

The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

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Happy Hunters

Megan Healy (left) and Paula Spicer Kuhn look for eggs during Saturday's annual Easter Egg hunt in Heppner. The girls' mom's, Faith and Anne (rear) discuss the hunt.

Heppner Moonlight Sale Friday 7 — 9 p.m.

Export activity crop outlook improved

This year's crop prospects look significantly better than those of a year ago, Morrow County Grain Growers Larry Mills said last week. Stands of new grain are thicker and about 25% better than a year ago. To maintain quality though, they will have to have rain sometime before harvest, he said.

Although the total number of acres planted to crop is down this year because of the Conservation Reserve Program and set aside acres, he said, the crop looks to be in good condition which may bring supply and demand closer in balance. Currently the Grain Growers has five million bushels of soft white wheat stored in the county, he said. That's about the same as at the beginning of last year's harvest. Last Tuesday's market price was about 35 cents above the price at the beginning of harvest last year. That's

enough that we've seen a fairly steady movement of grain all winter, though not as dramatic as in some areas. The Grain Growers ships wheat by rail and trucks to a barge loading facility on the Columbia River.

It appears that export activity is up because of government export enhancement programs and because they are more aggressively trying to move grain through export channels, Mills said. The de-valued dollar also makes the crop more attractive on the world market.

The August price for new crop wheat is about six cents above last year's, he said. Crop carryover at the beginning of harvest may be smaller than last year, he said; however, because export activity has picked up, we can expect to see less grain stored on the ground at the end of harvest even though the total crop may equal or exceed last year's.

Kinzua's lumber graders finish first

Kinzua Corporation recently hosted a Lumber Graders' Class which was held in the planer building at the Kinzua Corporation Heppner plant. Thirty-three individuals attended the class from numerous sawmills, including: Louisiana-Pacific-Pilot Rock, and Walla Walla, Washington; Peacock Lumber Co.-Alicel; Boise Cascade Corp. La Grande; Ellingson Lumber Co.-Baker; Idaho Timber Corp.-North Powder; Crisstad Enterprises-

North Powder; Sawtooth Lumber Co.-Mt. Home, Idaho; and Harris Pine-Pendleton.

Three individuals from the Western Wood Products Association of Portland preselected the 50 boards to be graded.

The winners of the class were all employees of Kinzua's Heppner plant. In the certified division, first place: Mike Smith, second place: Steve Lankford, and third place: J.D. Hudson. Non-certified: first place winner was Don Marvin.

Poison Hemlock poses serious threat

Poison hemlock is a serious threat to everyone in Morrow County. Curious children often put pieces of the plant in their mouths. Illness and even death can result from eating poison hemlock. Even handling the plant can make you sick because the poison is absorbed through the skin.

Poison hemlock is found throughout central Morrow County and is very common within the city limits of Heppner, Lexington, and Lone. The plant is most common along creeks but can be found just about anywhere. The plant often grows as a weed in home yards.

Everyone in the area should know how to recognize poison hemlock. All children should be taught to recognize the plant and know its dangers.

Poison hemlock resembles wild carrot. The leaves are dark green and the plant can be from one to 12 feet tall. The stem is smooth with purple spots.

If you have some plants that you think may be poison hemlock, contact the weed district supervisor (676-5452) or the Oregon State University Extension office in Heppner (676-9642) and we will help you identify them.

Poison hemlock plants on your property should be dug-up or sprayed. Dispose of plants carefully so they do not pose a threat to children or animals. Wear gloves and long sleeves because the poison is absorbed through the skin. Many people have become ill from pulling poison hemlock patches with bare hands and arms.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, April 21		
Soft White		
April		\$3.05
May		\$3.00/\$2.97
June		\$2.92/\$2.89
July		\$2.86/\$2.84
August		\$2.84
Barley		
April		\$87
May		\$87.84
June-Sept.		\$82
Hard Red Winter		
Ordinaries		\$3.01
PIK		
Generic Certificates		104%



Easter Parade

Residents at Pioneer Memorial Hospital made bonnets and participated in an Easter Parade for other residents and their families last Friday afternoon. Awards for the prettiest hats were presented to: first place-Jessie Furlong, second place-Eva Robinson, and third place-Hazel Scherzinger.

Pendleton entrepreneur finds success with "fruit cake in a jar"

As with many entrepreneurs Norma Pfeiffer failed at business before she succeeded.

And succeed she has, nurturing a gourmet fruitcake business she started in her home, into a nationwide distributor that this year expects to ship over 10,000 cases of the product, reaching virtually every state in the country.

"I failed at three different businesses, but I learned from those failures," says Pfeiffer, who lives in Pendleton with her husband Carl. The couple started "Grandma Pfeiffer's Fruit and Nut Cakes in a Jar" in the kitchen of their home, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Pfeiffers now have five employees, and use a warehouse in which to make the fruitcake and keep up with demand.

"I originally started out to make a cookbook," Norma told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week during a program on her home business. "I gathered up all the family recipes, started putting them in order, but I only got to the Cs for canning."

She found a recipe for fruitcake, and began baking it in the family kitchen. "Carl got pretty good at cleaning ovens," she says with a smile.

The next step for the Pfeiffers was learning how to sell their product. "I called up one of the best people I know on the subject," says Norma, "a man in Lincoln City who sells 15,000 cases of mustard a month."

He told her to go to Seattle to a gift show and display her fruitcake.

"From that show I took orders for 100 cases," she said. Coming back to Pendleton she rented out the cannery building and has gone to shows in New York, San Francisco and other cities, and most



Norma Pfeiffer shows jars of her fruit cake during a recent talk to Heppner Chamber of Commerce. At right is Fred Lundin who arranged the guest speaker.

importantly, has been getting orders. "You won't find us in Safeway," says Norma. She has concentrated her sales in higher priced markets of gourmet food stores, and gift shops. "We also sell to some corporations which use them for Christmas gifts."

The fruitcakes come packed in a jar with a cloth apron around the lid, and are labeled with the "Grandma Pfeiffer's" label.

In addition to the five employees, the company also uses local business to print the labels, and she has hired attorneys, accountants and uses local banks, pointing out the positive impact a cottage industry can have on a community.

"We still don't mix our ingredients here though," says Norma. She said locally milled wheat from the Pendleton Flour Mill is trucked to Seattle, mixed and then shipped back to Pendleton. "If we could find someone to mix it locally we would certainly talk to them," she said.

A little advice for the potential entrepreneur who would like to start a cottage industry.

"If you are going to start a cottage industry plan, plan, plan," she says. "Planning is more important than money."

She also warns against growing too fast. "Don't grow any faster than you can control," she says.

Wrestling program approved for Boardman

The Morrow County School Board Monday night approved a pilot wrestling program at Riverside High School in Boardman. The program will not be included in the district's budget for next year but will be financed with money earned by parent and student fundraisers.

Cecelia Kinsey, Boardman, told the board that 43 students said they would become involved in the program if it were offered at Riverside. Many had been part of a wrestling program offered at Columbia Jr. High in Irrigon, she said and a full team of wrestlers will leave the junior high school this year, so there should not be a lack of participants.

The parents and wrestlers would raise money to cover all costs for the first season including uniforms, gear, transportation to away matches, and the coach's salary, she said. RHS Principal Dan Dalton said in order for the team to compete with other schools, the program would have to be certified by the OSAA.

The board's approval required funds be raised before the program begins and at least 25 students participation.

The board allowed a pilot tennis program at Lone High School in the early 70s with similar funding arrangements, assistant school

superintendent Chuck Starr said. Marv Padberg, Lone, told the board that he was concerned about a proposed staff reduction (one full-time teacher) at Lone schools. Taking one teacher from the already small staff will cut deeply into the program, he said.

We are looking at the possibility of moving to a middle school concept at Lone which would result in reducing one full time equivalent teacher, the assistant superintendent said. On paper, a preliminary look shows the strong possibility for more efficient use of the high school teachers. No decision where to cut that position has been made that I am prepared to recommend, Starr emphasized. Heppner schools are also looking at staff cuts, he said.

All administrators are under board direction to use space and personnel to the best advantage, board member Bill Doherty pointed out. We need to increase efficiency to survive today's economy, board member Bob Mahoney said.

In other business, the board: approved a field trip request from Dick Allen on behalf of lone graduating seniors. The class plans a trip to Disneyland Grad Night May 29-31 and will pay all expenses with money they have earned.

heard the district's financial report.

Voter registration deadline nearing

Citizens who want to vote in the May 19 election must be registered by April 28, according to Morrow County elections officers.

County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth reminded potential voters they must comply with Oregon's 20-day registration deadline. Anyone 18 or older who

is not registered to vote, or any person who has moved or changed his name since he last voted, needs to register in the clerk's office at the Morrow County Courthouse, Bloodworth said.

Two state measures will be decided at the special election: nuclear waste disposal and a "Safety Net" for school financing. The Morrow County School Levy will also be decided by the May 19 ballot.

heard a report from Superintendent Doyle McCaslin on the progress of the "net tax rate limitation law" repeal in the Oregon legislature.

approved sending a congratulatory letter to Tim Beatty, science teacher at RHS, who has been selected to attend a four-week residence in science at Pacific Northwest Lab in Richland during the summer.

heard two groups have formed to support the passage of the school levy at the May 19 election.

canvassed election returns. Delcared Monte Evans and Kay Proctor write-in winners of Heppner advisory committee positions.

scheduled interviews with three architects April 27 at the district office. Board members selected the architects from proposals submitted by 11 architects.

heard two teachers have rejected contract renewal offers. The board accepted the rejections as resignations.

approved a resolution in support of a teacher's application for renewal of a vocational certificate.

approved a request for a one-year maternity leave by RHS teacher Kathleen Danielson.

approved a one-year travel leave for Irrigon music teacher Jim Ackley.

Find prize eggs

Many children participated at the Easter egg hunt at Lone last Saturday.

Those who found silver and gold eggs which the Easter Bunny hid were awarded special prizes. Among second and third graders, Linde Minster found the gold egg, Stephanie Haguwood found the silver. Kindergarten and first graders locating the prize eggs were Joey Greisen-gold and Rosann Baker-silver.

Head-on crash causes injuries

Both the driver and the owner of a 1970 Ford Maverick were cited for Operation/Permitting the Operat on of an Unsafe Vehicle following a two-car head-on crash Easter Sunday.

The vehicles collided on a curve three miles north of Lexington on Hwy. 207. The Maverick was going South and apparently a problem with the steering prevented the driver, 18-year-old Scott Haefer, Union, from staying on the right side of the road, Oregon State Police trooper Carl Martin reported.

A second car, a 1982 Pontiac, driven by Phyllis Marsh, 49, Hermiston, was headed North when it was hit by the Maverick. Martin said. Speed did not seem to be a factor in the 4 p.m. accident, he continued, the problem with the Maverick's steering prevented its driver from staying on the right side of the road on that sharp curve.

Marsh and her mother, Charlotte Vaught, 70, also of Hermiston and the car's only passenger, were taken by the Heppner ambulance to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. Both suffered broken ankles and chest and head injuries but were reported in satisfactory condition Monday, Martin said.

Ammon Miller, Union, a passenger in the Haefer-driven vehicle, was admitted to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner following the accident Monday morning, he was transported via Lifeguard with a possible back injury and chest pains, Martin said.

Haefer and two other passengers, Kenny Mitchell, 16, Union and Beth Heatherly 16, Heppner were treated for minor cuts and bruises at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and released.

No one was wearing a seat belt, Martin said.

Owner of the 1970 Maverick is Chris Roe, Union.