

# The Heppner Gazette-Times

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Twelve Pages



Weather

by the City of Heppner

April 29 - May 9			
	High	Low	Prec
Tues	55	28	.0
Wed	63	36	.0
Thurs	74	44	.04
Fri	57	45	.09
Sat	56	36	.0
Sun	60	40	.0
Mon	61	36	.47

## Anderson given conservation award

Although he claims that he is not doing anything different than the rest of the farmers around, his attempt to develop a no-till system using existing equipment rather than renting special no-till equipment may have been one of the reasons Charlie Anderson was selected Morrow County Conservation Farmer of the Year.

"It makes dollars and sense," Anderson says, "to conserve. With more moisture and more soil, the immediate returns are there, and the long term returns are even better."

Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with concentration in personnel, Anderson says, he came home and farmed, an occupation, he learned from his dad, Frank Anderson, who also has held the honor of Conservation Farmer of the Year. He earned the title in 1949. With three experts, his dad and older brothers Eric and Steve, helping, it makes the job a lot easier, he explains.

He farms four places, and uses mostly the more accepted terracing, and "trashy" summer fallow methods on the rented ground. He has 1,450 acres in Fuller Canyon; however, which he purchased from Marcel Jones (another Conservation Farmer of the Year, for strip farming used on this same piece of ground) in 1977. He began changing to farm-over type terraces and has added to the project yearly.

He identifies the main erosion problems in Fuller Canyon as the sudden, devastating storms and flood runoff at anytime of the year. "The ground has to be ready year around," he says.

Hopefully, he says, six inches of wet dirt is sufficient to try a no-till crop in the fall. The risk of spring seeding is the risk of not raising a good crop. He uses a regular fertilizer applicator with a reinforced shank rather than a summer fallow shank. He then uses 10" hoe drills to seed "Eric Anderson certified seed" into residue from a 40 bu per acre or less crop. The method is still experimental, and the method of fertilizing is "O.K.," but it seems there should be a better way," he says. The annual no-till, he says, requires extra fertilizer, 80 lbs. nitrogen and 15 lbs. sulfur compared with 50-60 lbs. nitrogen on the better areas of the ground with summer fallow and 40 lbs. nitrogen in shallower areas. Annual no-till yields are about 70-80 percent of summer fallow yields.

The decision to no-till depends on the amount of moisture in the fall and the farm program. This year, he has 450 acres of fall no-till barley and 210 of spring no-till barley. The reason for the barley, he says is that



From left: the Anderson, Marcia, Claire age 2, Charlie and Colin age 7, stand near a terrace on the Fuller Canyon place.

he couldn't seed more wheat and still qualify for the farm program.

Anderson farms four different places, but all are dryland wheat and barley. The earliest farming is the 1,000 ft. elevation place in Blalock canyon 15 miles west of Arlington on the Sherman and Gilliam County lines. Fuller canyon is ready next at 2,500 ft. elevation, then the Ridge Place on the Gilliam county-line located between Condon and Heppner at 2,800 ft. elevation. Anderson Camp at 3,000 ft. elevation has many severe slopes, he says, and is farmed later. Some of the Blalock, Fuller and Ridge places are farmed the same year.

The emphasis on conservation

seems also to contribute to the quality of his crop. Anderson earned the 1984 Oregon State Fair award for the best seed exhibit.

In addition to farming, he was the 1981 president of the Morrow County Wheat League, has been on the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee, is a director for the Morrow County Grain Growers, and served two

years as vice chairman of the Oregon Wheat League Production and Land Use Committee.

Next year, he plans to bid 400 acres of Fuller Canyon and all of the Ridge place into the Conservation Reserve Program. He says he would like to start planting some of the grass as early as this fall on the shallowest and most easily erodible ground.

At Boardman

By Avon Melby

Plans for a \$10 million test range development on county land rented by Boeing were revealed at the Morrow County Planning Commission meeting last week.

Boeing asked for a change from exclusive farm zone to commercial zone for 10,420 acres of its rented land, to develop the antenna test range project.

A permanent work force of 15 would be at the site. There would be "transitory personnel" coming from other Boeing facilities nationwide at special phases of the program.

The total project is classified, and the location was chosen because of its isolation, Boeing representatives told the planners. There will be a security fence built all around the 10,420 acres, and it will be patrolled.

A 7,500 foot long, and 50 foot wide range with asphalt surface will be constructed. A 1,500 foot wide graveled-surface ellipse-shaped addition will be positioned on both sides at range center.

There will be three buildings. An assembly and storage building of 100 by 150 feet will include an office, a paint booth, and two shops. Each shop will house a two and a half ton bridge crane, and provide accommodations for 12 people. There will be a loading dock here.

An administration building, composed of three 14 by 60 foot modules, with a space for 16 administrative and security people, and an engineering building, of the same

size and construction, will provide space for 14 engineers.

Morrow County Planning Director Deane Seeger said the site is bounded on the west by Six Mile Canyon, and on the east by the Bombing Range. It runs from the Port of Morrow airport on the north to the Portland General Electric Coal plant on the south.

Tower road, the only access to the PGE plant, runs down the middle of the proposed enclosure. How access would be provided for that plant was not included in the presentation by Boeing.

The work will be highly classified and "they do not want anyone around," Seeger said. Boeing officials told the county planners 51 other sites around the Northwest had been considered before the Boardman site was chosen by reason of its isolation, and remoteness from heavy traffic, radio, and TV transmission.

The site would not affect construction of a proposed \$6 billion particle accelerator and research center in Morrow and Umatilla counties Seeger said.

There will be no pollution from the proposed use. "This particular operation is of the space-age technical type that doesn't have any polluting effect whatsoever," Seeger said. He has not concluded his research on effects of the requested use, but added "The economics of it sound good. Any increase in employment in the county is good."

State law allows the planning com-

## New foot bridge plans completed

By Avon Melby

Arrangements are completed for a new foot bridge over Willow Creek between Court and Main streets. Heppner City Council was told Monday night.

Georgia Rathbun, councilwoman in charge of the committee, said lumber had been donated by Kinzua, fencing by Morrow County Grain Growers, and Heppner Lions Club had agreed to do the work. Dave Winters, city crew foreman, will oversee the project. He told the council a new paved approach will replace the present wooden walk, with the city crew doing that work. Ordinance No. 460, requiring a license for peddlers, was adopted after making some changes. Purpose of the licensing is to keep out people who might be acting outside the law, not to raise money, members of the council said. A fee to cover costs of a background check on all applicants was deemed necessary. This was set at \$10 for one day, \$20 for a week's permit, and \$100 for a year. The yearly permits may be renewed by application to the council without additional charge.

Requests for city water to serve a two-acre lot above the cemetery, next to Bobbie Angell property, was made by Ken Key. He said he had been living on the property in a trailer for two months, had a permit from Department of Environmental Quality to put in a septic tank, and approval of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op for electric service. He was told the proper procedure was to obtain a letter from the county planning director stating action taken by the county planners, before the city could review his plans. He may present it, with a drawing of his plans for building, to the city planners at their meeting next Monday. The property is located in the city's urban growth boundary, and approval of both county and city is necessary, he was told.

Personnel policies were worked over at a four-and-a-half hour meeting last week by the council, but came up for some review, mainly to change wording to be sure exact meanings were in the new 29-page manuscript. Changes pertained to compensatory time, holidays, sick

leave, and substituting "full time" employee for "permanent" places where the term appeared.

Contract for operation of the city landfill runs out soon, city attorney Bill Kuhn said. He said a plan must be drawn up and presented DEQ to gain approval for the city to continue operating the facility. He said it would probably be necessary to dig five trenches, 20 feet wide and 200 feet long. This should be sufficient to cover the amount of material the city would need to dispose of for the next five years, and a five-year lease should be requested.

Several cost estimates for street repair were given by Winters, but he council said they wanted to hold a vote on a three-year serial levy to fund a complete street re-building and water line replacement. Decision was made to hold that election August 13 or September 16. Specifications will be drawn up and exact costs obtained for the work needed.

Approval of the city's application for a \$600,000 loan from the State Housing Department has been held up, Kuhn reported. He said he and State Rep. Ray French, and State Sen. Eugene Timms, had talked to people in Salem last week and "It looks like the money may be available." Timms is on the senate finance committee and was very interested in the project of remodeling Heppner Hotel for a retirement complex.

Mayor Cara Costa read a letter from Pioneer Memorial Hospital stating that since the flood warning equipment located in the hospital was no longer needed due to construction of the dam, the hospital would like to have it removed. Police Chief Douglas Rathbun said monitors were in Shobe Canyon to warn of flood, and in Hinton Creek, and the warning equipment was very much needed.

City Administrator Marshall Lovgren was granted permission to transfer funds within the general fund, from one area to another, to cover where more money had been used than was budgeted in some funds.

mission 45 days to review the proposal and make a recommendation to the county court on action on the 10 days. The court has an additional 10 days.

If everything goes on schedule,

## Rail reps. to meet with local shippers May 12

Judge McElligott announced Friday that Dave Astle, the Assistant Public Utility Commissioner of Oregon and Claudia Howells, the Manager of the Rail Abandonment Task Force will be in Heppner to meet with shippers on the evening of May 12. The meeting will be in the Courtroom of the Morrow County Courthouse at 7:30 p.m.

Officials of the Union Pacific met with shippers in Pendleton last August to announce that the Condon

and the proposal is allowed, "Boeing could be starting construction in 60 days," Seeger said.

A public hearing by the court, and action on the proposal, is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Morrow County Courthouse June 11.

and Heppner branch lines were under study. Howells says that all the railroads are studying ways to increase efficiency and maximize profits. This will probably mean disposition of money losing branch lines. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss steps to assure that we retain the Heppner Branch.

The County Court urges all interested citizens to attend the Monday night meeting.

## Morrow chapter honored for contributions to Red Cross

The Morrow County Chapter of the American Red Cross was recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the Columbia River Regional Blood Services.

Over 28 percent of blood donors in Morrow County gave blood for the first time in 1985. This was the highest percentage of first-time donors in the entire 14 county Columbia River Region.

The chapter was awarded a certificate of appreciation at the Columbia River Regional Blood Services annual meeting in Yakima April 17.

"We appreciate the support of our new donors," said Ray Micheal, Boardman Blood Services Chairman. "The participation of first time donors is absolutely vital to the future of the Red Cross blood program."

The Columbia River Regional Blood Services provides blood and blood products to patients in 31 hospitals throughout Central Washington and Northeastern Oregon. Annual target collection goal is 27,560 units of whole blood.



Claire and Colin help their dad inspect wheat for foot rot and cephalosporium leaf stripe.