



Riverside High School's Volleyball team planted the 12" tree starts at the Port.

## Port conducting energy research

Energy has always been a vital concern to everyone, and it is never so apparent as when we pay our monthly heating bill in the winter. The Port of Morrow has recently engaged in a research project to determine the suitability of growing hybrid poplar (cottonwood) tree clones for the production of steam or electricity. As of now they have 12,000 trees planted on 3.1 acre test plots and over the next five years will determine whether or not they can be grown successfully in the Boardman area. The tree starts were purchased from Crown Zellerbach who

is growing the clones for paper pulp. Jerald Rea, Utility and Farm Supervisor for the port with the help of Rich Shuren, Superintendent of Research for Crown Zellerbach will be studying the three varieties of trees to evaluate several criteria: including uniformity of water distribution, edge effects due to wind, disease and insect impacts with respect to overhead irrigation, survival and wet and dry biomass. Also the effects of different levels of potato-processing wastewater for irrigation, planting densities and the amount of energy which can be produced from the wood fiber, and

suitability for growing with present equipment and cultural practices. If all goes well, this project will foster several positive benefits which would affect our lives directly. First, it will provide us with an alternative energy resource that is cheaper and renewable in a short time span (the trees grow 8-10 feet a year and would be harvested annually), secondly, it would provide a long term market for our depressed agricultural industry, and thirdly it will allow our local potato processors to dispose of wastewater (which is high in nitrogen) with a minimum environmental impact.



photo by George "Zoom" Kuffler

## Chamber honors Heppner business

Max English (right) and Pat Mitchell of Heppner The Chamber in honoring English, the new owner of the Chevron station, with a sign in front of the business. Chamber of Commerce. The sign says "Congratulations We're Proud of You."

## Trout season opens April 26

Oregon's annual rite of spring, the opening of trout season, is almost here. Prior to the official opener April 26, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will stock lakes and streams with more than 250,000 legal size trout. The official "opening" of trout season is more of a tradition than a legal fact these days, says a Department of Fish and Wildlife news release. Most lakes and reservoirs around the state are open all year. Also, most streams along the coast, in northeastern Oregon and some

rivers in the Willamette system remain closed until May 24. This later opening is in place to protect salmon and steelhead smolts that migrate to sea during the spring months. Anglers should check regulations to sort this out. Even though many standing water bodies are already open, department officials estimate that more than 200,000 trout anglers make opening weekend their first fishing trip of the year. Most northwest Oregon streams, including the John Day Basin do not open until May 24. Check the angling

regulations for details. Exceptions which open April 26 include Willow Creek, Rhea Creek, Butter Creek, and McKay Creek above McKay Reservoir. McKay Reservoir opened March 1. Ponds which are open year-round, but will be planted with trout prior to April 26 include, Tatone, McNary, and Hal Rock Ponds. Access to all of these should be okay by the general season opener on April 26. Willow Creek Reservoir is open year-round and fishing is expected to be good for trout 8 to 18-inches.



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