



Retirement?

Above photo: Commissioner Jerry Peck (left) and Irv rauch laugh along as Administrative Assistant LoRayne Bowman presents Judge Don McElligott with a gift from county employees. Retired Commissioner Warren McCoy completed the dais at a retirement party honoring Judge McElligott last Friday night in Boardman.

Below: Judge McElligott takes the microphone to name names and relate a few amusing stories of his own following good-humored toasting by friends and colleagues.



Corps forced to fence beach

The Army Corps of Engineers has built a fence along the federally owned lands adjacent to the Columbia River in Irrigon. The fence has become necessary Park Manager Richard Hess said because operators of Off Road Vehicles have ignored signs prohibiting the vehicles in the area.

The Corps property is designated a fish and wildlife management area, Hess said. "In recent years, the area has become a dumpsite for lawn clippings, household trash, litter and debris. Some of the adjacent landowners have illegally fenced parts of the area for their private use. Others have complained of the noise and dust caused by three-wheelers, trail bikes, and other off road vehicles. The continued indiscriminate use of ORVs has resulted in soil erosion problems, the needless destruction of the land and the decline of vegetation preferred by wildlife. All these activities: littering, dumping trash and lawn clippings, private use and ORV traffic are against federal regulations and are subject to fine," he said.

Last year the Corps installed physical barriers to control the problem and put signs in the area, but this had no real effect, Hess continued.

The Corps has no intention of keeping people out of the area, he emphasized. Gates designed to allow equestrian and pedestrian traffic will be placed at intervals where we think people will be likely to enter the area. Those who have concerns placement of gates should call the Natural Resources Office at The Dalles Dam, 296-1181.

After the fence is finished there will still be corridors to the river, Hess said. The extension of Fourth street allows vehicles to drive to the pump site and park. N. First St. is wide enough to drive down to the camping and fishing area, and Eighth St. provides access to the river.

Farm credit system can recover, representative tells wheat growers

The surplus funds of the nation's private farm credit system are dwindling fast under the breakdown of the farm economy, a representative of the system told Oregon wheat growers at their December convention.

But the good news is, the surplus isn't diminishing as fast as predicted by the federal government, and may last well into 1987, said Al Haslebacher, vice president in legislative and public affairs for the Farm Credit Services of Spokane.

In 1985, the farm credit system lost \$2.5 billion, leaving a surplus for 1986 of \$3.4 billion. During the first nine months of this year, the system lost \$1.52 billion and may stay under the \$2 billion in losses for 1986, leaving a surplus of about \$1.4 billion for 1987.

The federal General Accounting Office had predicted 1986 losses of \$2.9 billion.

"There should be a surplus to go

through most of 1987," said Haslebacher. "But we are pretty close to the point where we will have a hard time being in a net earning position," he said.

The private farm credit system, like the nation's banks and savings and loan institutions, operates under federal regulation, specifically the Farm Credit Act of 1971.

Two recent amendments to the act may help shore up the system, said Haslebacher. Congress pledged in 1985 to provide backup credit if the system drops into the red, and in 1986 provided for regulated accounting to try to extend the life of the surplus.

The system has been hurting in part because the total volume of outstanding loans is dropping as more borrowers are paying off their loans. As a result, the delinquent loans—which are not earning interest for the system—are making up a larger and larger percentage of the outstanding loans, Haslebacher said.

The total loan volume outstanding declined 11.4 percent in the first nine months of this year, down to \$61.8 billion, said Haslebacher.

A couple of federal directives have angered borrowers, too, said Haslebacher. One directive was that the system could not raise interest rates across the board; the federal regulator required a three-class interest rate system ranging from 10 percent to 12.25 percent. Another is that borrowers now are required to provide annual balance sheets to the lender.

"No other lender requires that," he said. "And our added reporting requirements have extended the loan processing time, causing many strong borrowers to leave."

"We are not in good health," said Haslebacher. "The farm credit system is seriously ill." But while the Congressional amendments "don't change the basic equation, it does defer the day we run out of surplus."

"We must use that time gained for us wisely to ensure the system will be able to meet the needs of agriculture in the future," he said.



County Agent's Corner
By County Ag Agent Fred Lundin

The most beautiful holiday poinsettias are the healthy and well-cared for plants. Regardless of the size, shape or color of poinsettia you want to purchase for holiday decoration, selection and care guidelines for the plants are the same.

You can buy tall poinsettias for display in large tubs, low ones for a table centerpiece and any size in between.

Selection Guidelines:
-Green foliage all the way to the soil line indicates a disease-free plant with active roots.

-Plants that have no flower are past their prime and will have a shorter life. The red, petal-like leaves are not flowers. The actual flower is a small, yellow pea-shaped structure located in the center of the colored leaves or bracts. The absence of the flower may be due to the plant going through temperature-

change shock, causing the flowers to drop.

Care Guidelines:
-On the trip home, wrap the plant in paper to protect it from cold temperatures. Once home, water the plant thoroughly. Then water again only when the surface of the soil in the planting pot seems dry.

-The best room temperature for poinsettias is 65° to 70° F. by day, 55° to 60° F. at night. They need sunlight, if available, but when placing the plant near a window, don't let the leaves touch the windowpane, or they will shrivel and drop.

-Several weeks after bringing the poinsettia home, feed the plant with soluble fertilizer diluted in water.

Use one-fourth the dilution required for houseplants. Fertilize the plants every three or four weeks, as needed to keep it actively growing.

Fillies take championship

By Ashley Conklin
Two big guns for the Fillies, Missy Eubanks and Tami Lindsay, led Heppner in the two-day Morrow County Invitational Tournament this past weekend as Heppner won the same basketball tournament they did a year ago.

Eubanks tallied 41 points in the two games while collecting 24 rebounds, 7 assists, and 21 steals.

Lindsay, who came off the bench for the Fillies, had impressive numbers as well, racking up 22 points and 35 rebounds.

"Missy played two solid games and Tami did a good job for us com-

ing off the bench," Heppner coach Mike Royer said.

Heppner dumped the lone Cardinals 48-32 in its opening game. Meanwhile the host Riverside Pirates beat the Catlin-Gabel Eagles 46-28.

The Fillies then took care of the Pirates 46-32 in the championship game. The Cardinals bounced back from their loss to Heppner by defeating the Eagles for third place.

Heppner did have a total of 64 turnovers for the tournament which worries Royer.

"We were really sloppy against lone's and Riverside's presses," he said.

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Sheriff named assoc-director

The Morrow County Sheriffs Office received word that Sheriff Roy Drago has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Oregon State Sheriffs Association. He joins Multnomah County Sheriff, Fred Pearce, Linn County Sheriff, Ken Goin and Jackson County Sheriff, C.W. Smith on the board. Sheriff Drago is replacing Sheriff Ham Perkins of Jefferson County who is retiring as of January 1, 1987.

The Oregon State Sheriffs Association is a non profit organiza-

tion consisting of the state's sheriffs. The Organization is involved in community action, education and training, scholarships for criminal justice programs, legislative activity, alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, Search and Rescue programs, and many many other worthwhile programs for the welfare of the citizens of Oregon.

Sheriff Drago has been active in the organization ever since his appointment to Morrow County Sheriff in 1983.

JV Mustangs lose season opener

By Ashley Conklin
Riverside's junior varsity boys basketball team held on in the fourth quarter last Tuesday night to defeat the Heppner Mustangs 61-59.

The Pirates survived a late surge led by Russell Britt to top Heppner in the Mustangs season-opener. Britt, who had earlier scored 29 points in the freshmen game (see related story), had 12 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Riverside took a 24-18 lead at intermission and led 38-32 after three quarters behind 10 points from Brad Reisch.

Both teams went wild in the fourth period as Heppner put 27 points on the scoreboard and the Pirates 23. Brian Skaggs helped Britt lead the Mustang charge with six points in the fourth period but Riverside held on thanks to seven points in the period by Mike Maddox and some clutch free throw shooting.

For the game each team made 23 field goals. The difference in the game was free throw shooting where Riverside made 15 of 26 offerings for 58 percent compared to 13 of 25 and 52 percent for Heppner.

Britt added five rebounds and four

assists to his 14 points in just two quarters of action.

Will Martin had 11 points and collared 7 rebounds to lead the team along with Craig Angell who also had 7. Mike Mahoney also handed out five assists.

Maddox led four Pirates in double figures with 16 points. Reisch scored 15, Tom Stanton netted 11, and Vince Daltoso gunned in 10.

The Mustangs played Riverside again last night but results were unavailable at press time.

Following the Riverside contest Heppner will travel to Ukiah Friday for a 7:30 p.m. game with the Cougars.

Statistics	1	2	3	4	P
Riverside	8	16	14	23	61
Heppner	10	8	14	27	59
Riverside-Garcia	5	6	10	16	37
Stanton	5	13	11	11	40
Daltoso	4	2	5	10	21
Koffler	1	0	0	0	1
Reisch	6	3	15	23	45
Heppner-Struthers	9	9	11	9	47
Britt	4	6	7	14	31
Correa	1	0	1	2	4
Devic	3	0	1	4	8
Hays	1	0	0	2	3
Lindsay	2	0	1	4	7
Hansen	1	0	2	0	3
Flour	2	0	1	4	7
Fouled Out	0	0	0	0	0
Technical Fouls	0	0	0	0	0
Stanton	0	0	0	0	0
Total	23	23	23	23	92

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