

The Heppner Gazette-Times

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Wed., May 29	56	42	12
Thurs., May 30	71	46	
Fri., May 31	73	48	27
Sat., June 1	60	40	T
Sun., June 2	64	44	
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Weather

by the City of Heppner

Total precipitation for May was 1.88", normal precipitation for the month is 1.26".

Police nab robbery suspects



Richard Glenn McCawley kneels in front of Sheriff Roy Drago's patrol car while an unidentified officer reads him his rights. Officer Bill Caldera is at the far left.



John W. Krebs is led from his arraignment Friday, June 1 in the second floor courtroom at the Morrow County Courthouse to the holding room in the basement Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

Heppner police defend actions

The Heppner city police department Monday defended its action during last week's bank robbery in lone, during which a city police car left town traveling at a high rate of speed.

The department had received some criticism for leaving Heppner to go to the lone robbery last Wednesday, with some citizens voicing concerns that the town may have been unprotected. Some also wondered if it were necessary for the police to drive so fast.

Police Chief Doug Rathbun told the Heppner City Council Monday night that the department's first responsibility is of course to the city of Heppner, and that as soon as Patrolman Merle Cowett left town, he and patrolman Gary Bingham immediately went on stand-by duty giving the town police protection. A third patrolman was also in the city, Rathbun said.

Cowett's part in the robbery involved helping to secure the bank after the robbery and interviewing a witness. He then returned to Heppner.

As for the speed of the police car leaving town, Cowett said there is no department policy on how fast an officer should drive, but that police officers in pursuit of a suspect must take into account that a dangerous criminal must be caught before he is able to harm other people. He added that police are always careful, especially while in pursuit, to enter intersections slowly and with caution.

Rathbun also pointed out that the city has a mutual aid agreement with the county sheriff where the city will assist when necessary and likewise the county helps out when necessary.

In other business, the council heard from a representative of the U.S. Geological Survey, who asked permission for his agency to put a weir, or water flow monitoring

device, into Willow Creek. The council delayed action on this, opting instead to put out more information on the weir, and then ask for public comment on the proposal. The weir would be a cement apron located in Willow Creek downstream from Hager Park. More information will appear later in the Gazette-Times.

heard from Heppner resident Marcia Anderson, who asked that changes be made in swimming lesson schedules so that young swimmers would gain more benefit from the lessons. Anderson asked that classes be changed to allow for advancement, and that the water temperature be higher during the youngsters lessons.

Weed tour set for June 11

A tour of the most serious noxious weeds in Morrow County will begin at 11:30 a.m. June 11, with a hosted lunch at the Willows Grange Hall in lone.

Bus transportation will be provided for the tour which will stop at research trials on yellow starthistle, diffuse knapweed, and spikeweed. Other tour stops will include dalmatian toadflax, Klamath weed, goatgrass, Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle, and many more.

During the tour, there will be a

Attic fire controlled by Fire Dept.

The Heppner Fire Dept. responded to an alarm at 6:35 Wednesday, May 29. Three trucks and 21 firefighters responded to the blaze in a trailer house owned by Norman Paulus and rented by Chuck Walsingham and Pat Lovgren located on Linden Way. They struggled to control the fire for about an hour, reports Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine.

The fire was believed to have started in the area of the chimney, and most of the roof had to be

John W. Krebs and Richard Glenn McCawley were arraigned Friday morning June 1 before District Court Judge Ralph Currin in the courtroom at Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner.

District Attorney Richard McNerney reports that the pair were charged with Attempted Murder, Assaulting a Public Safety Officer, Ex-Convict in Possession of Firearm, Possession of a Firearm by an Inmate of a Penal Institution, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Burglary I, and Robbery I. The charges stem from a robbery which the two allegedly committed at the lone Branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon on Wednesday, May 29. Following the arraignment, the District Attorney said that he was undecided which option to pursue: 1) take the case to the Grand Jury, or 2) take the case to preliminary hearing. Judge Currin set a tentative date of June 12 for the latter.

Attorney Wallace D. Terry, Pendleton, was appointed as the public defender for John Krebs. Thomas Ditton of Hermiston was appointed to defend McCawley.

Krebs who was serving time at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem for the June 9, 1983 robbery of the

same bank escaped Sunday, May 19. He and McCawley who escaped with him allegedly entered the bank at 2:50 p.m. Don Bristow who was watching from Bristow's Market, across Main Street from the Bank reported that he called the Sheriff's 911 emergency number shortly after observing two men putting on masks as they walked down the alley between Rietmann's Hardware and the Bank. "They were having trouble with their masks," he said. "They put them on, took them off and seemed to have a problem."

The Sheriff's Office reports that the first call to the 911 number came in very soon after the bank's robbery alarm sounded in their office. Officers from the sheriff's office, the Oregon State Police, and Heppner Police responded from all points of the county.

Dave Barnett who was watching from his service station across the Green street from the bank reports that he dialed the sheriff's 911 emergency number when he saw a man in dark clothes and a dark mask enter the bank. He was watching from the office of the station while the man in dark clothes whom he believed to be Krebs went into the bank and waved a gun around. The other suspect dressed in lighter colored blue clothes entered the bank later. Barnett said that the dispatcher from the Sheriff's Office urged him, to stay on the line and continue to describe what he could see happening inside the bank.

Bristow reported that the suspects left lone at the east end of Main Street, and that another lone resident who had seen skid marks on Johnson grade reported that the vehicle allegedly driven by the suspects was abandoned in that area.

The Sheriff's office reports that two Morrow County deputies located the suspects vehicle abandoned near lone and a few minutes later Sheriff Drago observed suspect John Krebs operating a white 1966 Plymouth on Ella road North bound.

Sheriff Drago reports that he pursued and stopped the vehicle. He fired at the suspect vehicle when it tried to back over him. No one was hit. The vehicle then continued on North with a second Morrow County Deputy joining the chase. As the vehicles approached the Juniper Canyon road and Bombing Range road intersection a responding Oregon State Police Officer was able to block the road.

The suspect vehicle was stopped at approximately 3:35 p.m. at a site five air miles from the bank.

Other units converged and four suspects were taken into custody. Arrested at the scene were: Sheri Lynn Holtz, 22, La Grande, Sandra Michelle Burgess, 34, Woodburn, Richard Glenn McCawley, 46, State Penitentiary, John William Krebs, 34, State Penitentiary, Salem.

Also in the vehicle was an 18 day old baby belonging to Sheri Holtz. Sheriff Department reports that the baby is in the custody of childrens service division. The suspects are also suspects in at least two burglary's that occurred in Arlington on May 28.

All of the money taken in the bank robbery is believed to have been recovered when a search warrant was executed on the vehicle the suspects were arrested in, continues the Sheriff. A gun was also recovered from the vehicle. The gun is believed to have been the one used in the bank robbery. Sheriff Drago received scrapes and bruises when the suspect vehicle backed into his vehicle knocking him down. No further injury's occurred.

Gerald H. Pierson, president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, has offered the following statement:

"The employees at the lone Branch handled the robbery as well as could be expected. Any robbery is a scary event and the threat to take hostages made this robbery more tense. We're fortunate that the robbers changed their mind at the last moment and took no one. We are thankful to the people of lone who so alertly contacted authorities and to the enforcement officers who responded so very quickly. The Heppner police and representatives of the Sheriff's Department and Highway patrol were on the way to the Bank before the robbery was completed. Cooperation of the three enforcement agencies resulted in the apprehension of the alleged robbers in a little over an hour and it appears that all of the stolen money was recovered. We are very thankful that no one was badly hurt during the robbery and the subsequent chase."

Seniors graduate

High School graduation, the first big step in the lives of young people, happened last weekend for 41 seniors at Heppner High School and seven seniors at Lone High School.

Valedictorian Jeff Ball told classmates, teachers, and friends at Lone High School commencement services Friday, May 31, that their graduation was a beginning, an opening of doors to their future expectations, and because of their experiences at lone schools, they could go forward with knowledge and confidence. Guest speaker Steve Lindstrom contended that the advantages of attending the small school which he graduated from 21 years earlier outnumbered the disadvantages. Self confidence gained from friendship, or love, of his classmates and the community; and not being able to hide in the masses, but to learn to speak his mind and defend his ideas; topped his list of advantages.

Six honor students addressed friends, teachers, family and classmates, Saturday, June 1 at H.H.S. commencement services. Their speeches dwell on past experiences, their feelings at the present concerning graduation, and the possibilities which the future holds. Guest speaker, Courtney Kiser, The Dalles, reminisced with the class of '85 about their experiences in his fifth grade class. He challenged them to achieve several things in their future, among them: to read a book that they didn't have to read, and to help someone less fortunate than themselves. He concluded with an Irish blessing for the students, which has been a theme for their senior year.

Awards presented at the lone High School commencement service included: the Oregon School Employees Association Scholarship Randy McCabe, lone American Legion

Scholarship-Paula Anderson, Cardinal Club Scholarship-Jeff Ball and Randy McCabe, Blue Mountain Community College tuition scholarship-Mark Meyers, Carl Troedson scholarship-Paula Anderson and Randy McCabe, Bill Gates Sr. Athlete award-Randy McCabe, Salutatorian award-Mark Meyers and Valedictorian award-Jeff Ball.

Awards presented at the Heppner High School commencement service included: Blue Mountain Community College Tuition Waivers-Averille Panter and Ellen Arbogast; B.M.C. Nelson Memorial-Steve Currin; Charles Kyd-Stephi Payne; American Legion-Stephi Payne; Kinzua-Nancy Martin; Oregon Scholars-Stephanie Payne and Renee Struthers; Stookey Memorial-Janelle McElhany; Jim Barrett-Stephanie Payne; Columbia Basin-Stephanie Payne and Steve Currin; US Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Award-Stephanie Payne; Lions Vo Tech-Neil Frederick; Kent Klukker-Bridgett Greenup; Improvement Award-Vicki McDaniel; Morrow County Educational Association-Jodi Mattison; Soroptimist Citizenship-Jodi Padberg and Joe Jemmett; Soroptimist Academic-Janelle McElhany; Soroptimist Vo Tech-Averille Panter; Pioneer Hospital-Jody Padberg, Stephanie Payne, Averille Panter and Jennifer Hughes; Elks Most Valuable Students-Jodi Padberg and Joe Jemmett, Stephi Payne and Mike Bergstrom, Renee Struthers, and Steve Currin; Linfield Honors-Renee Struthers; Degree of Honor Protective Association-Mike Bergstrom; Oregon School Employees Association-Mike Bergstrom; Willamette Recognition Scholar-Stephanie Payne; Troedson Scholarship-Kelli Bergstrom, Stephi Payne, Mike Bergstrom, Sheila Coe, Wanda Riley, Trisha Mahoney, Renee Struthers, Jodi Mattison, Jodi Padberg.



Heppner graduates (above) and lone graduates (below) prepare to receive diplomas

