

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

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TEN PAGES



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	May 20-26		Precip
	High	Low	
Tues.	59	40	61
Wed.	57	34	
Thurs.	63	39	
Fri.	69	45	
Sat.	81	53	
Sun.	90	55	
Mon.	83	55	

## Obstetric facilities close at Pioneer

By Avon Melby

The obstetrics facilities at Pioneer Memorial Hospital is being closed and there will be no more babies delivered locally.

Dr. Clare Koznek said Tuesday, he would not be practicing obstetrics in the future because of legal requirements for expensive equipment, and cost of insurance.

"I'm sympathetic with mothers who are having babies," he said, "but the legal climate is just too frightening. Until legislation has been developed to protect everyone I will not be practicing obstetrics."

Both the doctors and the hospital are in jeopardy as a result of the climate created by the legal problem. More expensive equipment would be required at the hospital, but cost of insurance alone is so prohibitive the doctor will not continue to deliver babies at any other area hospital.

Space used in accommodating babies at Pioneer Memorial will be put to other use, said Administrator John Hempel. No permanent major changes will be made and if it again becomes economical to use that area for obstetrics it can easily be returned to that use. Board member Jack Stregge was told when he questioned the decision at a meeting of the board last week.

In any emergency the delivery could be made at the emergency room, the service would not be denied, the board was told.

Loss of obstetrics income at the hospital will be missed, but income has been increasing, and is expected to continue to do so, Hempel said. "We are on an upward trend in hospital use," he said. "Increased utilization of our facilities in the lab has increased income."

The state is being asked to certify the nursing home at the hospital for

four more beds to accommodate more patients. A waiting list of more than that number exists and more people could be in the home if facilities could be made available.

Recent improvements have been made at the hospital nursing home. New handrails have been installed, walls and trim painted, new flooring will be installed before the end of the month. Hempel said "The difference is incredible. It is going to be much nicer."

## Thiessen, Koznek may share office

Although a contract has not been signed, there is a good chance that Dr. Clare Koznek and Dr. Curtis Thiessen will be working together in the same office, said Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator John Hempel. He expected to meet with Dr. Koznek this morning and work out some of the details. "Dr. Koznek has bent over backwards to help work out an arrangement to benefit the hospital," he said.

With both physicians working from the same office, it will cut

Dr. Curtis R. Thiessen said he will be in Heppner around June 20 and expects to open his practice here by July. He and Dr. Koznek are working out an agreement so he can locate in the same office building. He said they would work in cooperation to provide better continuing service for all patients. The hospital board plans to hold an open house to introduce the new doctor and his wife to the community late next month. (See related story.)

down overhead which means cost to the taxpayers is less, the administrator emphasized. The two doctors working side-by-side will also provide better health care for the county.

We expect Dr. Thiessen to be in Heppner by June 23 working with Dr. Koznek and in the hospital's emergency room, since a lot of Dr. Thiessen's experience has been with emergency treatment, he should benefit the hospital, Hempel concluded.

## Krebs gets 3 more years

John Krebs was sentenced to three additional years in the Oregon State Penitentiary last Tuesday, May 20 by a Marion County Circuit Court Judge. The three years are to be served concurrently with his present sentence, said Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago which means that Krebs now will not be eligible for parole for 17 years 6 months.

Krebs had originally pleaded guilty to Attempted Escape from Deputies Jim Hankins and Bill Caldara while he and Richard McCawley were being transported

back to the Oregon State Penitentiary following the latter's October 9 trial for robbery in Morrow County.

He changed his mind though, said Drago; and subsequent plea bargaining resulted in the May 20 trial by stipulated fact (All reports and information given to the judge who makes the decision.) The judge found Krebs guilty of Attempted Escape I



## War dead honored

A brief ceremony at Lone Memorial Field Monday was among the many ceremonies across the nation honoring those who gave their lives on the battlefield. The Rev. Cathy Barker of the Lone United Church of Christ offered a prayer, at the beginning of the ceremony; Geneva Matthews, blew taps to close the ceremony. Morrow County Judge Don McElligott quoted a portion of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, "we resolve that these honored dead shall not have died in vain . . . "No one," said the judge, "can improve on his words." Conrad Tworek placed a wreath at the base of the memorial.



## Former Heppner man to receive forestry award

A former Heppner man and North Vietnamese prisoner of war, will be one of three recipients of the first International Inventors Award for Forestry. Mike Bengé, an agroforestry expert with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and two others will be presented with joint awards June 13 by the King of Sweden in Stockholm.

The award, modeled after Sweden's famous Nobel Prizes, will be made for outstanding innovation in tropical forestry. The other two recipients are Dr. James Brewbaker of the University of Hawaii and Dr.

Mark Hutton of Australia. The three men were nominated for the award by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the World Bank.

Their prize will total 250,000 Swedish crowns (about \$35,000) and will be divided among them. Bengé will use his share to start a research and reforestation foundation in Haiti.

The International Inventors Awards are presented to advance international development by recognizing technical innovations that help solve social and economic problems, especially in the Third World. Awards are made for in-

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## School budget committee faces tough decisions

The Morrow County School Budget Committee will meet Wednesday, June 4 at 7:45 p.m. to "try to make some decisions," said District Superintendent Doyle McCaslin. "We may have to look at another kind of levy, probably a serial levy to help fund the current educational programs," he said, "because we cannot ask for the same tax rate again." He said he expects the board to try for an August 12 election which is two weeks before the start of school. The next possible election date, June 24 does not provide enough time for the budget committee and the board to meet and make decisions, the superintendent continued. If the levy does not pass in August, he said, "and the budget committee does what it is likely to do," we will have funds to start, but not to operate for the entire school year. In that case, he continued, the Board would need to appropriate funds with the intention of supporting programs and at the same time continue to conduct special elections to raise the necessary funds.

It's possible at this point to make decisions which would create upheaval... for a long time to come," said Morrow County School Superintendent Doyle McCaslin. "It will be difficult to avoid making these decisions."

After a tax rate increase is defeated twice, the tax rate limitation statute requires that we return to an established tax rate of \$6.89 per \$1000 of assessed property value. Even if the voters do approve the levy which the approved tax rate would raise, we would still be \$991,000 short to pay for current educational programs.

"It's possible at this point to make decisions which would create upheaval and do nothing but damage for a long time to come. It will be difficult to avoid making these decisions, but we will need to find a middle ground to remain responsible to all of the district's communities."

"We're in the same position now as other districts which have felt that the tax rate limitation statute held a gun to their heads," he said. "It is at this point that some people are likely to cut things to the bone and to be stampeded into doing something that will cause pain and upheaval."

"We're hearing people say, 'close lone schools,' 'cut all extra cur-

ricular activities,' 'cut the transportation program,' 'make the levy defeat hurt.' and it may be difficult not to make some of those decisions. Now is the time when responsible people need to come forward and say, 'we don't want that kind of upheaval.' It's time for good leadership on the part of those citizens who can lead."

## County resubmits levy

Morrow County Court has certified the same budget which failed to gain voter approval last week for a special budget election June 24. The election will be the county's first "mail-in" ballot.

"We have already cut \$99,691 from the original budget," said Judge Don McElligott, "and we must maintain our vital services. Everybody gave all they possibly could squeeze out of the budget before the last election."

The budget failed, continued the Judge, because there was some misunderstanding before the election. Some people seemed to think that the budget included additional money for the hospital and for Lifeguard; those amounts have already been approved by the voters and are separate from the county levy. Also some people had the idea that we were wasting property tax money renovating the Courthouse. They need to realize that the Courthouse renovation is financed by revenue sharing, and this was our last shot, our last chance to get revenue sharing money before the federal government eliminates or

At the budget committee meeting next Wednesday night, McCaslin said that he will present the problems and the options and encourage the committee to see the long future and to fund good programs.

The options the district has are to make some budget cuts, hold off on expenditures, and the only option which will raise the \$6,181,000

greatly reduces revenue sharing to the counties. The county is asking a \$2,469,040 special one-year operating levy outside the tax base for next year which reflects a \$3.74 tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

which has been defeated twice is to go out for a serial levy in addition to the special levy.

McCaslin said he suspected that the district could not run even a minimally standard program if \$1 million were cut from the levy request. "We're not far above standard anywhere. If \$1 million were cut from the budget, we would have to cut personnel and that would cut programs," he said.

Hopefully "we will be able to decide in one meeting, but the issues may be so complex and divisive that it will take more than one meeting to come to agreement, and the important thing is unanimity of the budget committee and the school board, he said. We must support the budget this time.

## Padberg wins two championships

Bryan Padberg capped his first year in high school track and field by becoming the first-ever Heppner thincled to win two state championships. He won both the 1500 and 3000 meter runs at the 40th annual Class "A" track and field championships at Springfield High School on Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24.

Padberg, with 20 points for his first place efforts, led Heppner to a sixth place tie with the teams from Imbler and Portland Christian.

The 20 points scored by the Heppner boys was their best finish since 1979 when that team came home with 26 points.

St. Mary's of Medford captured its third title in the last six years by accumulating 49 points. Helix, led by senior phenom, Tim Porter, placed second with 34 points, the best showing by a District 7 team. Bonanza was third with 31 points and Enterprise, last year's team champion, finished fourth with 29 points. Trophies were awarded to the top four teams in each category, while medals were granted to the top six place finishers in each event.

Oakland captured the girls race with 60 points, far outdistancing second place St. Paul which netted 40 points. Monroe squeaked into third place with 20 points, just ahead of the 19 scored by Ukiah.

Junior Wayne Wilgers and sophomore Jason Dougherty also competed for Heppner at the state

meet and picked up valuable experience along the way.

The weather, with temperatures in the 80's was to the liking of Padberg, who competed in the 1500 first.

Padberg, who had the fastest time of 4:08.2 coming into the 1500 race along with Riverside's Mike Ammons, ran his own tactical race to pull away from Ammons with 100 meters to go to win in a time of 4:04.7.

Colton's Chad Erickson went out to a blistering lead, but could not shake Padberg and Ammons.

"I knew I had to keep contact with him (Erickson), because I knew he would die out," Padberg said.

Padberg eventually took the lead with about 800 meters to go and from there it was a two-man battle between he and Ammons.

Ammons would pass Padberg on the outside on the corners, but Padberg would overtake him on the straightaways.

I knew if I could keep Ammons on my outside and stay close to him on the corners I could get him on the straightaways," Padberg said.

Ammons took the lead with 200 meters to go and it looked like the end for Padberg.

But the gutsy freshman came back to overtake Ammons in the final 100 meters to win a time of 4:04.7, off the meet record of 4:01.2. Padberg's time of 4:04.7 now ties him for the 10th fastest Class "A" 1500 meter

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