

First snowfall of season drops 1 1/2 inches



Some Heppner elementary school boys use a good snow day to slide down the hill after the first snowfall of the year. One and one-

half inches of snow fell Sunday night. It was about gone Tuesday.

Corps re-schedules Heppner meeting to Nov. 21

A public meeting about Willow Creek Dam to be held in Heppner has been rescheduled to Monday, November 21, by the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Heppner Elementary School Gymnasium, 235 E. Stansbury St., Heppner.

The meeting date has been changed because a special inspection report on Willow Creek Dam requested by Senator Mark O. Hatfield will be available on November 21, according to Col. Charles E. Cowan, Portland district engineer. "We rescheduled the meeting to provide the information contained in that report to Heppner citizens and help calm fears caused by recent articles questioning the dam's structural integrity," Cowan said.

"Ed Pritchett, chief of Geotechnical and Civil Branch at the Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C., will be at the meeting to discuss the inspection team's findings," Cowan said. Pritchett headed an inspection team of specialists from the U.S. Department of the Army, the Corps headquarters and an independent consultant from

Sacramento, Calif. "The team's task was to review the studies accomplished to date by the Corps of Engineers' Portland District to review any ongoing and future studies, and to determine the immediate and long-term safety of the Willow Creek Dam," Pritchett said. The meeting earlier had been scheduled for Wednesday, November 16.

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97th birthday



Walter Jepsen

An Open House on November 7 at the John Jepsen home honored Walter Jepsen on his 97th birthday. Eighty people attended to help celebrate. Many happy memories were recalled. People attended from Hermiston, Lone, Lexington, Heppner and Arlington.

Corps to perform semi-annual inspection next week

The Portland District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, inspected the flash flood warning system equipment around Heppner.

The system will be one topic at a November 21 public meeting planned by the Corps to keep the local people informed about conditions at the Willow Creek Dam. The roller-compacted concrete process, water quality, master plans, water allocation, future storage and other maintenance issues will also be discussed.

Ben Minter, Portland District hydraulics engineer, said Corps inspectors examined 17 precipitation gauges in Hinton Creek and Shobe Creek canyons between Monday, Nov. 7 and Friday, November 10. He said the regular semi-annual inspection includes checking to see that batteries, solar cells and tipping

bucket switches are functioning correctly, and to assure the equipment has not been vandalized.

According to Minter, the flood warning system is a highly technical series of gauges placed in the two canyons to provide adequate warning in case of flash flooding. Willow Creek Dam provides flood protection for the third canyon, Willow Creek. Minter said the equipment is tied into a computer in the Morrow County Sheriff's office.

The public meeting will be held at the Heppner Grade School Gymnasium Wednesday, November 21 at 7 p.m.

Baleen, a material similar in composition to human fingernails, is the gray whale's way to trap shrimplike animals while straining out small particles of dirt and sand. The gray whale migrates near the Oregon Coast each winter on its way to and from nutrient rich Alaskan waters.

Lexington News

By Delpha Jones, 989-8189

Doc Temple has been busy getting his new office set up on the former Hoffman land in Lexington. Lexington is happy to have a new business in town, and welcomes the Temple.

The Garden Bugs met at the home of Delta Huber for their regular meeting last week. Due to illnesses there were only four present. The program was given by Delta on perennials. They discussed the bulb

sale and do have a few bulbs left that can be purchased by calling a member of the club. They discussed the Christmas party to be held at Kathy's. The door prize was won by Kathy Tellechea.

Franklin and Gloria Messenger from Portland visited his parents Leita and Truman Messenger over the weekend. Leita is still confined to her home following a stroke.



With the advent of the Russian Wheat Aphid, there will be an increased use of certain insecticides. It is important for people not actively engaged in farming to become aware of the hazards of these insecticides, as well as of their relative safety.

There are two insecticides which will be widely used-dimethoate (Cygon) and disulfoton (Di-Syston). The second is by the more toxic of the two. There has been limited use of disulfoton this fall, since most of the spraying has been with the far safer dimethoate.

Dimethoate is only a little more toxic than herbicides which are historically used on the wheat fields, and needs no further discussion here. There are no special hazards associated with it.

Disulfoton, however, is quite dangerous to handle. It has a high dermal toxicity, which means it passes through the skin very well.

The people who are at risk are not the general population, however. It is the farm worker who does not take the proper precautions while handling this chemical who could become ill. The chances are very slight that someone not actually handling this material will become ill from it.

Nevertheless, a few precautions should be kept in mind. Stay out of recently sprayed fields unless you know what was sprayed. There is a ban on re-entry into fields treated with disulfoton for 24 hours after

spraying.

Avoid direct contact with sprays. Counsel children to stay clear of aircraft or ground rigs engaged in spraying fields. A safe distance should be about 100 feet.

Should you come in contact with spray, don't panic. In order to receive a lethal dose, a person would have to stand completely nude in a field and be sprayed many times over.

If you come in contact with the spray, wash the skin with soap and water. Take off exposed clothing and wash it separately from other clothing.

Symptoms of poisoning by these chemicals are headache, dizziness and nausea. At higher levels tremors, vomiting, and twitching of muscles may occur. If you are exposed and experience symptoms such as these, see a doctor.

Since these symptoms are common to many illnesses, ask to have a blood sample checked for Cholinesterase. This will help the doctor determine if an insecticide is the cause and also determine the treatment to be used.

Continued use of these pesticides is essential for agriculture. Accidents can be avoided by understanding the risks and adopting a sensible attitude. While many pesticides such as disulfoton are very toxic, they are not necessarily dangerous to the public.



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