

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., June 7	88	59	Trace
Wed., June 8	85	48	Trace
Thurs., June 9	79	50	.20
Fri., June 10	62	44	.33
Sat., June 11	64	46	.02
Sun., June 12	71	43	
Mon., June 13	82	54	

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8 PAGES

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HEPPNER, OREGON

## Largest chemical spill in Oregon state history poisoned Willow Creek Mon.



Truck carrying insecticide rolled into Willow Creek, spilling chemicals into water

A tank truck carrying 1,900 gallons of insect spray and 500 gallons of aviation fuel rolled into Willow Creek near Cutsforth Park Monday, causing the largest chemical spill in Oregon's history. The chemical, Sevin 4-Oil, was to be used in a Western Spruce Budworm spraying project in the Miller Prairie area.

The truck, owned by West Wind Helicopters of Yakima, Wash., sub contractors in the spraying project, was completely demolished, according to Paul Harl, public affairs

officer for the Forest Service in Portland. Driver of the vehicle, Roberto Taddeo, 30, of Tieton, Wash., was treated for multiple lacerations and abrasions at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner and was released Tuesday, said a hospital spokesperson.

West Wind Helicopters reported that the truck's brakes failed, causing it to roll over the embankment, said Jeanie Harris, writer, editor for Malheur National Forest at John Day.

Fish in the stream were

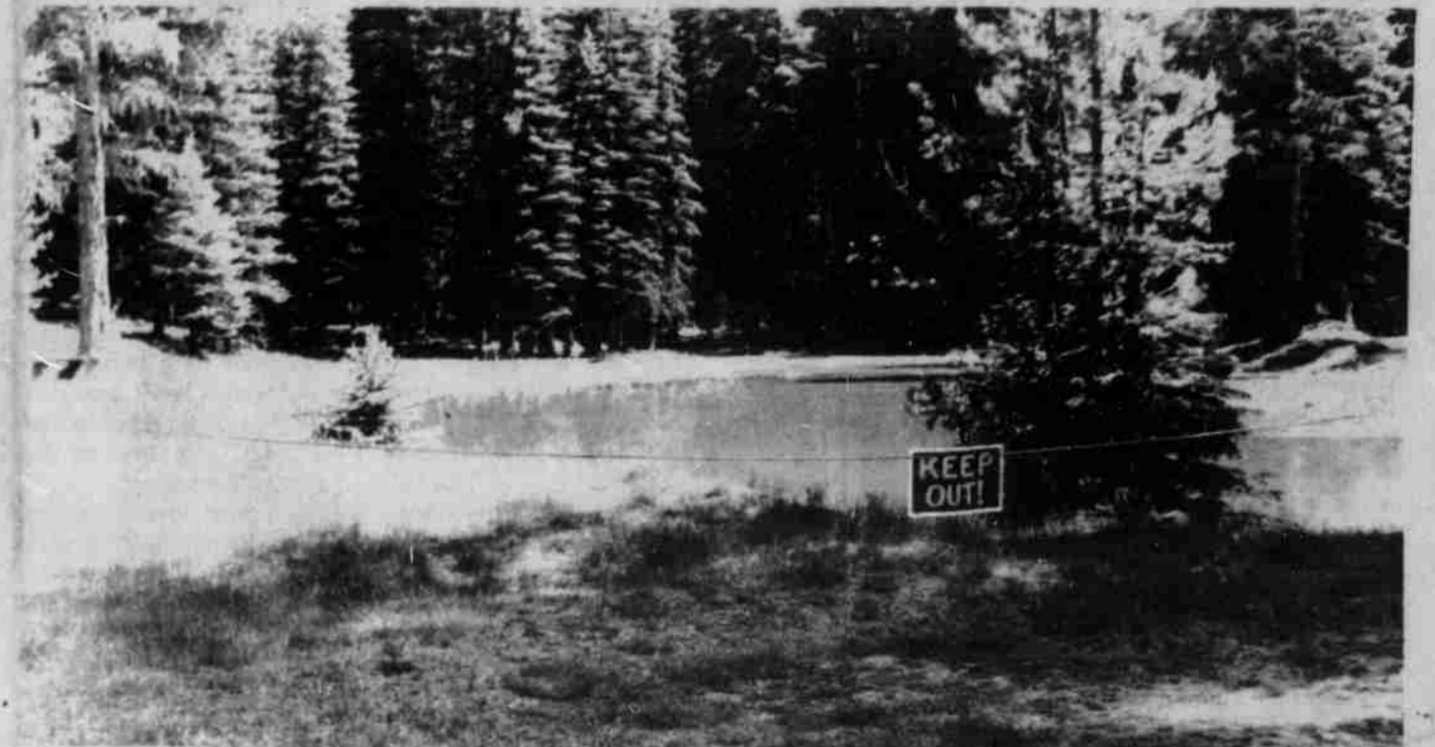
killed by the chemical, and farmers from the spill area to the dam were warned to remove farm animals from the creek area and to not use the water at all.

Fumes were detectable many miles from the accident site and it was reported that they were so strong at Cutsforth Pond that it burned the eyes and throats of those at the site.

Lime was spread around the accident site to neutralize the chemical, and six dams were built downstream from the

spill, as well as several boom dams, made of absorbent material. Mounds of charcoal and dams of hay were also placed in the creek to help with the cleanup process, reported Gavla Reese of the Department of Environmental Quality in Portland.

The Corps of Engineers at Willow Creek Dam lowered the pool level of the lake four feet Monday night to allow the contaminated water to back up in the reservoir. Plans are being made to skim the chemical off the top of the



Sign warns passersby to stay away from contaminated pond at Cutsforth Park

pool, if possible. Otherwise the contaminated water will be left in the reservoir to be diluted by remaining water in the pool for five days, Reese explained. The dam's outflow has been completely shut down; however, three feet of water per second flow through at all times. Normal flow is 20 feet per second. Pool water

will be tested prior to releasing the water, she said.

D.E.Q. notified landowners from the dam downstream not to withdraw water or water livestock if fish kill is observed. As of Tuesday, water downstream from the dam was not contaminated, she said.

Mike Gearhard of the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency in Portland has reported that E.P.A. engineers are conducting "precautionary testing" of the city's water supply wells.

"It's an extremely remote possibility that any material would wind up in the wells," he said. He added that it would take several days to learn the test results.

Reese said Union Carbide, the manufacturers of Sevin, were sending out two representatives Monday from the company's headquarters in Raleigh, N.C.

Anyone wanting more information on the chemical or its effects may call Union Carbide toll free at 1-800-334-9745, Reese said.

## P.M.H. Foundation receives \$100,000 gift

A former Morrow County couple, Earl and Hazel Wilson, now of Las Vegas, Nevada, recently mailed a gift of \$100,000 to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation, announced A.K. "Lucky" Felt, hospital administrator.

Shortly after the hospital foundation was established, Wilson visited the hospital and nursing home, expressing interest in financial assistance out of appreciation for his Morrow County background, Felt said.

The administrator reported that Larry Mills, president of the foundation board, will call a board meeting in the near future to make plans for maximizing the return on the new capital funds and will discuss some possibilities for using the earnings to assist the hospital and to further health care related education in the community.

Wilson is a native of Morrow County, having lived with his family on a ranch in the McNabb area north of Ione, which they still own. He moved from the county in 1921 at the age of 22 to work for the Greyhound Bus Company. The Wilsons have made their home in Las Vegas since 1941.

Seymour P. Wilson, Earl's father, his mother and three brothers, Frank, Charlie and Chill, emigrated from Ohio in 1878, settling in the Ione area. Seymour Wilson and his wife had two sons: Earl and Fran-

cis, who is now deceased. The late Mrs. Harvey (Virginia) Smith of Ione was a daughter of Earl Wilson's uncle, Frank Wilson. The Smiths managed Earl's farm near McNabb for many years.

The Foundation and corporation was established to provide a tax exempt vehicle for people interested in long-term support of Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home. The foundation has received numerous gifts; donations in lieu of flowers as memorials to

## Remember wheat sample for county fair

By BOB COSTA  
OSU Extension Agent  
Morrow County

Wheat growers should remember to take a sample of wheat out of the combine to exhibit at the county fair.

About five gallons are needed for the exhibit. This allows extra for cleaning loss. Superintendent Bill Rawlins will clean exhibits that are in at least one day prior to the close of entries.

It's almost time to pick wheat and barley for a sheaf. The ideal time to pick grain

deceased friends and relatives, and has been named in estate planning, Felt said.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson's gift is by far the largest received to date," he added.

A lifetime voting membership in the foundation is available for five dollars or more. The present membership includes about 65 people. Anyone interested may contact Felt, foundation secretary, or Linda Kenny at the hospital for information.

for a sheaf is when it has full color but the grain is still doughy. Cut wheat close to the ground and hang upside down in small bundles or stack loosely to dry. Exhibitors don't have to be wheat growers to display a wheat sheaf at county fair.

Grain and grass sheaves should be at least three inches in diameter at the bottom and tied with string.

For more information, contact Bob Costa at the extension office in Heppner, or superintendent Rawlins.

## Rauch to be honored

A reception honoring Irvin Rauch for his 20 years of service on the Morrow County School Board will be held Tuesday, June 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the school district office in Lexington.

Rauch, who served on the board as a representative for Lexington area residents, will leave the board June 30 due to his election as a county commissioner.

Everyone is invited to attend.

## School board to review legislative action

A meeting at the Morrow County School Board will be held at the Lexington School District Office on Monday, June 20 at 8 p.m.

The board will review some of the recent actions of the legislature that could effect district operation. The board will also review the results of the recent school district budget election and is expected to take an action to adopt the budget in order to certify the levy to the assessor, said a district office spokesperson.

Bids for fuel oil, tires, propane, gasoline and heating oil will also be considered.

In other business, the spokesperson said, the board will consider a number of matters related to personnel.

## Krebs indicted on three felony charges

A man who authorities think robbed the Ione branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon last Thursday and was apprehended Sunday near Bend was arraigned Tuesday on charges of alleged First Degree Robbery, being an Ex-convict in Possession of a Firearm and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle. All three are Class C Felonies.

John William Krebs, 32, was taken into custody early Sunday morning by Oregon State Police officers of Bend at the Inn of the Seventh Mountain resort near that central Oregon town, reported Morrow County District Attorney Richard McNerney.

Krebs, who had recently moved from Hermiston to Sisters, is lodged at the Umatilla County Jail. Bail was set at \$200,000 by Morrow County District Court Judge Ralph Currin.

The robbery took place at about 10:45 a.m. when a man wearing a ski mask and gloves and carrying a long-barreled pistol, advised bank employees to empty the bank's vault and tills, and with the money in a knap sack, left through the back door and drove off in a red pickup.

Citizens near the bank who saw the masked man enter the building reported the incident to police.

The vehicle was seen traveling east on Ella Road and was later found on Rietmann Grade, along with a 31 by 36 pair of Levi's and pair of size 11 tennis shoes. The robber, who according to the district attorney took over \$18,000, had stolen the pickup from an Ione residence.

Part of the money was found in Bend by Hermiston OSP Detective Ken Matlock and



John Krebs is led out of Morrow County Courtroom Tuesday after being indicted on three felony charges in connection with a bank robbery in Ione.

Morrow Co. Sheriff's Dept. Sergeant Verlin Denton of Heppner, McNerney said. He would not, however, say how much of the money was recovered.

Gerald Pierson, vice-president of the bank, said the building is equipped with alarm and surveillance systems, and both were operating during the robbery.

Police began arriving at the bank at about noon, Pierson said, and an investigation got underway with the Oregon State Police, Morrow County Sheriff's Department and the

Heppner City Police involved. Bank robberies are usually investigated by the F.B.I., however Fendleton's F.B.I. Agent was out of the area Thursday and Friday.

McNerney reported that Krebs had purchased a new Chevrolet Blazer with cash in Bend on Friday.

Interviews with witnesses, a composite drawing, the clothing and good investigative work by Matlock and Dentin led to Krebs' arrest, McNerney said.

Early reports stated that

officials thought a second person might be involved in the scheme; however, McNerney said it is now believed that the crime involved only one man.

Krebs will be tried in Morrow County instead of in a federal court, as is customary, McNerney said. Since bank robbery is both a state and federal offense, the case may be tried in either court, he explained, and federal and local officials agreed that the case would be tried locally.

No trial date has yet been set.