

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

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Heppner, Oregon

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Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Tues., Aug 14	84	49	
Wed., Aug 15	89	54	
Thurs., Aug 16	91	54	
Fri., Aug 17	88	50	
Sat., Aug 18	81	44	
Sun., Aug 19	85	45	
Mon., Aug 20	86	49	

## Morrow Co. employees build Grand Sweepstakes winner



Grand sweepstakes float

The Grand Sweepstakes Winner of the 1984 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Parade was built by Morrow County employees and is intended to be a permanent float, available for use by cities of Morrow County. It is representative of the one-room country schoolhouse which once was a major source of schooling in Morrow County. The flagpole on the schoolhouse was donated by County Commissioner Irv Rauch and is the original pole from the Strawberry School located about 10 miles north of Lexington. The school on the float has everything the old schools had:

teachers, including veteran district teachers Juanita Carmichael, Freda Slocum and Lorena Jones; students; and even a dunce. Another teacher of note who was not able to ride on the float Saturday is Marguerite Glavey. She used to teach in the Democrat Gulch School now located behind the museum. From the McGuffey Reader to the little globe, the one-room schoolhouse is a reminder of the setting in which many Morrow Countians began to learn their Readin', riting' and 'rithmatic said a parade spokesperson.

Marlene Currin who was judged "Best Cowgirl over 12" rode on a side saddle that is over 100 years old. It belonged to Katie Currin, Grand Marshall George Currin's mother.

Charlotte, 15 and Greg, 13 Parsons, The Windy City Clowns, from Skokie, Illinois are visiting their aunt and uncle, George and Anna Mae Steagall of Heppner for the first time. They also have the distinction of traveling the farthest for this parade.

Judges included: Clare Koznek, Julie Warren, Luke Bibby, Gene Pierce, Beth Bryant, Marianne Kahl, Mike Oths, Tom Alexander, Mike Lott, Lonny Watne, LaRae Kindle, April Sykes, Bobbie Angell, and Clista Venard.

Morrow County Wranglers Riding Club donated the public address system used for the parade.

More results page 5

## Co. Court meets 'Herb'

By MARYANN CERULLO  
Last Wednesday during Morrow County Court, County Sheriff Roy Drago introduced to the court a "potted pot plant" which stood approximately four and a half feet high. The plant, dubbed "Herb" by the Sheriff's department, had 25 potted plants in an Irrigon corn field. According to Drago, "Herb" would remain on display at the Sheriff's Dept. for a short time as an example of a marijuana plant. In other business, Drago requested the court's approval of an intergovernmental agreement with the Condon Police Department for a dispatching service. Drago stated that Condon has agreed to pay Morrow County \$300 a year for the service.

"This is a good service we'd be providing especially for under a dollar a day," Drago said.

The court approved the intergovernmental agreement with Condon and approved Drago's approaching Wheeler and Gilliam Counties with the same agreement.

Morrow County Court continued with the following business:

—discussed connecting the county health nurse's office to the county's new operator phone system.

—discussed the possibility of a computer for the health nurse's office.

—signed the third draft to an intergovernmental agreement between the county, the city of Heppner and the Morrow Co. School District for a sewage line. The line will run behind the fairgrounds and into town.

## Schwarz wins saddle



Pat Schwarz (left) accepts the amateur calf roping trophy saddle from Harry Kennison, general manager of Kinzua Corp.

More Morrow County Rodeo results on Page 6

## 'Mr. Budweiser' was show stopper

Saturday afternoon at the Morrow County Open Rodeo, "Mr. Budweiser," a big, ugly one-ton Brahma bull with big ugly horns stopped the show for about a half hour when he broke loose, bent up a gate and came through the Little League Parking lot knocking a camper off the camper jacks.

Confusion followed while the stock contractor chased him and finally got a rope on him. "You don't do much leading, but it stops him from going so fast," said one rodeo board member. He was soon under control and the rodeo continued.

## Accident injures Round-Up princess

During the Grand Entry at last Saturday's rodeo performance at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner two of the Pendleton Round-Up Court princesses and their horses collided. Both girls were thrown from their horses. Nancy Miller of Heppner was unhurt. Cindy Insko of Pilot Rock received a broken jaw and a concussion according to a spokesperson. She underwent surgery on her jaw Sunday morning at St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla where she was taken by LifeGuard III from Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

Insko's horse was unhurt after bumping shoulders with Miller's horse. Miller's horse, however, was taken to a veterinary clinic in Walla Walla with nerve damage to its shoulder. She reports that it will be a few days before they will know if the horse will be all right.

It is expected that Insko will be released from the hospital this week.

## N.Lex. wreck leaves 1 man dead

An accident north of Lexington on Highway 207 near milepost four left one man dead Saturday, Aug. 18.

The Oregon State Police from Hermiston responded to the accident at 9:50 p.m. The O.S.P. report says that the car was traveling south on Hwy. 207 when it ran off the right side of the road, came back on the highway, ran off the road to the left, came back on the highway again and rolled over, coming to a rest on its top on the roadway.

## Call of 'fire' brings out help during harvest time in South Morrow County

A combine throws a spark. Flames shoot up from stubble and wheat. Immediately, the harvest crew on that field starts fighting the fire with fire extinguishers and whatever else they have available, whether shovels to smother the fire with dirt, a pumper on a pickup with a tank or wet sacks to beat out the flames. Spray planes begin dumping water. Morrow County Grain Growers and Columbia Basin Electric arrive with 4x4 pickups outfitted with water tanks and pumps. Neighbors with water trucks, shovels, and more wet sacks — out of no where, everywhere, — people come to help. There is no organized effort; only a spirit of co-operation because its harvest time and fire danger time in Morrow County.

There is one rural fire district in southern Morrow County; it encompasses an area, with Heppner as its center, within a seven and one half mile radius. "We cannot respond (to a fire) out of our district," said Heppner Fire Chief, Forrie Burkenbine, but when there is a fire within the district, fire fighters and equipment are sent to fight the blaze.

"We must leave one pumper truck inside the city limits all the time," continues Burkenbine. Mainly, when the fire crew arrives at a wheat fire they try, if possible, to get ahead of it and stop it. "Time is also a factor we must evaluate; every situation is different." Sometimes, crews are more effective elsewhere. Burkenbine says that the Fire Dept. no longer uses backpacks with five gallons of water because firemen's time and effort are more effective in other ways.

Bob Costa of Morrow County Extension Service explains that several years ago there was a list of equipment available at various farms which was kept at the Extension office. If a fire started, someone would call them and they would begin calling people on the list nearest the fire's location. The list, however, has not been updated for several years and the current system is informal, he says. Farmers learn by "word of mouth" who has what equipment available.

Morrow County Grain Growers seem to be as organized as anyone in getting the word out about a fire. Manager Larry Mills says that if a fire is called in, they will dispatch a crew from M.C.G.G. and notify Gar Aviation. The main thing which the Grain Growers ask is good directions to the blaze. The Grain Growers' equipment consists of a 4x4 pickup with a tank and sprayer on the back and a fertilizer truck which is kept full of water during the harvest season. The fertilizer truck cannot go into the fields, Mills explains, but it can be parked close to the fire so that the pumper trucks don't have to go so far to get a fresh supply of water.

Mills says that although they do not have a designated fire crew, they always have people around and they go with the equipment to do the "handwork" with shovels and wet sacks which are needed to make sure the fire is completely out.

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op also has a 4x4 pickup with a 100 gallon tank and pump on the back which has been available for about the last year, reported Fred Toombs, co-op manager. The main reason that CBEC acquired the fire equipment was to preserve their power poles when in danger from a wheat fire. Toombs explains that C.B.E.C. likes to know about fires within their service area because fires "can be expensive, and we will send our truck with whoever is available as a crew." Toombs says that if no poles are in danger, the crews are to "go ahead and try to help stop the wheat fire."

Mel Boyer of Gar Aviation explains that during harvest especially, they scan the horizon. If they see smoke, first they decide how far away it is and if they think it is a wheat fire, they go without waiting to be called. Sometimes if everyone at the airport is busy in the shop, they don't see the smoke. Both fires that they have helped with this year,

they received a call from M.C.G.G. telling them the location.

Boyer explains that nothing is organized, but that it's fairly common in the wheat basin for everyone available to help with possible wheat fires. Because he has the planes available, always full of water, this is the way he feels that he can help most. Seitz-Currin have also sent their plane to fight fires this year. Boyer, however, inherited the fire fighting role from Gar Leyva about 25 years ago. He says that some farmers have tried in the past to pay for his service, but that he won't accept pay. It is volunteer, and available to whomever needs the help.

In the past, he explains that he would add a retardant to the water in the plane's tanks, but that it takes time and he feels he can do more good by getting to the fire faster. The planes are always full of water and ready to go.

Duane Disque and Gene Orwick of Lexington Lumber, in the same volunteer spirit, decided about two years ago that they would be more effective helping to fight a fire if they filled the tanks on the planes and moved the tanker so that the planes could reload closer to the site of the fire.

Not all spray planes have the right kind of dump valve to fight fire, Boyer explains. Some valves will dump the entire load in one spot and that doesn't do much good for fighting fire.

Boyer says that if they can stop a fire from the head, they do, but if it is burning downwind, sometimes they can't do too much ahead to stop it, so the standard procedure is to come along the edge, and drop water to cool the fire down. The people on the ground then "jump in and clean up." The airplanes dump water for a 200-300 yard stretch, then, hopefully, if things are going smoothly, another plane is there ready to take over while the first one goes for another load. The planes can put the fire out completely, but only for a short distance, so it proves more effective to drop enough water to

cool the fire down and then for the ground crews to go in and finish the job.

If there is an "average fire," Boyer says, "it probably starts when the emergency brake is left on and the driver moves a loaded wheat truck. Because the truck is loaded, the driver doesn't feel that the brake is on, and it is soon so hot that it ignites stubble. Another common cause is a combine covered with chaff which can get against the manifold and become hot."

Hopefully the fire is "small" which means that a farm crew can stop it on the spot, but if his planes are involved, Boyer says the fire probably encompasses 40 acres or more and takes about two hours to put out. Of course, if the wind is blowing, the fire will not stay in that small of an area for two hours.

Many factors determine the way the fire is dealt with: the lay of the land and natural breaks, the wind direction, and which side is most expensive. If buildings or uncut wheat is on one side of the fire and stubble or scab land on the other side, if possible, the planes attack the expensive side first. Sometimes, the fire is approached by dousing the sides to let the rest of the fire burn toward a road or fallow field which will not burn.

"Sometimes the fire is too hot for the ground crews and equipment. Sometimes, they're too hot for us, too, but we go anyway. If we can get on some of them in time, we can do a lot more than if we get there later. When the ground crews are somewhat organized, it helps too, and most of them are, just because they've been to many fires."

This has been a fairly good year, with only a few fires, Boyer continues, "and that says something about human nature." In years, like this one when everything is dry and there is the worst hazard, we experience the fewest fires. Three years ago when the hazard was average there were about 30 fires.

No charge—call us, we'll come and bring whomever we can. During fire season, at least, neighbors still do care about one another.



Mel Boyer fights wheat fire