

Weather Service seeks volunteers to watch for severe storms

Farmer groups petition for change in PUD's

The National Weather Service office in Pendleton is interested in finding Southern Morrow County residents that will act as severe storm spotters for the area.

John B. Smith, meteorologist in charge, told the Gazette-Times this week that recent reports of strong winds and hail are positive proof of potential severe weather activity.

Northeast Oregon lies in a "blind spot" in the Weather Service radar network making it difficult to keep a watch on storm activity that may turn severe, resulting in flash flooding.

Smith said the radar blind spot should be corrected in a couple years. "In the meantime, it is most important that we recruit qualified persons willing to note and record heavy rains in their area," said Smith.

Persons that become severe storm watchers are asked to monitor plastic rain gauges provided by the Weather Service, recording rainfall and placing a call if rainfall reaches a certain level in a specified amount of time.

The area most in need of storm watchers is the area Southwest of Heppner, noted Smith, since most of the storms approach from that direction.

Smith said storms that deposit a half-inch of rain in a 30-minute period are of a serious nature, and the meteorologist urged anyone observing that type of rainfall to call the Weather Service office in Pendleton.

Persons interested in becoming weather observers should contact the National Weather Service Office, Pendleton, Oregon, phone 276-4493 or 276-3811.

Two area farmers' groups are sponsoring a petition drive towards amending the Oregon Public Utilities District law to shorten the formation procedures for PUDs.

The initiative drive is currently underway in Morrow and Gilliam counties by the Farmers Union and the Grange, according to Gene Logan of Arlington, area Farmers Union president. Kenneth Fitzgerald, editor of the Oregon-Washington Farmers Union newspaper was in the area last weekend to aid in the petition drive.

About 46,000 valid signatures of registered voters are needed by July 7 to put the measure on the ballot this fall. The statewide drive appears certain to acquire the needed signatures, since more than 50,000 names have already been collected, according to Logan.

However, sponsors of the drive are pushing for more than 60,000 signatures, in order to give them a margin of safety to compensate for names that may be invalidated.

On a statewide basis, the Farmers Union and Grange have joined forces with the Consumer Power League and the Oregon PUD Directors Assn. to lobby for the easing of bureaucratic red tape in forming public utility districts. The four organizations have formed a Public Power Coalition to fight for the PUD law changes.

Fitzgerald noted that Oregon has only four PUDs—including the Columbia Basin Electric Coop—as opposed to 22 in Washington. He maintains that the lack of PUDs in Oregon has contributed largely to the discrepancy that exists between electric rates between the two states.

Public-owned electrical co-ops in the two states charge from one-half to two-thirds less than do the private utilities, Fitzgerald said. He noted that PUD electric organizations in Vancouver, Wash., and Milton-Freewater charge \$11.10 and \$9.58 respectively for 1,000 kilowatt hours, as opposed to \$27 charged by Portland General Electric and \$27.24 by Pacific Power and Light for the same wattage.

OBITUARY

Cora Mae Wilson

Cora Mae Wilson, 90, Heppner, died Friday, June 23, in Heppner.

She was born November 3, 1887, in Norton, Kansas.

Mrs. Wilson was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Heppner.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 27, in the Heppner Assembly of God Church, with the Rev. Duane Geyer of Portland officiating.

Sacred selections were sung by Faye Wilson, with Kathryn Hoskins accompanying her with the organ.

Casket bearers were Jim

Morris, Kip Morris, Clayton Wilson, Bob Morris, Randy Morris and Maynard Struthers.

Concluding services and interment were at Heppner Masonic Cemetery, with Sweeney Mortuary in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Wilson was preceded in death by her husband, Peter Austin Wilson, in 1954.

She is survived by a daughter, Mildred Pankey, Heppner, a son, Hubert Wilson, Heppner, a sister, Wilma Hastings, Hermiston, 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Elks Calendar

Thursday, June 29
No Lodge
Fun Night

Friday, June 30
Live music
Steak & sea food dinner 6:30

Saturday, July 1
Live Music

Tuesday, July 4
Senior Citizens Dinner 4:30

Wednesday, July 5
Senior Citizens Dinner 4:30
Scouts 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 6
No Lodge
Fun Night
Happy Hour 5-6
Hot Hors D'ouuvres 6-7

Members and out-of-town guests only.

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OREGON CHIEF
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1-lb PKG. EACH
89¢

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Reser's • **Potato Salad**
• **Macaroni Salad**
• **Cole Slaw**
65¢ 1-lb. PKG.

Western Family
Pork & Beans
30-oz.
49¢

Western Family
Jumbo Pitted Olives
69¢

Western Family
Tomato Catsup
20-oz.
69¢

Heinz
Barbecue Sauce
16-oz.
65¢

Heinz
French's Mustard
24-oz.
89¢

Kingsford
Charcoal Briquets
10-lb. Bag
\$1.39
Wizard Charcoal Lighter Fluid
79¢ Quart

Styro Cups
4 Pkgs. For \$1
20 7-oz.

Hamburger Buns
12-Pak
63¢

Hot Dog Buns
8-Pak
42¢

Western Family
Mayonaise
Quart
\$1.19

Blue Bell
Potato Chips
Regular, Dipper, Bar-B-Q
2-Pak
69¢

Nalley's
Pickles
Genuine Garlic, Dill Nubbins, Kosher
99¢ 48-oz.

Philidelphia
Cream Cheese
4/\$1 3-oz.

Nectarines & Peaches
59¢ lb.

Green Peppers
5/\$1

Pineapple
75¢ Each

Broccoli
49¢ lb.

Watermelon
13¢ lb.

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Have a safe and happy Fourth of July



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