

## Wheat grower tours set during June

By BOB COSTA,  
OSU Extension Agent  
Morrow County

Wheat growers have many opportunities for local and regional tours in the month of June.

No-till seeded barley will be highlighted in a joint Morrow-Gilliam county tour on June 22. Fields planted with the Miller drill, the Yelder (Pioneer) and the Haybuster drills will be included. The tour will

begin at 2:30 p.m. at Gooseberry and will be topped off with a hosted steak barbecue near Mikkalo.

The Morrow County Conservation Man-of-the-Year tour and steak barbecue will be held on June 26 at the Swanson farm in Lone. The tour will start in the afternoon with a look at weed control and variety trials, followed by a tour of the Jim Swanson farm and a barbecue at the Swanson home.

Further details on the tours

will be mailed to wheat growers and will be published in next week's Gazette-Times.

For more information, contact the OSU Extension office in Heppner.

Also of interest are the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center Field Days. These experiment station tours give growers the opportunity to observe the latest research efforts in dryland wheat production. The field days will be held on June 19 at the Pendleton Station and on June 20 at the Sherman Station in Moro. Both programs begin at 8:30 a.m.

For a complete agenda, contact the Extension office in Heppner.

## Old timers invited to Hardman

The annual Father's Day Oldtimers Picnic at Hardman will be this Sunday, June 17 beginning at 2 p.m. The picnic is "potluck" and everyone is asked to bring a contribution to the dinner said Carl McDaniel, this year's co-ordinator. Because seating is limited, those who can bring card tables are asked to do so.

Following the picnic, Wallie and the Music Makers will provide oldtime music for dancing at the Hardman Community Hall. Everyone is invited to come join the fun.

## News from the Neighborhood Center

By NEOLA MACKEY

The free blood pressure clinic will be held at the Heppner Neighborhood Center, Tuesday, June 19 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone is urged to take advantage of this service.

### Over the Tee Cup

Ladies play on May 22 at the Willow Creek Country Club had 16 golfers participating. Wanda Willis won low gross, long drive, closest to the pin and least putts; Mary Beamer won low net.

On June 5 Wanda Willis won

American Field Service counselor Janet Phillips will be at the Center Wednesday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. Food Stamp applications are available at the center.

Job training counselor,

Steve Hickman, will be here Wednesday June 27 at 1 p.m. for those attending his training sessions.

The center has two summer workers for Seniors or Handicapped Citizens. Those needing assistance are asked to contact the center at 676-5873 or drop in at the center leaving name, address, and type of work to be done.

low gross and long drive; Harriet Pierson low net, and Lorena Jones least putts. A Ladies Invitational will be held June 19 with coffee at 8:30

## The Fifth Quarter

Sports by Mike Oths

It can be terribly difficult to write an article about "big-time" sports on a lazy summer afternoon. The thought of crowds and salary caps and guaranteed contracts and contact sports seems largely insignificant on a day better suited for a leisurely round of golf or an afternoon of uninspired fishing.

In all the sports pages recently, much has been made of the decline in television ratings for sports events. There doesn't seem to be a pattern to it, other than to say that ratings are down in all areas. Whether a particular event is a "prime" event or not seems to have little effect on this phenomenon.

Attractive match-ups have always been considered those that involve either high profile teams (Notre Dame, Boston Celtics, Dallas Cowboys) or those that involve prime television markets (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago). Even this theory has taken a beating in the recent past. The ratings were down pretty much uniformly for "small-market" match-ups such as last year's World Series (Philadelphia-Baltimore-smaller population, all East-Coast) and this year's Super Bowl (Raiders-Redskins). The Super Bowl numbers are particularly instructive, because the game involved one very large TV market (LA) and a glamour match-up. In truth, the NFL couldn't have asked for a better pairing, and still the viewership fell off.

Why do you think that all the ratings are down? I'd like to think that it's because all of us armchair athletes are finally turning off the set and heading for the playing fields, but I fear that that's only a small part of it. (Remember that the ratings were down in the dead of the winter, too.) Part of the reason, plain and simple, is overexposure. After so many crucial games and championship showdowns and must-win situations, a lot of people are just saturated. When public enthusiasm surfaces for a certain genre of sport, the people who move mountains are quick to rush in with an Everest or two for every cable TV station.

Several examples illustrate the force-feed approach: When the Olympic hockey team offered its "Miracle on Ice" in 1980, people watched. Therefore, in 1984, ABC bombarded us with more than anyone could possibly want to know about the US hockey team. When the boys in blue dropped their first game, ABC dropped its viewers. What the network moguls failed to see was that the spontaneity of the '80 team was its major charm.

NBC is currently running its promos for Saturday baseball by showing famous baseball highlights (Aaron's 715th homerun; Bobby Thomson's pennant-winner in '51; Don Larsen's perfect game) and then telling us all to tune in "because the memories are waiting." Those who tune in every Saturday expecting grand slam homers, perfect games and "lasting memories" will be waiting awhile. Baseball's beauty has always been its languid, summertime pace. Monday Night Football and Battle of the Network Stars do not translate well on the diamond. (Imagine the surprise the network is going to get when they realize that Mariners and Reds and Cardinals fans would rather watch their own team on a Saturday afternoon than a "glamour" match-up. The new network contract means only the Game of the Week will be aired on Saturday afternoons.)

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe the ratings are just in a temporary lull. Whatever, forgive me if I spend the next lazy, sunny afternoon soaking up the sunshine. Memories being what they are, they'll still be waiting next week.



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## Nazarene slates VBS

The Heppner Nazarene Church will hold Vacation Bible School beginning June 18 through 22. The school will feature Bible stories, music, crafts, and lots of fun for boys and girls ages three through sixth grade.

Special prizes will be given for memory work and attendance. V.B.S. will begin each morning at 9 a.m. and continue until 11:45 a.m.

All children from the community are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Rev. Floyd Wilks, 676-5529.

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