



This isn't a new rug pattern. It is good rain puddling on the Heppner street during Sunday's drouth-breaking downpour. The three-day off-and-on rain measured 2.24 inches in Heppner. To date, this is the second wettest September since 1910, according to weather records here.

A wet September

Rains break drouth

Rain fell this week boosting the total amount of rainfall for September to 2.24 inches, the second largest amount of monthly rainfall recorded since 1910.

September needs only .31 more inches of rain to exceed the 2.55 inches of rain recorded in September, 1927.

The normal precipitation for the month of September averages .73. Heppner recorded 1.88 inches from Wednesday of last week to Monday of this week. September's rain-

no more than 1.02 inches for rain for the rest of the year."

The driest year ever recorded since 1910 was in 1939 when there was 7.81 inches of rain.

The rain answered the prayers of Morrow County wheat farmers, livestock growers, and forest personnel.

"Up until last Wednesday, Morrow County wheat growers were faced with extreme dry conditions for seeding," explained Harold Kerr, Morrow County extension agent.

Some farmers were contemplating dusting the seed in or just sitting back waiting for rain. Wheat growers were already faced with a cut in yields this year due to inadequate moisture this spring.

"With this rain, I can now go

ahead and work the ground, weed, fertilize and seed," said Bob Jepson, lone, who received 1.14 inches in a 24-hour period.

Morrow County livestock growers were also faced with a cutback in feed due to extreme dry conditions this spring and summer.

Hay crops were cut down 1/4 to 1/2 and range and grazing were low in production. Fall ranges were dry and brown and many ranchers were faced with feeding their cattle earlier than usual.

Dick Wilkinson, Heppner, stated as he watched the rain pour off his roof, "The rain will boost my range and will provide some fall forage for my cattle."

Last week Marvin Chitty of the Heppner Forest Station,

Umatilla National Forest, was looking at the possibility of keeping the sheep and cattle in the forest lands past the normal deadline. The deadline for removal of all stock is Sept. 30.

"With the rain, ranchers may be able to keep their stock in the forest longer," he pointed out.

The rain also increase forage production in the forest for livestock as well as wildlife.

"Hunters also will be able to hunt in the forest and have a camp fire," stated Chitty.

The Umatilla National Forest lifted its ban on open fires last week during the rain.

The rain also added life to dry creek beds, greened up the lawns, and put puddles everywhere in Morrow County.

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Boardman

Sewage plan gets setback

By MARY LEE MARLOW

Several problems have to be overcome before the Boardman sewage system can be expanded, it was learned at a meeting of the council last week.

Stanley Wallulis, Pendleton engineer and chief mentor on the Boardman sewer project, said available land at the present site is not adequate and sewer collectors leading to the plant are too small to carry projected loads.

The city had hoped to expand the sewage treatment process and adding lagoons as the population increases.

Wallulis told the council that it would be best to start looking for another site. The present plant is located on land owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Corps has

stated it would oppose any major expansion that would bring the plant boundaries close to the Corps' recreation area on the Columbia River.

Wallulis said a site to the south and west of the city limits would be best because the sewage would travel by gravity and there is ample open space available for lagoons and an irrigation system.

Sewer lines to the plant are designed to carry waste produced by 1,250 persons. Wallulis said the Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency require plants to be designed for service 20 years in the future-or in Boardman's situation to serve 4,000 persons. New regulations require the treatment plant to include a holding area for three month's sewage in case

it can't be disposed of in the winter months.

Wednesday of last week a number of alternate sites suitable for waste disposal were viewed as possible answers to the problem of sewage disposal. Wallulis said sites were found on both public and private lands, but details of the locations could not be revealed until negotiations have been completed.

Preparations for an application for a design engineering grant are under way. Wallulis and Mayor Dewey W. West Jr. plan a trip to Portland this week to talk with the Corps of Engineers about selecting a site south of the freeway. If a site can be obtained there, it would be possible to have room to build a large inexpensive lagoon system, use the effluent for irrigation and get the sewage to the plant by gravity rather than expensive pumps.

New flood, rain reporting system

Dave Bauman, hydrologist for the Portland River Forecast Center, spoke about a new flash flood alarm system and precipitation gauge system at a preliminary meeting Tuesday morning at the Morrow County Soil Conservation office.

The hydrologist introduced the new flash flood alarm system, which is a system for detecting flash flooding in streams. In this system, early warnings of a flooding is conveyed to downstream communities in forms of audible and visual alarms.

The other system, the pre-

cipitation gauge, would record to a satellite such information as precipitation, river crests, river speeds, temperatures and flood data. This gauge records data every 15 minutes and could record storms and possible flood information.

"The government will install the \$10,000 systems and will maintain them twice a year," pointed out Bauman.

The only cost Heppner would be paying is the phone system which is needed in the flood alarm system.

The two proposed systems will be introduced to the Heppner community next month.

A red carpet for newcomers, Oct. 2

The city of Heppner will turn out Tuesday evening, Oct. 2, to welcome 35 newcomers who have moved here within the past six months. New teachers are included in the list.

The affair will be held at Heppner High School beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Herman Winter will act as master of ceremonies and Martha McGowan of Pilot Rock will entertain with a chalk talk and do caricatures of several of the guests.

Heppner merchants will have displays of various kinds to acquaint newcomers with

their types of business. Firms wishing to reserve space should contact Mrs. Glenn Smith, chairman of the Soroptimist committee that is cooperating with the ministerial association and Chamber of Commerce in welcoming newcomers.

This is the third year that the city has reserved an entire evening to welcome and get acquainted with new residents.

A special display will be an art show which will exhibit paintings of well-known local artists.

Narcotics in Morrow County

Program on drug abuse, Oct. 1

Marijuana, LSD, and "Speed," along with other drugs, will be targets of discussion at the Parent's Awareness Drug Session Monday and Tuesday nights.

The informal sessions will begin at 7 and last until 9:30 p.m., Oct. 1, at the Heppner Elementary School and Oct. 2 at Riverside High School in Boardman.

Dick Harp, criminal investigator of the Oregon State Police in Hermiston, will be the featured guest. Harp will bring samples of the drugs

and will discuss the effects and reactions of each drug, as well as drug control laws.

A panel discussion consisting of local representatives from the state police, school, church, youth, and the law will ask questions. The panel, along with the audience, will be informed on the drug abuse problem and drug control in Morrow County.

According to Carolyn Davis, Morrow County Juvenile Director, a new law which will go into effect Oct. 5 will also be discussed at the meeting. The

new state law states if any person is found in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, the violation will carry a maximum fine of \$100 and no jail sentence. The old law was that possession of less than one ounce of marijuana for the first time carried a penalty of \$1,000 and one year in jail.

The drug session is sponsored by the Morrow County Juvenile Advisory Committee, the Morrow County Drug Abuse and Alcohol Committee and the 4-H Empire Builders.

BPA approves Co-op rates

The Bonneville Power Administration has approved the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op's proposed rate revisions for 1974.

Under the planned revision, four residential rates Schedule A, Schedule 3, Schedule 4, and Schedule H will all be consolidated into one new schedule. The new schedule will be called Schedule 1. Currently there are 584 members under Schedule A and 146 members under Schedule H, which are both "farm" rate schedules.

Presently there are 183 members under Schedule 3 and 1440 members under Schedule 4, which are "town" rate schedules. There will also be an annual increase in rates

to this group of 2353 members along with the consolidation which will amount to \$30,545.

Another revision will consolidate present Schedule 25 and Schedule B into a new rate schedule called Schedule 2. There are presently 421 members under Schedule 25 which is a "town" rate schedule, and there are 38 members under Schedule B, which is a "farm" rate schedule. Along with the consolidation, an annual increase of \$4,300 will be effected to this group of small commercial users. In addition, the small commercial users who have separate metering under Schedule 43 will face a \$1,000 increase. This schedule will be called Schedule 6 in the future.

The large commercial schedule is presently called Schedule 37 and it will be referred to as Schedule 3 in the future. Three members are served under it at present and they will face an annual increase in costs of \$8,700. This increase would not have that amount except for the projected large increase in load considered by Kinzua in 1974.

The co-op serves 268 irrigation accounts. There is an increase proposed in the end rate from 5 mills to 6 mills, and this would result in an increase of \$7,900 in annual revenues.

Columbia Basin projects total revenues of nearly \$1,175,000 for 1974.



Marcia Bedortha, a recent graduate of Oregon State University, Corvallis, is a new addition to the staff of the Gazette-Times. Marcia majored in Journalism in college and before moving to Heppner lived in Madras. She is interested in agriculture, and enjoys the outdoor type of life.

Energy crisis explained

A meeting was held Monday night at Heppner High School cafeteria, sponsored by the Blue Mountain Community College and the utility companies to acquaint people with the present electrical shortage.

Although there is a shortage of electrical energy in the state, most people are unaware of the seriousness of the power shortage. Primarily, the shortage is due to the lack of water needed to convert into hydroelectric energy. The present problem is not a system of inadequate generating and transmission capacity to meet the loads. It is a shortage of fuel, and in the Northwest that means water. The water must be converted into kilowatt hours which can be generated when the water is released and passes hours through the various generators.

total electrical energy source, there is an 8 per cent deficiency for total needs during the period until March 1974.

The goal of the power conservation program is to get the public to save electricity, and thus fill the reservoirs to meet the demands later in the year.

Mr. Joy, district manager of Pacific Power and Light Co, told homeowners how to save electrical power in the home rather than wait for industry to shut down.

Some of the suggestions given coincide with the solutions of Dave Harrison, manager of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op.

In reply to the question, asked again and again, "If I save on electricity, will it help the present situation?" the answer was yes.

Some of the methods of saving energy during peak hours of 5-7 p.m., are: give up one TV show per night; reduce the temperature of the water heater to 160 degrees; if there is a dishwasher, wash dishes only when there is a full load; and when clothes are washed, if possible, use colder water,

and wash when there is a full load.

What are the alternatives if energy is not saved? They vary from area to area, and here in Morrow County measures have been submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval.

James Boyce to have surgery

James Boyce, who was injured in a traffic accident Sept. 18, was released from St. Anthony's Hospital, Pendleton, yesterday.

Boyce had been in the intensive care unit of the hospital following the accident. However, last Monday he was given permission to get up and walk about the hospital.

Although his recovery has been rapid, it was learned that young Boyce will have to undergo surgery for his collar bone today and may not be released until next week.

Boyce who celebrated his 18th birthday Monday hopes that when he returns home his many friends will visit him.



Drug addict? No. Mike Howell. The county extension agent is simulating the use of heroin injection. This and other drugs will be topics of discussion at the Parents' Awareness Drug Session, Oct. 1 in Heppner, Oct. 2 in Boardman.