

## Labo student sends letter home from Japan

By BIRDINE TULLIS  
Program Assistant  
Morrow Co. Extension Service

Ken Curtis of Heppner and Rachel Peck of Lexington are currently in Japan, living with host families. The two Morrow county 4-H'ers are there as part of the Oregon 4-H and Japan Labo-Lex exchange which is an annual summer event.

The following letter arrived this week from Ken:

Hello everyone:  
I'm having a terrific time. I've been very busy, very busy. I've been to an obstacle course park and a huge shopping store in Tokoyo name Sogo.

I was amazed at how organized everything was the minute we landed at Tokoyo airport. There was a man from Labo there to help us go through immigration and customs. Then he and his friends packed our luggage on the bus and he took us to the hotel where we had a wonderful American dinner; hamburgers and potato chips, but the next morning we had an interesting breakfast; raw fish, raw eggs, rice (which everyone ate a lot of) and juice. Then we had another short orientation and at 11 a.m. everyone with a blue tag on their suitcases were picked up by their host families. The others had to travel to get to where they were staying.

Well I'm pretty busy so --

Sayonara,  
Ken

If one baseball is tossed horizontally while at the same instant a second baseball is dropped vertically from the same height, both of them will reach the ground simultaneously.

## GEODC elects president

The Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation has announced the election of Steven Stillmak as its first president following action taken at a meeting of the board of directors on July 12. Mr. Stillmak is the recently elected President of the Umatilla County based First American Banking Company.

Joining Mr. Stillmak as officers are Foster Odom, Arlington area businessman, as vice-president; and Joe Burns, long time Hermiston businessman and president of the Hermiston Development Corporation, as secretary-treasurer, said a GEODC spokesperson.

The first act of Mr. Stillmak, as president of GEODC, was to sign documents applying for registration of the GEODC as a Certified Development Company through the Small Business Administration. This certification will enable the GEODC, a private non-profit corporation, to make available long-term fixed asset financing for land, buildings, and equipment to businesses throughout the five counties of Morrow, Gilliam, Grant, Umatilla and Wheeler, the spokesperson said.

The GEODC was formed in June by representatives from both the public and private sectors that have an interest in the development and expansion of small business.

The remaining members of the first board of directors that will serve until a general meeting of the expanded membership is held this fall include: Mike Craig, Fossil businessman; Larry Dalrymple, city administrator of Boardman; Bill Berray, manager of Home Telephone Company in Gilliam County; Bill Deist, city administrator of John Day; Bill Martin, manager of the John Day Branch of the U.S. National Bank of Oregon; Wayne Schwandt, manager of the port of Morrow; Ted Walters, business manager of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

Indian Reservation; Dale Courtney, businessman and mayor of Milton-Freewater; Dave Crumpton, city manager of Pendleton; Mehrten Homer, rancher and president of the Wheeler County Energy Corporation; Dennis Reynolds, manager of Hudspeth Sawmill, John Day; and James Wishart, vice president and manager of the Arlington Branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

The Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation is the culmination of a number of months of work of local banks, savings and loan institutions, cities, counties, port districts, local development corporations, The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Chambers of Commerce businesses and private citizens. The goal was to create an additional vehicle for public-private sector financing for small business, the spokesperson explained.

GEODC's primary purpose is to be a Certified Development Company under Section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act, and thereby, to promote and assist the growth and development of business in the five counties it serves. Small business accounts for over 50 percent of the private sector employment in the country. More important, small business generates 60 to 70 percent of all new private sector jobs. As a Certified Development Company (CDC), GEODC will be stimulating the growth and expansion of small businesses by providing fixed asset financing, for up to 25 year terms, for land, buildings and equipment, whether new construction, renovation or expansion. By providing this service, GEODC will enable the local area to create jobs, increase their local tax base, expand business opportunities, and improve the economic conditions of these five counties, the spokesperson said.

## IRS office offers help for tax problems

Oregonians who meet delays or red tape in solving their federal tax problems can get help from the Internal Revenue Service Problem Resolution Program (PRP) office, according to T. Blair Evans, IRS District Director for Oregon.

Evans explained that the PRP office helps taxpayers who have already had unsuccessful contacts with the IRS. PRP has the authority to cut through the red tape and handle problems promptly, he said. An important aspect of PRP is the personal attention each taxpayer receives. The taxpayer deals with only one office and is kept informed of the progress of their case. Taxpayers expecting to confront a computer or a faceless bureaucrat are surprised at the personal touch, according to Evans.

The most common problems brought to the PRP office are complaints about missing refunds, mixed up Social Security numbers, incorrect billings by IRS, or unanswered correspondence. Last year the

Oregon office handled over 2,000 taxpayer problems, about one-tenth of one percent of the over 2.1 million tax returns filed.

Besides solving taxpayer problems, PRP tries to prevent them by discovering flaws in the system.

Evans stressed that PRP is not a substitute for normal IRS channels. PRP usually takes complaints only after there has been at least one unsuccessful contact with the IRS.

While PRP offices do everything they can to help taxpayers, there are some things they cannot do. Appeals of a decision made in tax examinations and complaints about hiring practices are examples of areas beyond PRP authority.

Taxpayers can reach the PRP office by either writing to their IRS District Office at Post Office Box 3341, Portland, Oregon, 97208, or by calling the IRS assistance number listed in the telephone book.

SOS, the traditional call for help from a ship in distress, does not actually stand for anything. It was chosen because it could easily be sent as a wireless message.

## Two local Soroptimists attend five-day convention

Clista Venard and Mary Goheen, both of Heppner, recently returned from a Federation Convention of the Soroptimist International of the Americas, held July 11-15 at the Century Plaza Hotel at Los Angeles, Calif. Mrs. Venard attended as a voting delegate.

A highlight of the convention was the installation of Marilyn Hofstetter of Whittier, Calif., as federation president.

The two Heppner Soroptimists joined other members from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, South America, Central America, the Philippines, South Korea, and Japan.

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### Lexington news

Delpha Jones 989-8189

were callers Monday night at the Joe Yocom home.

Katie Smith of Los Angeles, Calif. spent several days visiting her father and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buchanan. Kathleen Riley and son Trevor, daughter of Mrs. Chas Buchanan and mother of Mrs. Buchanan and Sarah Simonson of Gresham also visited the Buchanans. Mrs. Simonson remained for a few days to visit. She will be taken home by her daughter and husband.

Lexington Grange is making plans for a Blue Mountain Fiddlers concert at the Lex-

ington Grange hall on Oct. 16. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. with music and visiting and refreshments.

A lovely wedding shower was held at the Rebekah Lodge Hall on Monday night honoring Marie Yocom, bride elect of Leland Jones. The rooms were decorated with summer flower bouquets. The serving table was centered with a beautifully decorated cake - featuring a floral arrangement resembling the bridesmaids' bouquets. Assisting the bride elect was Lyn Dee Devin and Amber and Crystal Rinehart. Serving were Beverly Gunderson and Marion Rinehart, aunts of the bride. Hostesses were Eileen Padberg, Maureen Howard, Millie Yocom and Martha Munkers.

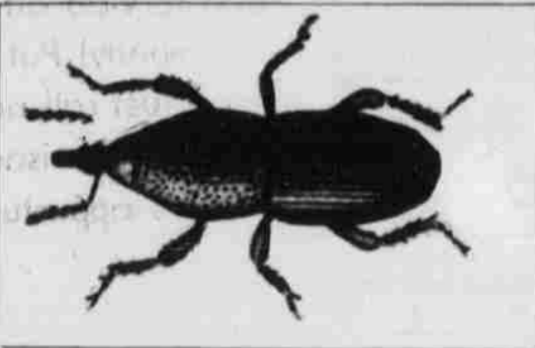
### Mr. and Mrs. Forest Rinehart and children of Ukian Navy seaman completes training

Navy Seaman Recruit Curtis A. Briggs, son of Donald L. Briggs, Heppner, has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Navy Recruit Training Command, San Diego, Calif., it was announced in a news release from the Navy.

During the eight-week training cycle, trainees studied general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic occupational fields.

Included in their studies were seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid. Personnel who complete this course of instruction are eligible for three hours of college credit in physical education and hygiene, the news release concluded.

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