determine what will take place in the near future. He said the Heppner corp. is checking into a grant from the state for \$50,000 to \$100,000, and has been in contact with the state economic development corp.

Morrow County Court has been in contact with Governor Atiyeh's office, and Senator Eugene Timms has reported that he is checking to see if the city qualifies for emergency assistance.

For those post office box

holders who lost Social Security checks in last Tuesday's mail a Social Security representative will again be available at the Heppner Neighborhood Center in Heppner this Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon to take reports.

Heppner Mayor Cliff Green pointed out that because the Willow Creek Dam has been built, store owners will be able to rebuild if they choose to, whereas before the dam was constructed, the flood plain wouldn't have allowed it.

Spring music concert presented by Heppner primary students



Donna Weed's second grade class at Heppner Elementary performs "On Top of Spaghetti," at the school's Primary Spring Music Program last Friday. The program, which featured students in kindergarten through fourth grade, was directed by Kitty Coon.

Governor's office says fire relief funds available

By MARY ANN CERULLO

An early morning phone call from Governor Vic Atiyeh's office was made to Morrow County Court last Wednesday to let the people of Heppner know that there are relief funds available for victims of the recent fire on Main Street.

Bob Montgomery, aide to the governor, told Judge Don McElligott that funds have been found in the Imminent Threat Fund under a block grant. Fully insured businesses and federal buildings are not eligible, Montgomery said.

"There isn't a lot of money involved but at least it's something," McElligott said later. "The Heppner mayor, the governor's office, the county planner and I will be getting together this week over it."

McElligott estimated that the fund would be around \$50,000 to \$100,000.

In other business the court: — discussed the installation of the new county computer with Greg Sweek, county assessor.

— heard a request from County Tax Collector Margo

Voters to consider school district & county tax levies for 2nd time

Next Tuesday, voters in Morrow County will consider 1983-84 school district and county tax levies for a second time. Both were defeated in a March 29 election by narrow margins.

The amount to be levied for the county, \$2,304,197 outside the six percent limitation, is left unchanged from the March ballot. (Up to a six percent increase is allowed each year by law without voter approval.) The 1983-84 tax base is \$438,281, which brings the total levy to \$2,742,478. The same levy amount failed in the March election by only 48 votes.

The tax rate for county operations will be approximately \$3.92 per \$1,000 valuation.

If the measure passes, \$2,376,290 of the taxes levied will be eligible for some state funding; however, \$366,188 will be totally financed by county taxpayers.

The proposed budget includes a 3.3 percent cost of living increase for county employees, funding for all county operations, plus operation of Pioneer Memorial Hospital, of the North Morrow Medical Clinic and ambulance, the County Fair and

Rodeo, Mental Health Services, the Juvenile Services Commission and State Revenue Sharing.

State statutes and federal laws require the county government to provide certain services at county expense, including tax collection and property assessment for the county, the school district, Blue Mountain Community College, the incorporated cities and special districts within the county.

Other required services include public health, waste disposal, judicial systems, police protection and maintenance of county roads.

County Judge Don McElligott said the budget was left unchanged because, "There was nothing left to cut without cutting county programs."

Unlike the county budget, the school budget was cut by \$111,509. The district seeks to levy \$4,291,705 outside the six percent limitation. If passed, \$3,721,565 is eligible for partial state funding; however, taxpayers will totally finance \$570,140.

The cuts originally included dropping one full time and one parttime classified employee (non-teacher) and one full time teacher from Ione High School, one teacher from Ione Grade School and a parttime and full time classified employee at Heppner. The administration said the Ione teaching positions were dropped because enrollment there had recently declined. Presently about 30 students attend Ione High School with approximately 90 enrolled at the grade school.

However, a large number of Ione residents protested the cuts in teaching staff. They said they felt the cuts were unfair, would reduce the quality of education at Ione schools, and were the first step to closing Ione High School.

The administration has reported that the cost of educating students at Ione is the

highest in the district. The cost to educate one student for one year at Ione is \$4,800, the administration said. The district average is \$3,600 per student per year.

The Ione people reminded the board that education costs in the north end of the county were also high before recent population growth.

At a special meeting last Monday night, more arguments were heard from concerned Ione citizens. After much discussion and debate, one teacher's position was restored. Ione residents threatened to vote against the budget if both positions were not restored.

After more discussion was heard, a motion was made to restore the second position. It was passed by the board with

a vote of three in favor, two against.

School District Superintendent Matt Doherty said the money to pay the two teachers' salaries would come from the district's contingency ending fund balance, but he stressed that if the budget passes the district will have to borrow money by next August.

The district's proposed budget on the March ballot went down by 40 votes.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following places: the Heppner Neighborhood Center for Heppner and Hardman voters; at Greenfield Grange, Boardman; Ione City Hall; North Morrow annex, Irrigon; and the Morrow County School District office, Lexington.

Smoke causes patient evacuation at P.M.H.

A large amount of smoke from a heating system at Pioneer Memorial Hospital caused over 20 patients and nursing home residents to be evacuated from the building last Sunday afternoon.

Heppner Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine said the smoke was caused by a buildup of waste product in the boiler, which backed up through an auger that feeds fuel to the boiler.

Hospital Administrator A.K. "Lucky" Felt said, "It's happened before and it'll probably happen again," although it had never caused this much of a problem before, he added.

The smoke caused no damage he said, but it was felt that patients in the immediate area should be moved, Felt said. Firemen and the County Search and Rescue Posse moved most of the patients outside the building, however some were taken to the Don Cole home nearby.

The fire chief said the amount of smoke made it difficult to find what was causing the problem. Once it

was located, Bob Lowe, a former maintenance man at the hospital, was called and he was able to make the necessary adjustments.

New fair sec. named



Ruby Munkers

Ruby Munkers of Heppner has been named the new Morrow County Fair secretary. She replaced Dorothy Estberg, Heppner, who recently resigned.

A Heppner resident for 31 years, Mrs. Munkers worked in the arts and crafts division of the fair last year, and has six years of secretarial experience.

Girls have record-breaking season

HHS tracksters on to state



These Heppner High School tracksters will be on their way to the Class A State Track Meet this weekend at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Pictured in the back row are John Moyer (left) and John Martin. In the front row from left to right, with trophies the team has won this year, are: Jodi Padberg with a girls' first place trophy from the Condon Invitational; Pam Orr with the

girls' first place trophy from the Wasco Co. Invitational; Sherry Clement, holding the girls' first place District 7-A trophy; Janelle McElhany, the Columbia Basin Conference girls' championship trophy; and Stephi Payne, the combined boys' and girls' second place trophy from the Sherman Co. Invitational. (More sports inside.)