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The Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Weather
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., May 8	65	41	.03
Wed., May 9	61	40	
Thurs., May 10	55	48	.07
Fri., May 11	73	40	
Sat., May 12	70	45	
Sun., May 13	78	44	Trace
Mon., May 14	54	42	Trace

Voter turnout slow

What's your Opinion?

Theta Lowe of the N.W. Heppner precinct election board registers a vote during the May 15 primary election while Ruby Munkers looks on.

Question: "What kind of turn-out have you seen so far today for the May 15 election?"

"We think it's going rather slowly. We've been here since 8 o'clock this morning and we've only had 69 out of 390 voters" said the election board for the N.W. Heppner precinct at the museum at 12:30 Tuesday. Board members are Nona Grace, Ruby Munkers and Theta Lowe.

Knapweed spraying begun in Morrow County

A loosely knit organization of about 17 farmers and ranchers in Morrow and Gilliam Counties Monday, May 7, accomplished the initial spraying of 1,368 acre of rangeland. This was the initial application in a projected five-year herbicide program which will attempt not to eradicate but to control the spread of diffuse knapweed in the upper Rock Creek drainage area.

Diffuse knapweed is a problem primarily on rangeland, not cultivated ground. It is a competitive weed which not only adds toxins to the soil which weaken native bunchgrass and shrubs but eventually will crowd the native plants from the land. Seeds may stay dormant in the soil for up to five years. The seeds are transported primarily by hunters, fishermen, and off-road vehicles says Steve Campbell, Morrow County Extension agent. Wind and livestock also spread the seeds, but they are not considered the major long-distance movers. Campbell says that knapweek has the potential to lower the productivity of rangeland by 80 to 90 percent, which, "if you are in the cattle business, can bankrupt you."

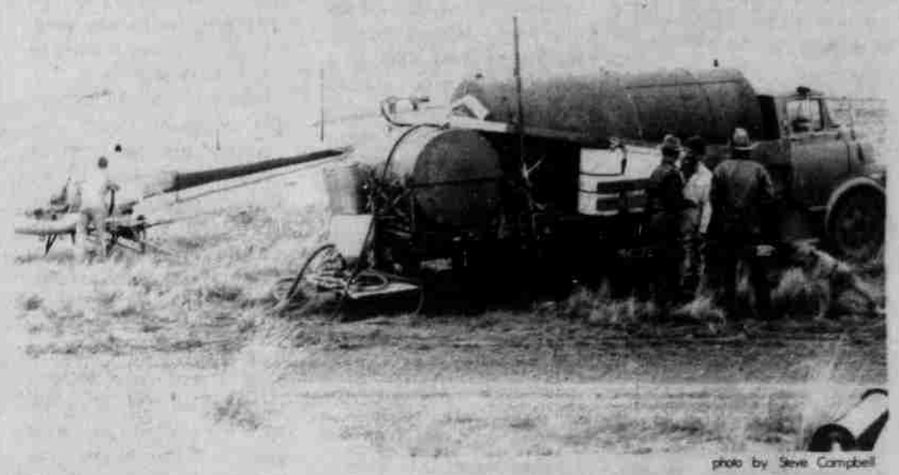

photo by Steve Campbell

Pictured above: Carl Hagglund at helicopter, Bob VanSchoiack (left), Eric Hagglund, and Bob Stevens.

Following two group meetings a committee of Bob VanSchoiack, Pete McElligott, Louis Carlson, John Camp, and Bob Stevens was selected to make the decisions about when and with what the knapweed would be sprayed. The committee worked closely with Morrow County Extension service and Oregon State University to develop a spray program.

The committee decided to use a mixture of the chemicals 2-4D and Banvel for the first spraying because this was the safest mix available says Campbell. A low-volitle form of the chemical was used to prevent problems arising from possible drift.

Carlson emphasizes that the program is self-supporting and the chemical mix used also had to be cost-effective. A special fund was set up to receive and disperse funds from the cooperating ranchers. No government funds are involved in the project. He syas that the committee received low bids on chemicals from local companies, sometimes right at cost. General Aircraft Services was selected to do the spraying.

Mark Rietmann who sprayed 150 acres of rangeland on the ranch he manages for Don Anderson says that cost-wise it is advantageous "to stop the weed now at about $8 per acre before getting into a mess later and having to spend $16-20 or even $50 per acre if the weed should take over the whole range." Rangeland, he says, sells for $80-100 per acre.

The Rock Creek drainage area is outside the major investation of the weed. Carlson says that the goal of the program is to hold the weed in the canyons and not let it spread over hillsides and into adjacent areas.

Carlson continues that in addition to the herbicide program begun by the co-operating ranchers, two other approaches are helpful in knapweed control: 1) Voters have already approved funds for a weed control officer who will have funds to locate knapweed and other noxious weed areas at the expense of taxpayers, and 2) to work with Oregon, Washington and Montana State Universities in an in-depth research study on the weed itself: chemical control, (herbicide application,) biological control (beetles, flies, etc. which feed on the plant), and by range management (re-seeding a range and not overgrazing the area).

Has the spraying done any good?

Rietmann says that they have sprayed their own land for three years and each time two weeks later there was another crop of knapweed. "You can't do anything on your own property," he says, "because if the neighbors don't control, too, you haven't got a chance against it." This application so far "has done a really good job; every place we sprayed, we got a good kill, but if we get another half-inch of rain, we'll have another crop."

"Everybody has been ready and more than willing to share in the co-ordinated effort--that's what has made the program work," said Carlson. And, Steve Campbell, has been the 'sparkplug' of the whole operation, the nucleas of the organization. He came into the area new and grasped the situation immediately."

photo by Steve Campbell

Louis Carlson (left) and Bob Stevens discuss the knapweed spraying.

photo by Steve Campbell

View of helicopter spraying 2-4D and Banvel on diffuse knapweed.

Premium Book ready for proofing

The Morrow County Fair Premium Book will be ready to be proofed next week. All department superintendents are asked to come in to the Gazette-Times office Monday, May 21 to check over the information listed for their departments.

School Board to meet May 21

The regular May meeting of the Morrow County School Board will be held at Riverside High School in Boardman on May 21 at 8 p.m. announced a spokesperson for the school district.

The Board will consider adjustments in the district graduation requirements to include additional science and mathematics credits.

The Board will also consider awarding bids for fuel oil, gasoline, tires, heat pumps, sprinkler systems, propane, cyclone fencing, classroom computers and carpeting.

In other business the Board will consider several personnel matters and hear a report on a sewer problem at Ione High School.

Morrow County Election Returns May 15, 1984

		BOARDMAN Yes / No	IONE Yes / No	IRRIGON Yes / No	LEXINGTON Yes / No	HARDMAN-HEPPNER Yes / No	TOTALS Yes / No
COUNTY MEASURES	MORROW CO. SCHOOL TAX BASE INCREASE	228 / 208	133 / 120	222 / 269	70 / 119	376 / 457	1029 / 1173
	BMCC TAX BASE pass	267 / 163	135 / 119	221 / 263	87 / 100	418 / 409	1128 / 1054
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE	Robert Abrams won	189	185	139	139	685	1337
	David Gallaher	79	35	121	17	75	327
	John W. Smallmon	148	40	211	30	92	521
Democratic Party	Jesse Himmelsbach unopposed STATE REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 59	162	85	219	61	284	811
	COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Donald V. Eppenbach	70	47	206	29	144	496
	COUNTY COMMISSIONER: G.W. (Jerry) Peck won	148	61	90	58	251	608
	COUNTY CLERK: Barbara Bloodsworth won	96	97	109	78	317	697
	COUNTY CLERK: Jannette Marie Evans	123	26	189	22	112	472
	Roy L. Drago COUNTY SHERIFF unopposed	192	106	248	83	362	991
	Margo Sherer unopposed COUNTY TREASURER	187	109	251	87	371	1005
	Earl. D. Ming unopposed COUNTY SURVEYOR	182	90	239	75	296	882
Republican Party	STATE REP. DIST. 59: Ray French won	105	108	94	68	324	699
	STATE REP. DIST. 59: Irv Townsend	53	14	50	10	51	178
	Warren H. McCoy unopposed COUNTY COMMISSIONER	100	64	101	37	186	488
	David H. Krumbein COUNTY SURVEYOR unopposed	113	71	97	39	190	510