

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 103 NO. 28 WEDNESDAY JULY 10, 1985 Heppner, Oregon 25¢ 10 PAGES



Weather

by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precp.
Tues., July 2	94	58	
Wed., July 3	96	60	
Thurs., July 4	99	51	
Fri., July 5	84	52	
Sat., July 6	91	58	
Sun., July 7	97	60	
Mon., July 8	96	64	

Watermelon ban

Local markets comply

Central Market in Heppner was the last local grocery store to remove watermelon from the shelf Tuesday. Monday afternoon, the green melon supplied by Associated Grocers were still on sale with a letter from the distributor displayed on the bin reassuring that "all melons purchased from Associated Grocers during the last week of June through the first week of July were not contaminated by the pesticide Temik." However, Ernie McCabe, co-owner of Central Market, said Tuesday that he received a phone call from the State Department of Agriculture instructing him to destroy all the melons in stock by Friday, July 12.

Court Street Market last Friday was the first to pull all of its melons. They did not receive official word from United Grocers until Monday, but Ruth Maben explains, the main offices are closed for the weekend and she had heard on the news that melons might be contaminated, so they immediately removed a 748 pound bin of melons from sale.

Don Bristow of Bristow's Market in Ione reported that they received word last Saturday from the state Health Department that all of their melons supplied by Pacific Fruit and Produce of Pasco, Washington, should be taken from the shelf. Although the wholesaler assured the market that the melons were from Phoenix rather than the areas infected by the pesticide, Bristows removed their three shopping carts of melons from sale.

Del's Market in Lexington has not had any watermelons in stock yet

this year. Del Piper reported that they "feel fortunate that they have not been all that involved" with the watermelon contamination.

Following is a press release from the state department of agriculture explaining the action it has taken:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Oregon State Health Division and the Federal Food and Drug Administration, has directed the immediate withdrawal of all watermelon—both striped and solid green—from sale in Oregon.

No watermelon may be sold in Oregon until it is clear there is no further risk to the public's health or welfare.

Persons are advised not to consume any watermelon purchased after June 28, 1985.

This action was taken following reported illnesses in this state and increasing reports of illness outside of Oregon, associated with the consumption of watermelon. Pesticide contamination is suspected as the cause of these illnesses.

Analysis of samples of striped watermelon taken from a family in Ocean Park, Washington, who became ill after eating the melon were positive for the pesticide Temik.

Additionally, samples of solid green watermelon taken from California retail grocery stores were also positive for the pesticide Temik. California has since recalled all watermelon from sale in that state.

Heppner woman wins chance at \$580,000 wheel

Belle Lillie of Heppner will go to Salem this Saturday to spin the wheel for the Oregon state lottery and a chance at winning from \$1,000 to \$580,000.

She purchased her \$100 ticket at Central Market and it was one of ten selected for a chance at the wheel from among 167 \$100 winners.

Wranglers raffle colt

The Morrow County Wranglers Riding Club is sponsoring a colt raffle. The yearling bay filly, sired by Ricky Taylor, is out of Peppy's Nifty Twist. She has been donated by area horse breeders, Burke and Ginger O'Brien. Tickets are available in cans distributed throughout the area in many businesses.

Prices are \$2 each or three for \$5. All proceeds will be used for improvements on the Wrangler Arena. The drawing will be held at the Cowboy Breakfast, August 18, 10 a.m. at the Fairgrounds during rodeo weekend. There will be two additional prizes drawn.

DMV tells July schedule

The Heppner office of the Department of Motor Vehicles will be closed July 17, the regular service day to Fossil. July 18, the office will be closed while the examiner is at John Day.

8 Eastern Ore. counties form independent state



Pictured left to right - "Slick" Wooters and governor Missy Wellman, Precious Garla Rowe, and first lady, Arden Werner. Back: Werner.

Have you ever considered Eastern Oregon as being separate from the state? Maybe even considered

forming our own state east of the mountains?

Well, in a manner of speaking that's just what a group from Baker is proposing to do.

Calling itself "Eastern Oregon, An Independent State of Mind," the group has elected a governor, sells membership cards and is even planning a state legislature meeting.

Composed of the eight eastern counties of Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Baker, Harney, and Malheur, the state would promote itself as a great place for people to spend their vacation. "We want to let people know what we have over here," said Michael "Slick" Wooters, owner of a tire store in Baker and one of the main backers of the state.

Although the idea is strictly in fun, what Wooters proposes could mean increased tourist dollars for Eastern Oregon.

"There are people over there (Western Oregon) who have never seen a real live cattle ranch," said Wooters. "We've got a lot to offer here, but we just haven't been promoting it."

Rep. French speaks out against sales tax

State Rep. Ray French said last week he is against the state sales tax that will be voted on Sept. 17.

Fresh off adjournment of the Oregon Legislature, French addressed the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, July 2.

"I have opposed it because, it doesn't do anything for small business or agriculture," French said.

As a replacement for property tax, French said the sales tax will not work. "I think in the end you will see your property tax back to where it is now, but you'll have the sales tax too." He pointed out that the sales tax taxes capital equipment, and "I don't like that."

On the Oregon Lottery, and the money generated, French said that higher education got a lot of it, and "I think they need it now, but I don't think it should be an on-going thing. Higher education was treated a little better than they deserved," he said about the distribution of the Lottery money. "Twenty-eight million goes to higher education, no matter what happens."

"The problem with the Lottery is there will never be enough money to do everything they want," he said of the distribution.

On other legislative matters, French said:

- there will be a 35 percent tax on smokeless tobacco (chew), with the money earmarked for senior citizen transportation projects.

- the state property tax relief

Pick up Fair Books at these locations

For anyone who has not received a copy of this year's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Premium Book, and would like one, copies are available at the following locations: In Heppner at the Heppner Gazette-

One thing this group has done so far is to dress up in clothes of the old west and go places. "It attracts attention, and people really like it," he said.

An outgrowth of the Miner's Jubilee, the Independent State of Mind is an effort to help the eight-county area get out its message.

"We're not going to help promote your county," Wooters told a gathering of city, chamber of commerce, and economic development representatives in Heppner last week. "But we can promote the region on a whole."

He mentioned brochures, signs and public appearances as ways the independent state can help the whole Eastern Oregon area.

The first "legislative session" of the state will be held in Baker (the state capital) on July 19, with duties to include adopting a "state constitution" electing state officials and other business.

"The purpose of our effort is to promote tourism and good will in the area, and bring joy to those who participate," Wooters said.

program will be phased out at the end of 1985 or in 1986, depending on the amount of money the state gets in.

- a bill was passed replacing the water resources department with a state water commission. "It will be set up similar to LCDC," he said.



Ray French

Heppner Scout on way to Nat'l Jamboree



J.J. Shaw

J.J. Shaw, son of Johnny and Linda Shaw of Heppner, will attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The Jamboree will be July 24-30, but the Blue Mountain Council Jamboree Troop 900 will leave July 17 and return August 2 in order to tour sites of historic interest in the East. The 32 scouts from northeast Oregon and southeast Washington will be joined by four Haitian scouts at the Jamboree. Scoutmasters are Kirt Skinner, Don Wilt, and Don Phillips.

North to Alaska!

4-H'ers depart for Juneau exchange



Heppner 4-H'ers left Monday, July 8 for an exchange trip through Canada and Alaska. They will camp out the six days on the road and spend six days with 4-H host families in Juneau, Alaska.

Pictured from left: Judy Wright (chaperone,) Kevin Hughes, Bobbi Jo Medlock, Jason Palmer, Theresa Lindsay, Kim Wright, Noella Rill, Andrea Ball, and Marion McMillan.

Former Fair & Rodeo Queen Named grand marshal



Ilene Richards

Ilene Kenny Richards, 1935 Queen of Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, has been selected grand marshal of this year's parade.

Born in Heppner in 1917, the daughter of John and Bridgett (Bea) Kenny, she was raised on a ranch in the Sandhollow area.

Following her reign as queen, she entered St. Anthony's Hospital School of Nursing in Pendleton. After graduating as an R.N., she attended the University of Oregon Medical School specializing in public health nursing. In June, 1950, she returned to Heppner with her husband Bill Richards and became the first Nursing Supervisor at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. In 1955, the family moved to Arcata, California, and on to McKinleyville, California, after their retirement.

One of the founders of the first rodeos, Ilene's father, John Kenny, was co-grand marshal in 1966.

Heppner man injured in accident

Forrie Burkenbine, co-owner of Central Market was injured a week ago Tuesday when he fell from the back of his pickup while unloading his four-wheeler.

He underwent surgery Tuesday night when a 12" plate was put in the leg he broke in three places.

Monday afternoon, he was reported in good condition after undergoing a second surgery, this one for a shattered ball joint in his shoulder.