

## Local banker completes two-week banking course

Harley Sager, manager of the Heppner Branch of First Interstate Bank of Oregon received a certificate of graduation from the Northwest Intermediate Banking School August 14.

The Heppner banker attended the two-week school at the Lewis and Clark College campus during the first two weeks in August. Classes covered all phases of banking including economics, assets, liabilities, management procedures, and understanding people. Graduation also signified completion of individual banking-research projects.

The Northwest Intermediate Banking School is accredited by the American Bankers Association and is affiliated with the nationwide "Professional Development Program". The school is sponsored as a cooperative venture by the State Bankers Associations of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington. The faculty is drawn



Harley Sager from both academia and the financial industry.

## Schools slate hearing tests

The Morrow County School District will be screening all first and fourth graders in the areas of speech and language. Other students involved in the testing are kindergarten students who failed or did not attend the preschool clinic, all seventh grade students at Columbia Jr. High School, transfers from other districts and parent/teacher/principal referrals. Hearing tests for transfer students and referrals will also be administered to Ione High School, Heppner High School, Columbia Jr. High School and Riverside High School. Hearing screenings for all other schools will be conducted at a later date.

The screenings will be conducted

at the following schools: Heppner Elementary School-Thursdays, September 3; Ione Schools-Friday morning, September 4; Heppner High School-Friday afternoon, September 4; Sam Boardman Elementary School-Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9; A. C. Houghton Elementary School-Thursdays, September 10; Columbia Jr. High School-Friday, September 11; and Riverside High School-Monday, September 14.

If you have any questions concerning the screening, please call Carol Faith-Peterson at the Morrow County School District Office, phone number 989-8202.

## Rail crossing accidents declines

The number of accidents at public railroad crossings in Oregon continued at a record low in 1986, according to a report prepared by the Public Utility Commission.

A total of 46 train-vehicle accidents is reported in "Railroad Accidents in Oregon 1986," a statistical report compiled by the PUC Transportation Program. That's the same record-low number of accidents reported in 1985. The previous low was in 1982, which had 48 accidents.

Casualties involved in the 1986 accidents were up, with five deaths and 19 injuries, compared to two deaths and 13 injuries in 1985. A single accident near Junction City on April 19, involving a motor home and a train, accounted for 10 of the 1986 casualties, including four of the deaths.

The report shows a continuing overall decline in train-vehicle accidents in Oregon over the past 10 years. The number had dropped 69 percent from the 1977 total of 149 accidents.

Commission Chairman Charles Davis said the decrease points up the success of Oregon's ongoing program to improve railroad crossing safety for motorists and pedestrians. This program, which has been in effect since 1974, emphasizes active crossing protection, including installation of automatic gates and flashing lights.

In 1967, Oregon had 2,747 public grade railroad-highway crossings, 368 of which had active crossing protection such as automatic gates and flashing lights. In 1986, Oregon had 2,682 public grade crossings, including 720 with active signals.

During 1986, the PUC authorized approximately \$1.6 million in federal and state funds for 19 crossing improvement projects, including the installation of automatic gates at 17 crossings. Since 1974, safety projects worth nearly \$29.3 million have been approved under the program.



## Chukar season begins Oct. 10

An expanded hunting season for chukar and Hungarian partridge, and waterfowl regulations similar to last year were among the upland bird and waterfowl rules set by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission August 21.

Biologists report a 57 percent increase over last year in chukar sitings during counting surveys in eastern Oregon. Hun counts were up by 86 percent over 1986. The chukar trend count is the highest on record.

A moderate winter and favorable spring nesting weather has led to a major recovery for these two species. In response to this abundance, the commission has expanded the season.

The chukar/hun season will extend from October 10 through January 31, 1988; more than a month of additional hunting time compared to recent years. This will also be the first time in several years that the season has been open during part of the general mule deer hunting period.

The daily bag limit will remain at eight birds per day, but the possession

limit has been boosted to 24 birds.

Seasons for other upland bird species will be similar to last year. Most bird populations are doing very well with 40 and 50 percent increases, respectively, for blue and ruffed grouse. Valley quail numbers are up 43 percent over last year. Pheasant populations are stable for much of eastern Oregon, with some declines in southeastern counties.

West side bird numbers do not show major changes. Pheasant, mountain quail and blue grouse counts are down, while numbers of ruffed grouse have increased. Valley quail populations are similar to last year.

The fall flight forecast for ducks entering the Pacific Flyway will also be similar to last year. Below average populations of several species will once again require

restrictive bag limits.

Duck season will open statewide October 17, close midseason from November 30 through December 6, then reopen December 7 through January 10 in most areas.

Morrow and Umatilla counties will remain open during the mid-season shut down.

The statewide goose season will run from October 17 through January 17 in much of the state. Baker and Malheur counties will close down January 3.

**No men allowed**  
No males need apply, according to "International Wildlife" magazine, the populations of several species of whiptail lizards in the southwestern United States are entirely female. These lizards are capable of reproducing all on their own.

## Board members answer school budget questions

Do kids really need classes in P.E., art, and music at the grade school level?

As a new school board member I feel it is very important for our children to have a well-rounded education. As a community we are responsible for providing a good education for our children.

To live in this world our students must be prepared to adapt to all ways of life-whether they are in the city or country, in the United States or foreign country or living with different cultures. Offering a wide variety of subjects is important to ensure a balanced education.

For instance PE in grade school is a vital aspect of child development. Children need to learn that physical activity is important to their health now and for the rest of their lives. Health officials point to early physical fitness as a key to preventing future health problems.

Studies show children who are physically fit are better students because they are more ready to learn. Teaching children good nutrition and fitness can also educate them about the dangers of drugs.

Art and music classes offer a child the chance to expand his limits, stretch his imagination, and uncover hidden talents. The classes offer other opportunities which lead to well-rounded students.

Our children also learn social skills in school which are vital in development. These skills will eventually make our youth grow up to be good citizens in their communities.

Such skills are taught at an early age, for example: following rules, good sportsmanship, courtesy, honesty. Skills that lead to a good citizen also are taught such as preventing of fires, litter, and pollution. Students demonstrate these skills as they paint prevent forest fire posters, clean-up roadsides and their communities, jump rope for the heart association, read books for disabled children, participate in food and clothing drives for the less fortunate, sing to nursing home patients, and participate in many more activities.

During the school year our students are learning and growing and contributing to our society. We as a community can visit the schools and witness our youth's contributions in classrooms, music programs, plays, sporting events, science fair and others.

Our schools are filled with abundant activities preparing youth for tomorrow. Stop by and visit Morrow County schools.

(s) Marcia Kemp

Lexington School Board member  
*(Editor's Note: School board and advisory committee members periodically will answer questions they repeatedly are asked by voters. To have a school board member answer your question, write: "School Questions", P.O. Box 368, Lexington, Oregon 97839, or call 989-8202.)*

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