

## Britt Logging awarded

Britt Logging Company of Lexington was presented a merit award for an outstanding logging operation in Wheeler County during 1986. This company has met and exceeded the requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Rules, during their 1986 harvesting operation on Kinzua land in the Kahler Basin area in Wheeler County. Their efforts to protect the integrity of the

streams and stream banks and maintain water quality in two steelhead bearing streams serve as a good example to all Oregonians concerned about the forest environment. The Britt Logging Company is a past Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year and Environmental Logger of 1985. These awards show the company's continued efforts at protecting the environment while harvesting forest lands.



John Britt (left) receives merit award from Al Newman, forest practices inspector from John Day.

## Boardman team headed to state

For the fourth straight year Riverside High School has qualified a team for the state Olympics of the Mind Tournament to be held in Monmouth on April 4. Olympics of the Mind is a national competition for students with an interest in creative problem solving.

This year the Riverside team entered the "Poetic License" contest. The students had to select a Poem from a given list and develop a re-creation of the poem. Riverside chose "How Do I Love Thee" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Their parody and satire of the poem is titled "How Do I Dislike Thee". At the

East of the Mountains Regional held Saturday, March 14 in Bend, Riverside took first place in the high school division and now moves on to state competition.

Members of the team are Lisa Jurney and Colleen Hensley (the dueling knights), Harold Glenn (the roving reporter from the United States), and Heather Cumbie (who plays Elizabeth Barrett Browning). Bob Deeter, Riverside Business Instructor and Academically Talented Coordinator, is the coach. A win in Monmouth would qualify Riverside for the national tournament at Northern Michigan University in late May.

## Heppnerite tours with Linfield choir

Renee Struthers, daughter of Ed and Marie Struthers of Heppner, will be among thirty-eight members of the Linfield College concert choir who will perform in 10 Oregon and California cities during the choir's

annual spring tour March 15 through April 7.

Most of the choir's traveling and performances will be during Linfield's spring break, March 21-29.

## School advisory slots open

No one has filed for a position on the ballot for position No. 2 and position No. 7 on the Heppner-Lexington school advisory committee. A write in candidate may be elected to the positions, Morrow County School Supt. Doyle McCaslin said, but he/she must live within the boundary for that position. Either the school district office or the Morrow County Clerk's office can help a prospective candidate determine if he lives within the zones to be represented.

## Irrigon fish hatchery helps nature

By Joyce Hensley

The Irrigon Fish Hatchery is helping nature compensate for fish losses caused by four dams on the lower Snake River. By the first of May, 1,680,000 steelhead smolt will have been transported to northeastern Oregon, according to the manager, Ray Hill.

Assistant manager, Mike Gribble explains, "840,000 will be settled into acclimation ponds at Wallowa Hatchery in Enterprise and Big Canyon Creek, to be released into the Grande Ronde River starting April 15."

"We will truck the other 840,000 to Little Sheep Creek, a tributary of the Imnaha, and release them ourselves," Gribble added.

"Between February and May it will take 89 loads to deliver the fish," said Hill.

The annual cycle began with the eggs being collected from spawning fish in the Imnaha and the Grande Ronde. Different species were kept separated and brought to this hatchery. They were then placed in incubator trays for about a month until the yolk sac had disappeared, then the fish were transferred to the starter tanks, said Hill.

The fingerlings are hand fed every 30 minutes. The entire hatchery uses 2,000 pounds of feed a day, according to Hill.

The fish are then transferred to 32 cement ponds where they stay until they reach the eight-inch smolting stage. In the ponds the fish are fed

every 30 minutes from daylight to dark by Garron's automatic feeders.

"In the fall, when they are about four inches long, we hire 12 people to clip the adipose fin so they can be identified as hatchery fish," says Hill.

"In addition, some 250,000 fish a year are coded with a wire tag inserted into their nose. Everyone of the 1,680,000 have to be marked," he explained.

This year will see the return of the first clipped steelhead raised in Irrigon hatchery. They were released in 1985. "It takes two to four years before steelhead swim up river to spawn," Hill said.

The Irrigon hatchery is part of the lower Snake River Compensation Agreement. It is federally funded and was designed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODWF). There were several hatcheries built in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers chose the site three miles west of Irrigon, on the south side of the Columbia River, because the temperature of the water is warm, fluctuating only between 50 and 62 degrees winter or summer, according to Hill.

The warmer the water the more the fish want to eat, the more they metabolize food, and the faster they grow. "If you try to raise steelhead in cold water it usually takes two years to get them to smolting size,"

explained Hill. "We want to get them there in a year."

The operational part of the program was completed in February of 1986, but the landscaping was not finished until November 1986. There are six three-bedroom houses built to accommodate the families of the employees, a viewing facility, a hatchery building, a shop and screens to protect the fish ponds from birds.

Pilot ponds were built in 1980 to experiment with the complete cycle of the steelhead smolting process to see if "when we finally built this huge hatchery we would have some adults coming back with enough eggs to fill this place up; and we did. It worked," Hill said.

The hatchery has a few spring chinook that will be trucked to Looking-Glass Creek Fish Hatchery in April to be released in the spring of 1988 and also a few fall chinook that will be released in to the Umatilla River in May of this year. They will be about three inches long, according to Hill.

"After releasing our smolt to the Grande Ronde and to the Imnaha, by the first of May most of the ponds and starter tanks in the hatchery will be empty. By May 15 we will have two million eggs in the incubators," Hill said. "Then we'll start all over again."



## Kinzua's aerial observer awarded

Barbara VanArsdale was presented a cooperator recognition award Tuesday at the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

VanArsdale has flown a patrol plane for the past three years on a contract with Kinzua Corp. She is extremely conscientious about her role in the protection program, Fossil Unit Forester Dan Thorpe said. She flies a pre-arranged pattern of seven checkpoints daily throughout the entire fire season. The route takes in excess of two hours each day, in addition, the patrol plane is available for 100 hours beyond the normal pattern, Thorpe continued.

"After lightning storms, it is not uncommon for her to be asked to fly from 8 a.m. until dark. Quite often, several people are directing her to a variety of locations," Thorpe said. She "does not just fly her route each day but continually learns new landmarks. She will leave her normal pat-

tern to check something out. She gives good reports to personnel on the ground and in the dispatching center," he concluded.

Before her work in Central Oregon District, VanArsdale flew fire patrol for the U.S. Forest Service out of Susanville, California. She has an excess of 10,000 hours of flight time.

### Snow Softball

Playing in the snow means snowball fights and building snowmen, right? Not in Fort Snelling, Minnesota, where "Ranger Rick" magazine reports that some sports lovers have invented snowshoe softball. The rules are the same, but uniforms include snowshoes, down jackets and wool caps. When it gets slushy they're ready for spring training.

Barbara Van Arsdaile (left) receives cooperatoer recognition award from Fossil Unit Forester Dan Thorpe.

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