

Anne Morter is new lone sports writer



Anne Morter, 28, lone, is the new lone sports correspondent for the Gazette-Times.

Although Morter, who grew up in Summer Lake near Paisley, has never lived in Morrow County before, she has roots here. Her mother, Kathleen (McElligott) O'Leary is from lone.

Morter graduated from Paisley High School, Lane Community College and Eastern Oregon State College. She participated in basketball, cross-country and track in high school and cross country and track in college. She has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from EOSC. She was employed at Troy's Seafood at Portland in retail sales before her Sept. 23 marriage to Ralph Morter of lone. Ralph, whom she met in Portland through a cousin, has a wheat ranch in lone.

Healy family to reign at St. Patrick's celebration

Plans are unfolding for the 8th annual St. Patrick's celebration, to be held on March 16, 17, and 18. The honored Irish family will be the Healys. Mike Healy of Portland will be grand marshal and Katherine Burchell, Corvallis, will reign as queen. The St. Patrick's Committee will meet January 31, 7 p.m. at the Extension Conference Room. It is hoped that all interested persons will be in attendance.

Irish families are encouraged to purchase a family flag for Main Street. Families who wish to have their family flag waving should contact Gwen Healy as soon as possible. \$50 covers expenses and Healy will need the family name and the name of its Irish County.

It's not too early to donate St. Patrick's auction items. Contact Pat Sweeney, Cara Costa, or Ann Spicer for auction information.

Arts and crafts club to meet

The Morrow County Arts and Crafts club will meet Mon., Jan. 22

at 1 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel for their regular monthly meeting.

Ione boys cruise to easy wins against Echo, Arlington



Photo by Wayne Hams

Ryan Halvorsen shoots an off-balance shot against Echo.

By Ann Morter

The lone boys varsity cruised to easy victories against Echo and Arlington last weekend. The two wins improved their league record to 3-1 and their overall record to 5-7.

Ione took the court Friday night in front of an enthusiastic home crowd and proceeded to roll over the Echo Cougars, 72-43. The Cardinals stymied the Cougars in the early going using web-like pressure defense, their best defense so far this year, according to their coach, Del LaRue.

Behind the red-hot play of sophomore Mike Garrett, lone built a 20-2 first-quarter lead before Echo got their bearings. The first quarter ended with the Cardinals on top 22-11. The Cardinals temporarily lost their momentum in the second quarter as the Cougars outscored them 14-8, and pulled to within five points at the half, 25-30. A renewed Cardinal squad emerged in the third quarter to roar to a 54-33 advantage before bringing home a 29-point win.

Mike Garrett was the team and game-high scorer with an incredible 39 points. Shawn Hams added 14. Garrett and Hams led the Cards to a 45-30 rebounding advantage, grabbing 15 and nine respectively. Seven of Shawn Hams nine boards were on the offensive end of the court. David Wagenblast had seven assists and Ryan Halvorsen got away with five steals to lead the way for lone. The Cardinals shot a hot 55 percent for the floor and 56 percent from the free throw line. Echo struggled in its shooting from the floor, managing

just 33 percent. From the free throw line, they made 10 of 22 for 46 percent.

According to coach LaRue, the Cardinals played their best game of the season so far and had nothing but good to say about their pressure defense in the first and third quarters. He said the Cards and the Cougars were fairly even in height and quickness, but the Cardinals were more willing to move the ball around to find the open shot. LaRue was happy with his big point producers, Garrett and Hams, but he was also pleased with the help from the bench, especially Mark Anderson and Justin Miller.

Saturday night in Arlington, the Cardinals used their momentum from Friday night to overpower the smaller and less experienced Honker team. Arlington was unable to put up much of a fight as lone made their way to a 72-39 victory.

The Cards jumped out to a 25-9 advantage in the first quarter and stretched that lead to 38-18 by halftime. The third and fourth quarters saw balanced scoring of 17 points per quarter compared to a second half total of just 21 points for Arlington.

The Cardinals had another hot shooting night, averaging 52 percent from the floor. Mike Garrett was 10-16 from the floor and 8-8 from the line for 28 points. Ryan Halvorsen shot 100 percent from the floor, making 6-6 and scoring 12 points in one of his best games ever. lone held a lopsided rebounding advantage, 41-18, with Mike Garrett grabbing 11 and Shawn Hams, Bryan Basford and Mark Anderson each adding five. David Wagenblast had an impressive eight assists. In the steal department, Wagenblast, Hams and Garrett each had two.

Coach LaRue was pleased with the outing. He had the luxury of spreading the playing time around evenly to all of his players and almost every player scored. He was impressed with the shooting accuracy of Garrett and Halvorsen and also by the play of his bench. Travis Greenup had a good performance, coming off the bench to score six points.

This weekend, the Cardinals travel to Condon on Friday for a varsity and junior varsity game. Saturday, they host Culver for a varsity game only.

Elks Hoop Shoot winners announced

Winners for the annual Elks Hoop Shoot contest held Saturday, Jan. 13, at Heppner High School have been announced by area organizers, David Gunderson and Dick Allen. Winners are as follows: 8-9 years - Derek Gunderson, Heppner, with 20 baskets out of 25, Jill Barber,

Heppner, with nine; 10-11 - Steve Allen, lone, 16, Annie Hisler, nine; 12-13 - Jason Proudfoot, 21 and Jenny Krein, 16.

Local winners will go to district competition in Hermiston on Jan. 27. District winners will compete in Corvallis on Feb. 17.

EASTERN OREGON OUTDOORS



by Mark Baggett

Warmer Temperatures Should Improve Steelheading

As this is written, the outside temperature this afternoon is about 45 degrees, coupled with a light rain. After nearly a week of such weather, with highs from 45 to 55 degrees (as warm as the upper 60s in some areas of eastern Oregon) and lows in the 35- to 45-degree range, one has to wonder if the dividends extend past burning less firewood and not having to scrape ice from the windshields of our automobiles each morning.

Steelheaders, in particular, should be pleased. Plagued with cold, often icy, water conditions in many of our river systems, steelhead angling success the previous few weeks has been somewhat less than fantastic.

"These higher water levels and warmer water will more than likely increase fishing success," said Jon Germond, assistant district fisheries biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Pendleton. "We didn't get very much rain here, but the water level (of the Umatilla River) came up a little bit, and the fish are going to get a whiff of that and want to come on up, hopefully."

Errol Claire, ODFW district fisheries biologist for the John Day River Basin, explains that fish, being cold-blooded creatures, are also extremely sensitive to changing water temperatures, which can often have resounding effects on angling success:

"As the water warms, the heart rate of the fish increases and the metabolic process increases," Claire said. "As that occurs, the fish become more active; they start moving around more, and in the case of steelhead, they may start moving upstream. And as they start pulling out of those holes where they've been holding, they become more responsive in their reactions to an angler's bait."

While Claire considers water temperatures in the 42- to 45-degree range optimal for early-spring steelhead, he says that almost any increase from cold to warmer water can be significant.

"If your water temperature is running, say, 35 to 38 degrees and you go up into the low 40s, that's enough to trigger quite a major change in their activity."

On the Umatilla, biologists are able to monitor the progression of the steelhead migration by the numbers of fish caught in a special trap placed only a few miles up river from the mouth. For the past several months, the department there has been involved in a cooperative "trap and haul" project with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to trap migrating steelhead in the lower river and move them by truck some 30 miles upstream to an area above Stanfield Dam, past the many irrigation dams which could impede the fish's safe passage to their spawning grounds.

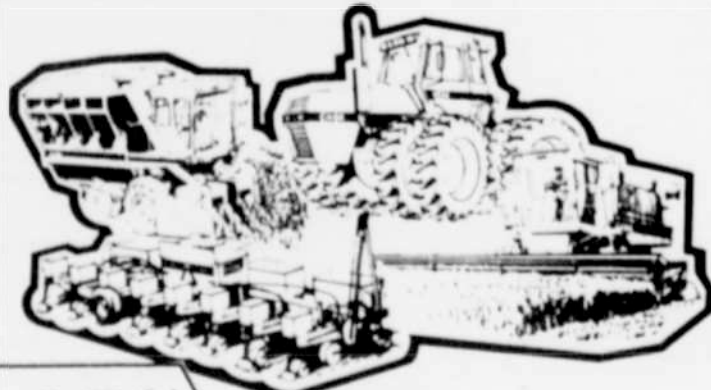
Jon Germond said water temperatures in the lower Umatilla prior to the warming trend registered only 38 to 39 degrees, which resulted in only nine steelhead being trapped and moved upstream for the month of December. But even as he spoke, a technician in charge of the project arrived and reported that in light of the warmer, higher water, 55 fish had just been removed from the trap and transported that day (Jan. 10).

Of course, much can happen during the necessary few days that lapse from the time this is written until you get to read it. The forecast at this writing is for continued mild temperatures, which should result in respectable steelhead action, barring any flood-like conditions. Yet as anyone who has lived in eastern Oregon for any length of time knows, we can just as easily end up shoveling a foot of "partly cloudy" or "continued mild" by morning, so whenever fishing conditions are right, take advantage of them while you can. If not, keep your eye on the next warm front.

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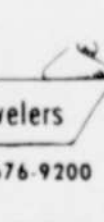
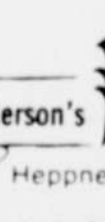
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The Garnet.....



Garnet is the accepted birthstone for the month of January. It is also the gemstone selected as the official "Second Anniversary" commemorative gift.

Garnet is a remarkable gem in that it comes in all colors except blue. Its reds range from raspberry to blood-red. Its greens may rival that of emerald. It also occurs in a range of shades of yellow, orange and brown.



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