

Soil judges take district

Bearing shovels, charts and measuring devices, members of Heppner High School's Vocational-Agriculture class have been taking their knowledge to the fields to evaluate soil samples around the area.

Their practice paid off last week when five members of the class teamed for a first place finish among seven schools at the District Soil Judging competition in Springfield. Vocational-Ag is part of the FFA program at the high school and the District win qualifies the team to go on to the State contest Nov. 3 in Roseburg, sponsored by the State FFA organization.

In topping the competition from Hermiston, Pendleton, Riverside, Mac Hi, Umapine and Stanfield, the Heppner delegation was led by Lee McCarl who was the overall high individual scorer. Brian Thompson tied for third and Ron Young tied for fourth while Darwin Anotegui and Tim Dalke rounded out the team. Steve Marlatt and Chris

Riddle were named alternates for Heppner.

Vocational-Ag instructor Hal Whitaker said the judging team selections were based on skills demonstrated during seven soil evaluation exercises around the area. The highest scoring freshmen and sophomores in the class evaluations were picked to represent Heppner in the inter-school competitions.

Whitaker said the field aspect is an important part of the Vocational-Ag program.

"They learn the terminology and explanations in the classroom, get the technology from the textbooks and then go out in the field to practice what they've learned," Whitaker said.

The soil evaluations cover everything from topsoil color to conservation practices and the information is recorded on charts provided by the State Extension Service. Students are taught to distinguish variations in texture, grade, consistency, type and pH as well as determine limiting



Soil Sleuths

factors if the area is used for septic tanks or other structures.

By the time they finish with their evaluations, the students

have also learned the management practices used on the soil including identification of irrigation methods, artificial drainage approaches and special management practices such as diversion ditching, terracing, subsoiling and gully control.

Members of the Heppner FFA soil judging team stand near a test site at the High School. Brian Thompson, Ron Young, Lee McCarl, Darwin Anotegui and Tim Dalke finished first in District judging competition.

For rural phone users

Rate hike possible

Rural communities such as those in Morrow County will be paying higher rates for telephone service unless residents voice their concerns to legislators, a Pacific Northwest Bell spokesman told Heppner chamberites recently.

Ron Allen, Portland, speaking to the general forum of Chamber, said, "The Federal Communications Commission is allowing non-traditional companies to enter the field of tele-communications and the result is going to be a higher telephone service cost to rural areas."

The PNB public affairs man explained that over 1,600 telephone companies throughout the United States work in a non-competitive manner in a regulated monopoly situation, whereby costs of service are averaged out to provide economic phone service to all.

Allen said the FCC has, since 1970, allowed some microwave communication firms to enter the market in high population areas, taking the most profitable forms of service from traditional companies commonly referred to as "Ma Bell".

"What happens then is that we are forced to stop averaging our costs and start charging on the basis of actual usage," said Allen, "which means the rural customers are going to be paying a lot

more for service."

Allen asked the Chamber to pass a resolution to be forwarded to Oregon's congressional delegation, asking for intervention to prevent unnecessary rate hikes.

Silver celebration

Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Gay, Ashland, were recent visitors and successful hunting guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rood. Mrs. Gay is Mrs. Rood's mother.

To celebrate Mr. and Mrs. Gay's silver wedding anniversary, Sept. 28, the Roods took them to dinner at West of

Willow Restaurant, then back to a surprise reception at the Rood home, attended by twenty neighbors and friends.

The cake was decorated by Mrs. R.G. Watkins. Mrs. Verna Howell poured coffee. Mrs. Wilbur VanBlokland served punch and also assisted with the decorations.

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Court fills committee positions

Morrow County Court met on Wednesday, Oct. 19 with Judge D.O. Nelson absent.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator Bob Byrnes was appointed to the Drug and Alcohol Committee as a resource person while Jack Campbell was named to replace Doug Rathbun. Mike Wetherall and Wayne Huwe were also appointed to the committee by the court to represent the north end of Morrow County.

The court discussed the

request by Umatilla Electric Cooperative Association for the county's long range plan

for Main Street and Wilson Road in Boardman. It was decided to set up a meeting

with Steven Eldridge, system engineer of the electric cooperative, to talk about plans.

FFA team attends exposition

Sixteen Heppner FFA members attended the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland on Saturday, Oct. 22, leaving Heppner at 3 a.m. and returning at 9 p.m. The judging team, com-

prised of Kyrnn Robinson, Julie Grieb and Ken Grieb, placed 57 out of 110 teams competing in the livestock judging contest at the Exposition. Marie VanSchoiack placed second in the beef holders contest.

Other local FFA members who attended were Jack Yocom, Terry Toll, Dan Nix, Ron Schwarz, Lee McCarl, Steve Marlatt, Chris Zita, Alan Fortenberry, Coleman Devine, Tim Dahlke, Chris Riddle and Pat Clark.

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