

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Heppner, Oregon

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Weather

by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip.
Tues., June 11	88	55	0
Wed., June 12	84	53	0
Thur., June 13	79	55	0
Fri., June 14	82	52	0
Sat., June 15	78	43	0
Sun., June 16	78	46	0
Mon., June 17	86	54	0

## School Board denies student transfer request

The Morrow County School Board denied a request Monday, that an lone grade school student be allowed to attend eighth grade in Heppner next year.

Tom Martin, whose daughter, Jennifer, attends lone schools, asked the board to allow his daughter to transfer to Heppner so that all of his three children would attend school in the same town. Martin has two daughters presently attending Heppner High, and he cited difficulties in attending school functions as the reason for the requested transfer.

The Martins who live on 4-M Ranch north of Lexington, said they sometimes have to choose between attending functions at one of the two schools, and if all their children were attending school in the same town they could alleviate the problem.

School Superintendent Doyle McCaslin earlier refused the Martins request, so it was brought to the school board for consideration.

"lone schools are maintained by the district taxpayers, at some inconvenience to them, for students as specified in your policies," McCaslin wrote in a statement to the board. "Diminishing that student body by just one student is a significant event of public observation and concern at lone and, to various degrees, district-wide, properly so, I think."

"One more student at Heppner Junior High School will not overcrowd any classes; sections presently are scheduled to have 23-24 students per section. But one more student there will not particularly benefit that school," he wrote.

"lone will probably have 15-16 students in that grade next year. Therefore, on classroom balance as noted in your policy, the student should stay at lone."

All but one member of the school board present at Monday's meeting agreed with McCaslin.

"We're maintaining a school down there with not many students, and we shouldn't be transferring them away from there," said board member Dwayne Carroll of Irrigon.

"If you could get all the kids from here (Lexington) to go to lone, it sounds cruel and cold, but it would be a solution to the problem," commented board member Joe Stevens of Boardman.

Only board member Pat Wright voted in favor of the transfer. "If you've had kids split up in two different schools it does make it very difficult," she said. "But if you close this door tightly, they will never send them down there (from Lexington) even for grade school."

According to district policy on attendance and transfers, grade school students living in the Old Lexington-Pine City School district can be assigned to either lone or Heppner schools to "provide some classroom balance." (Students in these areas may choose to attend high school, at either Heppner or lone.)

The policy also states that any transfer of a student would be made in the "best interests of the student educationally or socially to move to a school outside his normal attendance area."

In other business, the board:

heard from a Umatilla Education Service District representative, who told the board that lone High School's Entrepreneurship Program headed by shop teacher Marvin Peterson and business teacher Anna Morford is receiving state-wide recognition for excellence. Peterson has been speaking to various groups about the program, which has students set up an actual business, produce goods and then sell the finished product.

Bill Taylor said that the program will soon be nominated for a "Promising Practices Award" through the Oregon Department of Education. Taylor said there may be grant money available to the Entrepreneurship program if the award is made.

heard that the superintendent will be on vacation from June 22 until after July 4.

awarded the following bids for goods and services: 1. new boiler at Riverside High to CMC of Portland-\$39,147; 2. three point hitch range mower to Far West Equipment-\$5,291; 3. two snapper riding mowers to Buffham's Ranch & Home, Irrigon-\$6,766; 4. roofing work at Heppner elementary to M & R insulation-\$2,777; 5. automatic controls to Benz Air for \$3,800; 6. painting bid to Callahan Const., Pilot Rock-\$9,340; 7. office machine maintenance to Jaynes Business Machines, Pendleton-\$9,340; and 8. sewing machine service to A's Sewing Shoppe, The Dalles, \$3,770.

The board also authorized trans-

portation committee chairman Jim Bier to go out and buy a used pickup for under \$5,000. No bids were received on the pickup.

learned that the district may have to have asbestos testing done in the schools, which could cost up to \$12,000. The board is fearful of lawsuits against the district which could arise from exposure to asbestos.

Asbestos is used for insulation and other purposes, and can cause harm to the respiratory system. Tests were completed at one time on the district buildings, however, samples from the tests were thrown out because at the time the district did not want to pay for storing the tested materials.

School district attorney Ann Spicer told the board there have been more and more asbestos lawsuits in the past 20 years, but mostly at shipyards where the material was used extensively.

"We are liable for asbestos exposure even if we didn't know it was dangerous, but if we test and stop it now we will stop future exposure," Spicer said. She said former students, teachers and staff would be the ones to initiate lawsuits, since they would be the ones who would have been exposed.

If asbestos is found in the schools at harmful levels, the district has two options, Superintendent McCaslin said: "seal it, or take it out."

Spicer said the Coos Bay and Oregon City schools are the only

ones she is aware of in the state that have tested for asbestos so far. The board asked McCaslin to check with Eastern Oregon districts to see if testing is being done in this area before any action is taken by the board.

heard that the district has 14 applications so far for the principal's job at lone, which will be vacated with the appointment of present principal Chuck Starr to assistant superintendent of the district. Approved the following coaching and other positions:

Heppner Junior High

Football: Head Coach, Dave Gunderson, Assistant Coach, Al Beck.

Volleyball: Head Coach, Jean Strange, Assistant Coach, Lea Calvert.

Basketball: Boys: Head Coach, Dave Gunderson, Assistant Coach, Tim Birkby.

Basketball Girls: Head Coach, Jean Strange, Assistant Coach, Sarah Carlson.

Track: Head Coach, Phyllis Payne, Assistant Coach, Doug Sheirbon.

Cheerleaders-Dance Team: Sarah Carlson and Lea Calvert.

Academically Talented Coordinator: Linda Shaw.

lone High School

Assistant Football Coach, Del LaRue, Head Volleyball Coach, Jocelyn Jones, Head Basketball Coach (Boys), Del LaRue, Head Basketball Coach (Girls), Jocelyn Jones, Head Track Coach, Del LaRue, Athletic

Director, Del LaRue, Music (Pep Band) Geneva Mathews, Cheerleader Advisor, Bonnie Ball, Annual Advisor, Marlene Davison.

lone Junior High: Football Coach, Mark Jones, Volleyball Coach, Barbara Collin, Basketball Coach (Boys), Mark Jones.

lone Elementary: Head Teacher, Betty Rietmann.

General: Academically Talented Coordinator, Marlene Davison.

Riverside

Football: Asst. Terry Starr, Volleyball, Head-Theresa Ruud, Asst. Donna Barton. Basketball Boys: Varsity-Larry French, Jr. Varsity-Mike Wetherell, Frosh-Kevan Pratt.

Girls: Varsity-Dirk Dirksen, Jr. Varsity-Donna Barton. Track and Field: Head-Larry French, Asst. Donna Barton. Baseball: Head-Kevan Pratt, Asst-Dirk Dirksen. Tennis: Head-Maureen McElligott.

Golf-Head Mike Wetherell. Cheerleader Advisor-Sharon Barrick.

Annual Advisor-Randy Gundlach. Talented and Gifted Advisor-Bob Deeter. Athletic Director: Larry French.

Heppner High

Football: Head Coach Tim Birkby, Asst. Coach Les Payne.

Basketball: (Boys) Head Coach Brent Eggers.

Basketball: (Girls) Head Coach Mike Royer, J.V. Coach Les Payne.

Track: Head Coach Dale Conklin.

Baseball: Head Coach Mike Royer.

Golf: Head Coach Duane Neiffer.

Dance Team: Pat Clausen.

Dennis, 20, who is a junior at Eastern Oregon State College. His wife Diana has been city recorder for lone for the past seven years.

Starr and his family will be moving to Heppner soon. The house he rents in lone is owned by the school district and may be used by the next principal of lone schools.

Starr's salary in the new position will be \$39,959, up from the \$37,959 he would have received as a principal next year.

A search for a new principal at lone has already begun, with about 14 applications having already been received, the school board learned.

## lone principal hired for Ass't. Supt. slot



Chuck Starr

Chuck Starr, principal of lone Schools for the past nine years, has been named new assistant superintendent for the Morrow County School District.

Starr, 44, was appointed to the job by the district board of directors at a

meeting Monday night. He replaces John Edmundson who resigned in May to take a job teaching math at Heppner Elementary.

Starr is well qualified for the job, Superintendent Doyle McCaslin told the school board, and "we feel fortunate he has decided to apply for this."

McCaslin said that the board was polled by telephone last month following Edmundson's resignation, and that every board member gave a positive response to hiring Starr as assistant superintendent.

Starr came to the district in 1972 as a math teacher at Heppner High School. He spent four years in that job before moving to lone.

A graduate of Lewis and Clark College in 1963, Starr has also taught math, P.E., Health and coached at West Linn, and was a professor of education for three years at Pacific University. He received a masters degree in education administration from the University of Oregon.

"I have found all of the people in Morrow County to be friendly and supportive, and interested in quality education for their kids," said Starr about working in the district.

He has two sons, Terry, 23, who is a teacher at Sam Boardman, and

## No longer welcome at Umatilla Co.

## Prisoners to go to St. Helens

Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago recently received a letter from Umatilla County Sheriff J.H. Carey informing him that because of near capacity conditions at the Umatilla County jail, Morrow County prisoners can "no longer be accepted." Although Morrow County has a contract until July 1 with Umatilla County for prisoner housing at a cost of \$45 per day, that contract still

reserves the right for Umatilla County to refuse Morrow County prisoners when the facility is full or near capacity with their own prisoners. Until the situation resolves itself, "Umatilla County will not accept prisoners."

This effected Morrow County last week when the first notice was received that prisoners had to be moved. Escapees from the Oregon State Penitentiary, John W. Krebs and Richard Glenn McCawley were transferred to the nearest available facility, the Clackamas County Jail. "Also," says Sheriff Drago, "two burglars were released when the situation arose. Now two felons who should be in jail are out walking the streets."

With Umatilla County Jail closed to Morrow County prisoners, Columbia County Jail at St. Helens is the nearest available facility. Although the Oregon State Police provide a prisoner transport co-op at no cost to the counties, it only operates Wednesdays. Prisoners needing to be transported on other days of the week will have to be transported by a Morrow County Deputy at a cost of approximately \$250 to Morrow County. Which includes the deputy's wages, mileage and transportation costs, and an additional off-duty officer which would have to be called in and paid overtime to cover the duties of the deputy in transit. The results, says Drago, is that "only the most violent and professional criminal-types will be lodged."

Morrow County has paid out nearly \$11,000 during April and May for housing prisoners at facilities outside the county.

## Polls open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. June 25

## Absentee ballots still available

Precincts will be combined for the June 25 special election and polling places, open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., will be the same as for last month's special election. Combined Boardman 1 and 2 will vote at Greenfield Grange Hall; lone No. 4 will mark their ballots at lone City Hall; Combined Irrigon 5 and 6 will voice their opinions at the North Morrow Annex; Lexington 7 will vote at the Lexington School Office; and Combined Hardman-Heppner 3, 8, 9, 10, and 11 will mark ballots at the Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth reminds all registered voters who will be unable to go to the polls next Tuesday that absentee ballots are still available at the

Clerk's office up until the day prior to the election. To obtain an absentee ballot, stop by the Clerk's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse and fill out an application; or mail a signed letter to the Clerk's Office requesting an absentee ballot. These ballots will be mailed out. Also, if the Clerk's Office, 676-9061, is notified special arrangements may be made for persons unable to go to the polls because of a temporary or permanent handicap.

"Exercise your right to vote," concluded Bloodworth. "It's sad when 25 percent of the registered votes make a decision which influences everyone as happened the last election."

## Hospital, County submitting separate operating levies

Morrow County voters will again vote on the proposed Morrow County budget Tuesday, June 25. This is the third vote on the budget. \$63,687 has been pared from the levy since the first vote, reducing the levy amount to \$2,393,856.

Different at this election, the Hospital board has requested that the hospital levy be presented on a separate ballot from the county budget. Board members felt that they would get a better indication of the amount of county support for Pioneer Memorial Hospital and thus be able to make decisions about the

hospital which would be more in the interest of the voters. The hospital operating levy remains the same, \$419,704, as requested in the May 21 election.

The county operating levy, for all county operations, for next year has been reduced 2.5 percent from the \$2,642,543 (excluding the hospital levy) which was requested in the May 21 election. Cuts of parttime personnel, services, supplies, and projects were made from the general fund and the road department.

## City levy awaits balloting

Voters within the city of Heppner will vote on the same budget which went down by 19 votes in the May 21 special election. The levy amount is \$128,386 which is considerably more than the operating budget financed by local taxes or the current fiscal year. The reasons for the levy increase are lack of available cash, spiraling cost on insurance, materials and supplies.

Mayor Costa explains that the budget levy is resubmitted because the City Council and budget com-

mittee consider it a fair budget with no place to trim. Should the budget fail a second time, Costa anticipates that the budget committee would look at cuts in the area of city personnel; and street, water, and sewer services. "It is entirely up to the budget committee where any cuts might be made," Costa continued. Discussions have also speculated that cuts could reduce the city's 24-hour police protection and funds for hiring a dog control person.

## Nursing home now meets certification standards

On Friday, May 24, surveyors from Oregon Health Division returned to Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home to determine the extent of compliance with those standards and progress in attaining the goals detailed in a Plan of Correction submitted to the Health Division on May 2. The Plan of Correction was formulated to correct deficiencies at the facility which the Health Division said "did not meet standards for participation in payment for care under the Medicaid program."

The resurvey found that all deficiencies had been properly dealt with and that the appropriate corrective action had been taken or was about to be taken. The surveyors commented specifically on the quality of the staff's response and particularly on their positive and constructive attitudes. Some of the forms and programs that had been developed were copied by the surveyors to use as examples for other facilities. Interim Administrator Bob Smith reported to the Hospital Board.

To be found deficient, primarily in areas of documentation of care and medication given, was surprising and obviously embarrassing to the Nursing Home staff since a previous survey two years ago had not noted any such problems, Smith continues. However, the staff response was to immediately develop a systematic set of solutions to the deficiencies. They accepted this criticism of their previous perfor-

mance as a learning experience and an opportunity to improve their delivery and documentation of care to, and for, the residents of the Nursing Home.

The consultative services of a physical therapist, a speech therapist, and a medical social worker have been obtained from, or through St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. Other than those outside resources, all the rest of the required corrective measures have been accomplished by the existing staff of the hospital and nursing home Smith says. "This has been done at no small sacrifice to the time that these people have spent with their families and, in Sandi Hanna's case, to her health."

Sandi Hanna, Linda Dunaway, Evelyn Sweek, Connie Hammons, Kathleen Lowe and other staff members have spent a great deal of time and mental energy working, not only to correct the problems identified by the State, but to make the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home the best facility of its kind in Oregon. What they have done, and the way they have done it, entitles them to your pride and respect. I have watched groups of health care professionals respond to challenges for 20 years and none of them has done it better than these people at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. They are a "class" group. I hope you are as proud of them as I am."

## Donations will fund outdoor recreation area at PMH



Last summer nursing home residents enjoyed a picnic on the patio at the hospital.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary has donated \$500 and other pledges have been received for a proposed outdoor recreation area in front of Pioneer Memorial Hospital. The patio area is currently used for outdoor nursing home functions, but because the area is not fenced, patients need constant supervision while outside, said a hospital spokesperson. The planned recreation area would allow patients more freedom to be outdoors with less supervision.

Although some donations and pledges have already been received, more are needed to cover the \$2,500 estimated cost. Donations need not be cash; materials and labor are also needed for the project which will be financed apart from the hospital's budget or tax funded operating levy. For more information, call Linda Kenny at the hospital office, 676-9133.

## Boys needed for day camp

Boys age 7-12 who are interested in having fun, learning basic wood and leather craft skills, and making new friends are still needed to attend a Day Camp sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 661. Boys do not have to be Cub Scouts to attend the camp. All that is required is that they fill out a registration form, include the \$15 registration fee (which includes a camp T-shirt and all supplies), bring a sack lunch each day, and be ready for a fun-filled week.

For further information and registration forms, contact Martha Munkers, 989-8532 before June 21.