

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather

September 17-23			
	High	Low	Precip.
Tues.	66	38	
Wed.	67	38	
Thurs.	68	38	
Fri.	72	45	
Sat.	70	39	
Sun.	70	38	
Mon.	73	43	

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Indian Summer

Rick Smith, (left) Jimmy Taylor and Donnie Taylor "choo choo train" down the slide at Heppner City Park Tuesday afternoon. While pleasant Indian summer

weather continues in the area, recent cool nights seem to beckon the soon-to-come winter weather.

Bombing range withdrawal

Public hearing requested

Morrow County Court, the county Planning Commission, and the cities of Boardman and Irrigon are send-

ing letters to the Bureau of Land Management requesting that public hearings be held in Morrow County

concerning the length of time for the proposed withdrawal of the Boardman Bombing Range. The Navy's current 40-year contract soon expires and they have requested that it be extended another 25 years. The lands would remain closed to surface entry and mining but would be opened to mineral leasing subject to Navy concurrence.

Bombing range undergoes changes

By BETH WILLIAMS

The Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility at Boardman has come a long way since Jimmy Doolittle dropped live bombs on broken flour sack targets for the Army Air Corps. Their targets are larger but no more sophisticated. They use abandoned cars. It is the bombers and the state of the art electronics that separate today's bombing range from that of World War II.

The bombers are A6-Intruder bombers from Whidby Island. The "hits" are made with small bombs with about the same charge as 12 gauge shot gun shells, according to Lt. Commander Hal Curtis, commander for the Boardman range. The "hits" are recorded with video cameras mounted in the unmanned towers near the "bull" or target. The record of the "hit" (or miss) is transmitted via micro wave to a manned tower where the information is relayed immediately to the pilot of the bomber. Other targets used are remote control dune buggies. From a station in a tower that resembles the dash board of a car, an operator controls the buggy dodging back and forth across the field.

The original bombing range was an area of about 110,000 acres. It included what is now the Boardman Airport, part of Taggares Farms, and the PGE Coal Fire Plant site. Of

the original site, less than 47,000 acres is now held by the Navy. The Navy actually uses somewhere in the neighborhood of 9,000 acres. The rest is leased to private parties for grazing, dedicated for environmental uses, (the University of Oregon often uses the area for studies), or reserved as a National Historic site (the Oregon Trail passes through the far south end of the range.)

The 27 people who man the range are responsible for the road maintenance, building upkeep, and keeping the moving targets or dune buggies running, and maintaining and monitoring the electronics equipment. A large number of the personnel at the range live on the Umatilla Army Depot but seven of the staff live in Boardman. The men who man the bombing range are actively involved with the community. In 1984, their funds raised for UFC, the military's compliment to United Way, were directed to Morrow County for the first time due to the efforts of Commander Hal Curtis.

BLM is accepting written comments from area residents requesting public hearing through October. If sufficient response is received, the BLM says hearings will be held in the area.

County Court and the Planning Commission have expressed concern that the 25 year proposal is too long a time and should be reduced to five or ten years. Reasoning includes the bombing range's proximity to the urban growth boundary of Boardman, possible retardation of development in the county, its unknown effect on the Boardman airport, and that the current rapid rate of advancement of military technology which might make such a large withdrawal a wasteful and inefficient use of key real property in the not-too-distant future.

Written comments may be addressed to: State Director, BLM (943), Oregon State Office, P.O. Box 2963, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Oregon Falconers hunt in area



photo by Gok Nansen

The Oregon Falconers Association held its annual Field Meet at Heppner September 20-22. The organization camped at the group camp area of the Morrow County Fair Grounds.

Mike Syring of Estacada is pictured above with his five year old Harris Hawk. Syring is treasurer of the O.F.A.

Hawks pictured at right are owned by the association's president, Byron J. Gardner. "Thulla," a Peregrine Falcon is in the foreground and "Gray Spirit," a Peregrine gyrfalcon hybrid is in the background.



Premature twins delivered at Pioneer Hospital

Premature twins born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner last Wednesday, Sept. 18 were taken to Kadlec Hospital in Richland later that day. Destinee Jeanne Rippee arrived at 10:44 a.m. weighing 2 lbs. 9 oz. She was 15 1/2" long. Two minutes later, at 10:46 a.m., a second baby was born weighing 2 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 15 1/2" long. The parents, Terri and Chris Rippee of Eagle Creek near Estacada, were expecting only one child, so the second baby was not named Danielle Denise until later.

A lifeguard helicopter first arrived at the Heppner hospital but was unable to transport the infants. Two ambulances arrived later (one had taken a wrong turn near Arlington), but both babies were transported in one ambulance to the neonatal intensive care unit at Kadlec.

The twins are the fifth generation of the family born in Heppner. Their



Births

father, Chris, was delivered by Dr. Wagner in 1954; grandfather, Lowell, was delivered by Dr. McMurdo in 1929. The late Elma McFerrin Hiatt was the first generation born in Heppner.

The Rippees were staying at their grandparents' cabin at Reeds Mill on Rock Creek. Chris had gone bow hunting at 5 a.m. and learned of his daughters' birth from neighbor Mildred Eubanks who had taken Terri to the hospital and left a note for Chris to come to the Eubanks cabin.

"This is the neatest hospital," said Chris of Pioneer, "Everyone here has been just great." He and his

wife plan to stay with relatives in the Tri-Cities until the babies are released to go home. Grandparents of the twins are Lowell and Beverly (Eberhardt) Rippee of Milwaukie, Jeanne Johnson, Portland, and the late Wayne Johnson.

Great-grandparents are Letha and Oscar Rippee, Condon.

Many hunters expected for season's opening day

Prospects for smaller bucks may be somewhat better than last year, reports Bob Krein of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who anticipates that large numbers of hunters will converge on the Heppner area between now and the opening day of buck season, Saturday, Sept. 28.

Some concern has been voiced locally about animals which have been afflicted with Blue Tongue Virus, he said, but only 20-30 cases have been verified, some in the Hinton Creek area and a few along Little Butter Creek. More animals than that are lost each year when hit by cars. The virus, he says is common among mule deer over all of Eastern Oregon and occurs during years with a hot dry summer when animals are in a concentrated area. "There's nothing you can do to prevent it."

Hunters need not be concerned however, about the insect-transmitted virus because it is not transferred to humans, he says. A nasal discharge and a lethargic manner, are the visible symptoms, but do not

affect the meat, according to the Oregon State Veterinarian.

Cool weather a week and a half ago has slowed the virus down, continued Krein. A hard frost in the higher elevations has stopped it there and the continued cool weather has the virus on a downhill slide in lower elevations.

Time to enter wool contest

Judging will begin at 9 a.m. at the Red Lion Motor Inn in Pendleton for the District 11 sew with wool contest.

Entry forms for the contest and reservations for the no-host luncheon should be returned as soon as possible to Dorothy Hurrle, 1009 N.W. 13th Place, Pendleton. Entry forms are available at the Morrow County Extension Office for those who still need them. Contestants need not be 4-H'ers.

First place winners in the junior and senior divisions will be awarded a trip to the state contest. First place winner in the pre-teen contest will be awarded a wool pelt donated by the Henry Krebs family.

Contestants are judged both on the quality of the workmanship and modeling of the wool garment which may be sewn, woven or knit.

SBDC slates business series

A business lunch series sponsored by the Small Business Development Center will begin in Heppner October 3. The seven consecutive Thursday discussion series will feature topics selected by area business people. Pre-registration is required for the series which includes: Computers and Small Business, Customer Relations, Successful Advertising Methods, Inventory Control, Cash Flow Management, Evaluation of Operations, and Credit and Collections. Forms are available at the Heppner Gazette-Times office, 147 West Willow.

A buffet lunch will begin at 12 noon at the Heppner Elks Club with

discussions to begin as soon as everyone is seated. Fees are \$9.50 per session or \$60 for the entire series.

52% mark sales tax ballots

Fifty-two percent of the registered voters in Morrow County voiced their opinion on the sales tax measure at the Tuesday, Sept. 17 election. Ione led the county with a 65 percent turnout, Irrigon 47 percent and Boardman 43 percent.

HHS senior receives NMSC commendation



Alex Lindsay (left) receives letter of commendation at HHS assembly. Presenting award is Liz Curtis.

Heppner High School has been notified by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) that Alex

Lindsay is the son of Corrine and Larry Lindsay of Lexington. A senior at Heppner High, Lindsay plans to study genetics or microbiology when he graduates from high school. Currently he is president of the Heppner High FFA Chapter.

Participants entered the current Merit Program by taking the PSAT-NMSQT in October, 1984, when most of them were juniors. Although their qualifying test scores are very high, the 35,000 Commended Students nationwide scored slightly below the level required for Semifinalist standing. Only the 15,000 Semifinalists, whose names were announced on September 11, will continue in the competition for some 5,800 Merit Scholarships to be awarded in 1986.

Several projects raising funds for Sr. Center

By Justine Weatherford

The South Morrow Senior Citizens have a building site and plans for a full-time senior center and community building. Now they are really eager to raise more funds so that the building can begin. Several projects are on-going presently and more projects are planned soon.

The three cords of wood on the vacant lot on Main Street are being raffled with chances selling at \$1 each or seven chances for \$5. The woodcutting took place on Dr. Tibbles' mountain property and involved Phyllis Hunter, Clayton Ayers, Bill Collins, Bill Cox, Ed Dick, Bill Driscoll, Jim Hayes, Paul Jones, and Everett Keithley. This crew cut four cords and hauled it to town. They delivered one cord to Dr. and Mrs. Tibbles and stacked the other three cords downtown. Ask any of them, or Babe Harris, when you want chances on a cord of wood, the three cords will be passed out before Thanksgiving Day.

Jane Rawlins has inaugurated a new weekly project. At each Wednesday meal there will be a

"Go-For-It Table" which will display donated jam and jelly, baked goods, handmade articles, fresh vegetables, house plants and miscellaneous whatnots or white elephants for sale. The first table on Sept. 18 brought in \$23.30 for the building fund.

Parents club to meet

The first meeting of the Heppner Parents Club will be held this Thursday, Sept. 26, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Heppner Elementary.

The meeting will follow the Heppner Elementary School's open house which is planned from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Parents, teacher, administrators and everyone interested are invited to attend to voice their concerns and ideas. For more information contact Chris Adelman 676-5196, Marcia Kemp 989-8178, or April Hilton-Sykes 676-9939.

Soon more card parties for pinocle and bridge players are planned under the leadership of Gladys Connor; Daisy Collins will chair food sales; Dot Halvorsen will be chairing a pancake supper at Ione. Nina Denton will donate an afghan to be raffled later. Grace Buschke, Millie Harris, and Babe Harris will assist with various planned projects.

The Irrigon Senior Citizens gave the South Morrow Seniors a quilt that is being raffled presently. Babe Harris is selling tickets on this. The group of fund-raisers is already planning to have a table at the December 7 Artifactory.

The South Morrow Seniors are very enthusiastic about Meg Murray's announced plans for remodeling the Heppner Hotel into retirement apartments. They foresee that plan and their projected Senior Center will surely make the Heppner-South County area a more attractive place for mature residents, a very fast-growing segment of America's population.