

Heppner flood warning system updated

The big number one on the computer screen at the Morrow County Sheriff's Office tells the dispatcher more than the department's quality rating. The number one means that

the five area streams are at normal stages with no excessive rainfall or rising water levels.

Part of a flood warning system installed by the Corps of Engineers

after completion of Willow Creek dam, the computer takes information and gives a composite score on the screen. If the screen shows a number five, (the highest rating) there's like-

ly to be major flooding and property damage.

The computer program is changed twice each year to take account of seasonal weather, Barbara Jones,



Barbara Jones

chief dispatcher said. If it's cold outside, the computer knows that the precipitation is snow and not likely to cause flooding.

The computer screen always shows the highest score, she said, not an average, because one creek could be experiencing rising water levels while the others remain normal. The computer will pinpoint the area where the action is, she said, and the dispatcher can then call up the other areas on the computer to find out what is going on there as well.

Although the computer has been working for about two years, Jones said, it has been undependable in the past. Some of the previous errors were caused because a heavy rainfall in August when the ground is dry and the creeks empty is likely to cause no problems, but the same amount of rain in May when the ground is wet and the creeks are full provides a different situation. Recent re-programming to take account of the seasons and extensive training she has just completed mean a greater degree of accuracy.

The training helps her to know which procedures to follow in borderline situations, she said. Although the Corps owns the equipment, the Northwest River Forecast Center and National Weather Service have helped develop the procedures and need to be contacted in emergency situations. Mainly, the computer system helps the emergency service people know who to contact and what steps to take to notify the public of possible flood danger.

It does not eliminate the need for private citizens to call the Sheriff's Office and report drastic rainfall or a huge wall of water father upstream than the creek gauges can monitor. There are no monitors below the dam, to report Rhea Creek, and Blackhorse Canyon area problems, she said.

Especially the deep, sharp Shobe Canyon requires any early warning above the monitors to notify people, she said. By the time the computer system is activated, (the reading may jump from two to five), the creek is already rising and the sheriff's office cannot endanger an officer by sending him out with a public address system to warn people to get to high ground; we then have to concentrate on notifying the schools and people at the bottom of the creeks who will be affected, she said.

The sudden and peculiar nature of floods in the area make it necessary sometimes to ask the fire department to help monitor streams, she said.

The fire department has monitored streams for at least the last 30 years,

Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine said. We take a truck and radio equipment out where we can report the weather situation along a creek. We set up a command post at city hall and can activate flood sirens when necessary, Burkenbine said. Continuous warning sirens, owned by the city, are located at Murrays Drug store on Main St., Skaggs Auto Repair, and the Heppner pool. (The one at the pool was disconnected several years ago because it was activated everytime it rained, the fire chief said, but could be activated manually if necessary.)

Grange has new insurance agent



Frank Halvorsen

Frank Halvorsen, 36, Ione, has recently assumed duties of grange insurance agent, a spot filled by Cecil Jones for 36 years.

Halvorsen has been a lifetime resident of the Ione area and a longtime member of Willows Grange. He plans to visit with members of Mikkalo, Rhea Creek, Lexington, Boardman and Willows granges at least once every three months. He will have farm and ranch insurance plans for both grange and non-grange members for property, casualty, crop, fire, and hail. He is excited, he said, about the new opportunity to provide a service to fellow grangers and ranchers.

He and his wife Cathy have three children, Ryan, 12, Jason, 9, and Allison, 4.

Chief Rathbun's Tips

Bicycle Safety

1. Ride single-file on the righthand side of the road.
2. Always give hand signals.
3. Wear light colored clothing.
4. Make sure your bike is in good repair.
5. Make sure your bike has reflectors at front, rear and sides.

PAINT SALE

Thru June 20

<p>Hi-Gloss Enamel</p> <p>5.99 quart</p> <p>All Purpose Hi-Gloss Enamel: alkyd/oil, resists rust and locks out moisture. Designed for wood, metal, interior or exterior surfaces. Durable, Assorted colors.</p>	<p>Stain & Wood Preservative</p> <p>11.99 gallon</p> <p>Oil Stain and Wood Preservative: special formulation penetrates deep into wood, repelling water while preservatives retard wood rot and decay. Clear Base: 970 (46) 761; Semi-Transparent Base: 96-807; 11.99 gallon</p>	<p>Latex Redwood Exterior Stain</p> <p>3.49 gallon</p> <p>Latex Redwood Exterior Stain: apply over smooth or rough surfaces and dry to a flat red wood appearance. 4600 (36) 702</p>	<p>Metal/Wood Siding Paint</p> <p>13.99 gallon</p> <p>Latex Semi-Gloss Exterior Metal/Wood Siding Paint: for all exterior surfaces. Blister, chalk and fade resistant. White: 2700 (36) 104</p>
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<p>Oil Primer</p> <p>12.99 gallon</p> <p>Oil Exterior House Primer: formulated for latex or oil based top coats. 3795 (36) 609; Latex Exterior House Primer: 3800 (36) 620; 12.99</p>	<p>Gloss Oil Farm Paint</p> <p>12.99 gallon</p> <p>Gloss Oil Farm Paint: durable, protective coating with linseed oil to penetrate and bond to surface. White: W711 5 Gallon (36) 930; 12.99</p>	<p>Oil Barn Paint</p> <p>10.95 gallon</p> <p>Oil Barn Paint: formulated for a durable, protective coating to penetrate and bond to the surface. Resistant to dust and dirt pick-up. 793 (36) 126; 793 1/2 Gallon pail (36) 136; 10.95</p>	<p>Gloss Oil Barn Paint</p> <p>13.95 gallon</p> <p>Gloss Oil Barn Paint: for a durable, protective coating. High gloss finish is resistant to dust and dirt. 793 (36) 126; 793 1/2 Gallon pail (36) 136; 13.95</p>	<p>Latex Farm Building Paint</p> <p>15.99 2 gallon pail</p> <p>Latex Farm Paint: for durable, protective coating and deep penetration into old wood. 3812 (36) 620; 15.99</p>
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<p>Latex Farm Building Paint</p> <p>19.95 2 gallon pail</p> <p>Latex Farm Building Paint: with modified linseed oil to penetrate and bond to surface. White: W711 (36) 930</p>	<p>COUPON</p> <p>9" Roller Frame: chrome plated with 5 wire cage. 1615 (36) 832</p> <p>1.44</p>	<p>COUPON</p> <p>3-Piece Brush Set: 1", 2" and 2 1/2" nylon brushes. 0103 (40) 73 (36) 531</p> <p>1.29</p>
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<p>Acrylic Latex House Paint</p> <p>11.99 gallon</p> <p>Flat Acrylic Latex House Paint: for durability and flexibility on all exterior surfaces. White: W6700 (36) 890</p>	<p>Latex Flat House Paint</p> <p>13.99 gallon</p> <p>One Coat Latex Semi-Gloss Enamel: scrubbable, stain resistant, colorfast. White: W2100 (36) 433; 1/2 pail (36) 434</p>
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<p>Clear Caulk: general purpose, silicone rubber caulk. Durable and non-yellowing. 10.3 oz. GE5000 (640) 702; 3.99 Sale Price. White Caulk: GE5010 (640) 710; 2.99 Sale Price. Final price 1.99</p>	<p>One Coater: 3/8" nap roller cover is guaranteed for all types on semi-smooth surfaces. One: 980 (90) 465 (01); 1 1/4" nap: One: 985 (90) 465 (02); 2.29</p>	<p>3M Your Choice Sandpaper: for wood, metal and paint. Choose either 5 fine, 5 medium, 3 course or 5 assorted grits in 9 x 11 sheets. 9001F (124 925); 9003C (124 941); 9001M (124 923); 9005AT (124 940)</p> <p>1.39</p>
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<p>Aluminum Extension Ladder: 1 1/2" flat rungs. Extruded aluminum double rung locks. Type III, 200 lb. duty rating. UL listed. 16 ft: 0716 2 (638) 718; 25 ft: 01120 2 (523) 660; 34 ft: 01124 2 (519) 060; 44 ft: 01128 2 (264) 036; 111 95</p> <p>43.99</p>	<p>Aluminum Step Ladder: with paint shelf and tool holder. Type III, 200 lb. duty rating. 8 ft: 05 (504) 811; 26.99; 6 ft: 05 (505) 292</p> <p>28.99</p>	<p>Paint Thinner: for general thinning and cleaning. 1 Gallon: 2023 (459) 875</p> <p>2.29</p>
<p>5 Ft Wood Step Ladder: house-hold ladder with paint rest. Type III, 200 lb. rating. BLKXK6 (52) 1 605; 21.99</p> <p>18.99</p>	<p>Brushes: 4" Polyester Stain Brush: STAN 40 (90) 423; 3.99; 2" Polyester Stain Brush: for exterior and interior surfaces. STAN 20 (90) 418 (55); 3.39; 2" Polyester Brush: premium grade 100% brown polyester varnish and enamel brush. One: V20 (90) 069; 3.44; 4" Brush: One: 940 (90) 483 (826); 6.99; 2" Trim Brush: 100% polyester with chisel trim. W200 (90) 309 (111); 5.45; 4" Polyester Paint Brush: M250 40 (90) 111 (823); 4.59; 1 1/2" Sash Brush: tapered polyester tipped and flanged. P240 (15 90) 069 (427)</p> <p>7.99 3.49 1.59 1.99</p>	

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