

The Heppner

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New doctor may not arrive before June 22

There may be a lapse between the departure of Dr. Thiessen and the time a new doctor can be recruited to Heppner, the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce was told Tuesday.

The Pioneer Hospital board has hired a recruiting firm to search for a new doctor, however, one may not be here before June 22, when Dr. Curtis Thiessen is scheduled to close his practice and leave Heppner, said Marcia Anderson, chairman of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital board of directors.

Several doctors said they will come to Heppner for emergency care while a permanent physician is being sought, and Dr. Wallace Wolff has indicated he will keep longer hours, Anderson said.

Anderson also said the hospital's recruitment budget has been increased this year, not only to cover the cost of finding a new doctor, but also to cover the cost of hiring doctors to cover emergency duties.

"It is absolutely necessary that we keep the ER (emergency room) open for the survival of the hospital," she said.

Dr. Joe Gifford, who previously

had a practice in Heppner, and is now in Prairie City, was also at the Chamber meeting.

Dr. Gifford said that it would be difficult for Heppner to recruit a doctor, and that when one is located here, the people should support him.

"If the community is interested in keeping the hospital open, they must support the doctors who are here," he said.

Dr. Wolff pointed out that in the

past the city has supported up to five doctors at one time; however, the economics of medical care have changed, and it is now more difficult for the town to support doctors.

Dr. Wolff said that many of the services previously provided by doctors, have shifted to government funded health care agencies, causing a decrease in business for local doctors.

He also pointed to a decrease in

the population of Heppner, fewer people coming in from neighboring communities and better roads for people to travel to physicians out of town as reasons for the decrease in medical business in Heppner.

County Commissioner Jerry Peck said the county court will only guarantee tax funding of the hospital one year at a time, and that "it's up to the people to decide the taxes and the usage of the hospital," he said.

Delegation protests staff cut, change to middle school

A proposal to cut the sixth grade teacher from the lone elementary staff and group those students with seventh and eighth graders to form a middle school brought a 30-member delegation from lone before the school board Monday night.

"We are concerned the proposed staff reduction will significantly reduce the quality of education for our children," John Rietmann, spokesperson for the delegation told the board.

When the budget committee and

administrators were putting together the budget for next year, administrators were instructed to evaluate current staff and make the most efficient use of current employees before they considered hiring additional teachers in the district. That was done, Assistant Superintendent Chuck Starr, explained, by cutting one teacher from Heppner High School, one teacher from lone, and one aide from Heppner Elementary School, where enrollment is decreasing and adding those positions to north county

schools where enrollment is increasing.

Rietmann said they objected to the cut at lone because it eliminated all flexibility for elective class offerings at the high school, left inadequate full-time staff to provide supervision at extra-curricular activities, eliminated all male staff from the elementary school, would erode discipline and control of upper elementary and junior high students who would be unsupervised when classes changed, would force sixth graders to take solid subjects such as social studies and math at the end of the day when their learning potential is at its lowest, and that a catch-as-catch-can system disguised as a middle school designed to meet the special needs of 11-13 year olds was being forced on parents.

Starr explained that Dick Allen had developed the current proposal from within his own staff and that his plans address all the major concerns expressed by the delegation. The staff reduction will not eliminate any classes or programs at lone, he said.

Although not having a male teacher in the elementary building is a concern, it is not an uncommon situation. Teachers assigned to teach sixth grade classes are those who have been trained to teach younger students, he said.

"We're asking the board to review the proposal," Rietmann said. Starr and lone School Principal Dick Allen "tried to sell the plan to the community at a town hall type meeting last month; and, in reality, it isn't something we can buy," he said.

"Direction from the board," Superintendent McCaslin said, "was to be as frugal as possible. No effort was made to hide any of the staff cuts. Chuck Starr and Dick Allen are probably the most concerned of anyone about the quality of education at lone and I trust their judgment about education. There is no question that the middle school is a good concept."

We could debate the middle school concept all evening, Starr noted, and some would still not agree, but I am convinced that the children will receive as good as an education with the system as they have in the past with one classroom teacher.

The district's administrators and principals are "professionals in their field and we take their advice," Board member Bob Mahoney pointed out.

In other business, the board: -appointed Dora Viall, a classified employee, to serve on the district's Population Building Study Committee.

-canvassed the May 19 election returns.

-approved the necessary resolutions to adopt next year's budget and levy taxes.

-approved policies for co-curricular activities and management of food services.

-approved the use of a school bus during the fair to transport people



Weed Tour

Jim VanWinkle (top photo-crouching far right) explained some of the weed control methods used on Conservation Reserve Program seedings during last Friday's annual weed tour.

At right Chef Jim Swanson makes sure the steak is just right while Roger Records, and Kelly and Virgil Morgan wait for their dinner at conclusion of tour.



Enter Saturday walk/run to help purchase defibrillator

There's still time to enter the Rolling Hills Walk/Run. Late entries will be accepted until race time Saturday, June 20. Tables will be set up at 7 a.m. at Heppner City Park to begin taking day-of-race registrations for both the 5k and 10k courses. T-shirts are still available.

Many door prizes donated by area merchants will be presented at an awards ceremony following the race. Plaques will be awarded to the first male and first female finisher in the 10k and to the oldest male and female finishers. Ribbons for the first three places in each age division

will be presented for both distances.

Runners and spectators alike won't want to miss the nutritious breakfast prepared by the Heppner Volunteer Fire Dept. Pancakes, ham, scrambled eggs, coffee, and orange juice will be served beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until after the race.

All proceeds from the walk/run and the breakfast will go toward purchase of a portable defibrillator for the Heppner ambulance. For more information, call 676-5563 or 676-5808.

Summer may be start of new career

By Joyce Hensley

Summer marks the beginning of freedom for students and most teachers, but it may be the beginning of a new career in recording, publishing, and writing for Jim Ackley.

Band, choir, and general music teacher at A.C. Houghton Elementary and Columbia Junior High in Irrigon, Jim Ackley has requested a one year sabbatical from his teaching duties to write a booklet that will follow the script of his already recorded educational tape on multiplication tables for grades three through six.

After the booklet is finished, he and his partner, Rick Meyer of LaGrande, will follow up on the already successfully field tested tape to further the testing, along with the booklet, in the Bay area of California, LaGrande, and Irrigon.

Their teaching method on the cassette uses rapping or talking with a non-stop rock beat, according to Ackley.

He is no stranger to the recording business. His combination Country, Rock music cassette, Jim Ackley "A

Little Bit of Everything" is available locally at Rod's Market and the Boardman Pharmacy, and at Central and Court St. Market's in Heppner. Ackley wrote the words, music, then performed and recorded the entire cassette himself in his complete recording studio located in his home at Boardman.

His musical abilities were apparent at an early age. "They said I could whistle before I could talk," said Ackley. At the age of seven he asked to be allowed to take piano lessons. Parents of budding musicians can take heart. "There were times that my parents had to make me practice and I'm glad they did," he said.

By the time he was 13, he was taking piano, saxophone, guitar, and clarinet lessons. At age 15, Ackley became a professional musician playing with the band "Thirteenth Story". When in college he bought every different kind of used musical instrument he could get his hands on and is now capable of playing over 12 instruments.

During a seven year period his group opened for such bands as the Box Tops, Young Bloods,

Eric Burden and the Animals, and was also on a T.V. show hosted by a former Kingsmen of the "Louie, Louie" fame.

Ackley's fame is renowned in the local area for the extravaganza spring concerts he writes and directs for his A.C. Houghton Elementary music students to perform. Ackley spent 12 to 16 hours a day getting ready for this year's bigger and better musical program, "A Tribute to America", according to A.C. Houghton Secretary, Marilyn Stewart.

All except \$500 of the \$10,000 worth of costumes, sound equipment, lighting and props, such as a 21' x 36' paper flag that covered part of the gym floor at the base of the four tiered stage, was donated, according to Ackley. The students, parents and Ackley raised the \$500 by various means such as pop-bottle drives, selling homemade popsicle, and selling ice cream cones after the concert.

"My number one priority the next few months will be promoting new education through music by means of my books and tapes," said Ackley.



photo by Joyce Hensley

Jim Ackley gives student Ronnie Sanchez a few pointers. Ronnie was recorder soloist in the recent A Tribute To America school concert.



John and Kerry Rietmann represented a lone delegation at Monday's school board meeting

from downtown to the fairgrounds. -accepted resignations from classified employees Karen Kandle and Marcy Bacon.

-accepted resignations from certificated employees, Joe Olson (art teacher at Sam Boardman and A.C. Houghton), Cheryl McNutt (special education teacher at Sam Boardman), Peter Longway-Vince (language arts teacher at Heppner High School), John Edmundson (math teacher at Heppner High School), and John Hughes (language arts teacher at Riverside High School).

-accepted retirement of 26-year district employee Myra Skoubo and 25-year district employee Alice Vance.

-appointed Rhonda Lorenz Deputy Clerk to replace Alice Vance.

-approved hiring Sandra Patton, Lexington, to fill a secretary position at the District office.

-approved offering a teacher contract to Martin Perlot (math at Heppner High School) who was on temporary contract with the district last year.

-approved extra duty contracts as recommended by the principals.

-approved support of Roger Records' application for a restricted certificate to keep him certified until he completes summer school requirements for a standard certificate.

-approved supporting Jay Harman's application for a special vocational certificate for which he is qualified.

-approved increasing a part time cook's helper to full time to fully activate the kitchen at Sam Boardman.

-approved renewal of the Superintendent's bond for next year; approved bonding two other district office employees.

-authorized Jim Bier to continue the search for used vehicles to replace some of the older, small vehicles in the district.

-distributed a report on advisory committee communications with voters.

-held an executive session regarding personnel, legal matters, and collective bargaining.

The next regular school board meeting will be July 20 at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon.

Pest control month proclaimed

Governor Neil Goldschmidt proclaimed the month of June, 1987, Pest Control Month to encourage citizens to recognize the valuable work performed by the structural pest control industry.

The structural pest control industry encourages the safe, effective use of pesticides and alternate control methods through research and training. Unwanted pests destroy property, transmit disease, contaminate food and are universally objectionable, the proclamation says.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

June 9 - 15 High Low Prec.		
Tues.	79	43 .0
Wed.	78	42 .0
Thurs.	86	54 .40
Fri.	85	53 .0
Sat.	93	57 .0
Sun.	92	58 .04
Mon.	67	40 .17

Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, June 16	
Soft White	
June	\$2.95
Please call for new crop quotes.	
Barley	
June	\$84
July	\$86-\$87.50
Aug	\$88.50-\$89.50
Hard Red Winter	
Ordinaries	\$2.98
PIK	
Generic Certificates 107 1/2% cash	