

Work begins on hiking trail



On June 11 the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, made up of four local teenagers and crew leader Vern Keithley, began work on the hiking trail that will connect Heppner to the Willow Creek Reservoir recreation area.

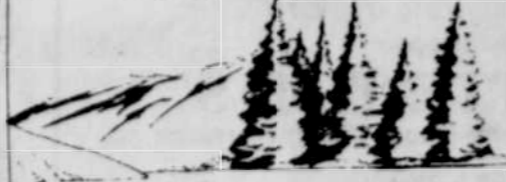
The trail starts at the end of Cowins Street and zig zags up to the top where a kiosk will be built. Halfway up the trail is a bench for resting.

SWCD gives away 14,000 trees



Jeff Cutsforth receives trees from Cindi Doherty during Soil Conservation district tree giveaway recently. Over 14,000 pine and Fir trees were distributed for plantings.

EASTERN OREGON OUTDOORS



by Mark Baggett

East-coast Angling Available at Hosmer Lake

About the only thing eastern Oregon and the eastern United States have in common is taxes and the word "eastern." Oh, and a particularly athletic sport fish known by those who pursue him as *Salmo salar*.

Since 1958, tiny Hosmer Lake, nestled against the eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains about 30 miles west of Bend, has been thrilling fly casters with the pride of the east coast, the Atlantic salmon.

"It's probably the most popular lake in Oregon--to the fly fisherman, that is--simply because it's been catch and release for such a great number of years," said Jim Eriser, a Fly Fishing Federation past president and a recognized authority on Hosmer Lake and its bounty.

Eriser said the salmon there are currently averaging between 15 and 18 inches in length, and there is an excellent possibility of catching a few "carry-over" fish from the planting of a previous season. Often, these older fish will exceed five pounds.

Unlike Oregon's native chinooks which die after spawning, Atlantic salmon may spawn--or attempt to spawn--several times during their life span. One would think this activity would help bolster salmon numbers but, as Eriser points out, Atlantics at Hosmer have in the past been less than successful at self propagation.

"The species of Atlantic salmon that the state brought in several years ago were actually the migrating kind that go downstream (to spawn)," he said. "They were never land-locked fish. So genetically, up until about five years ago, they had inbred so much that they were becoming poor fish. They were getting smaller--and dumber--and the ospreys would get most of them. Then the state learned to stock either in the spring or in the fall--I don't remember which--so they would carry over."

"Anyhow, with a lot of pressure from sports groups, the state began stocking land-locked fish. And it's a much better fish now; they're getting longer, they're getting bigger, they're a landlocked salmon so they don't have the migrating tendencies to try to go downstream. In fact, the other fish, during high water years, would get caught in the (old) lava flows because there's no real outlet; they would just go over into cracks and places like that and would be stranded and lost. But these land-locked fish don't have that tendency, plus they stay deeper, so the ospreys don't get them."

Regulations at Hosmer call for traditional fly-casting gear only and the use of barbless flies. And while all Atlantic salmon must be released unharmed, rainbow and brook trout may be kept. (Eriser tells of trout there in the five-to-six-pound range.) Stringent bag and length limits must be observed by Hosmer trout anglers, so it would be wise to consult the current Oregon angling synopsis for complete details.

While boats are permitted on Hosmer, a new regulation adopted this spring forbids the use of motors. Small rowboats, float tubes and canoes are all effective water craft on the 160-acre lake.

Eriser said the soft, mud bottom at Hosmer hosts scores of caddis insects--a favorite forage of both the trout and Atlantic salmon. In early spring he'll use brightly colored attractor flies stripped very quickly to draw strikes, but after the first big mayfly hatch there (a celebrated event), he opts for dry flies like the adams or a blue dun upright.

While it may be unlikely that the average eastern Oregon fly fisherman will ever get to travel to the east coast to battle the highly prized Atlantic salmon, those who would embrace it can take comfort in the fact that a similar opportunity exists practically right in their own backyards.

Stokes Landing plans dinner

By Beth Stephens
A beef stew dinner is scheduled at Stokes Landing Senior Center Friday, June 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$3.50. Game night will follow with pinocle at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend.

Britt receives scholarships

Heppner High School student Russell Britt has been awarded a scholarship to George Fox College at Newberg.

Britt will receive a \$1300 basketball scholarship, a \$900 baseball scholarship and a \$400 incentive award.

Britt was a four-year letterman at HHS. His sophomore year he qualified for the second team in the Columbia Basin Conference and his junior and senior years he was named to the first teams. His senior year he was named for the state A/B All Star baseball team. Britt also played in the state All Star basketball games on June 22 at Willamette University in Salem and June 23 at Linfield College at McMinnville.

He is the son of Roger and Rita Britt, Heppner.

In the Service

Cynthia L. Riehl, daughter of Walter and Sheryl Palmer, Montgomery, Ala., has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior airman.

Riehl is a munitions systems specialist with the 92nd Munitions Maintenance Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.

Her husband, Air Force Airman 1st Class Robert Riehl, is the son of Thomas and Helen Riehl of Heppner.

She is a 1986 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, Montgomery.

Robert K. Taylor has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of first lieutenant.

Taylor is a missile launch officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., with the 490th Strategic Missile Squadron.

He is the son of Charles and Linda Taylor of Heppner.

His wife, Jaena, is the daughter of Vernon and Vicki Sanderson of Seattle, Wa.

The lieutenant is a 1984 graduate of Burns Union High School and a 1988 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Curtis W. Reznicek was commissioned an Army second lieutenant upon graduating from the Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga.

During the 14 week course, students were trained in leadership, small unit tactics and infantry weapons. They also received instruction in map and aerial photograph reading and communications.

Reznicek is the son of Sharon Werner of Irrigon.

His wife, Mary, is the daughter of John and Maiken Hynd of La Grande.

The lieutenant is a 1983 graduate of La Grande High School, and a 1987 graduate of Oregon State University.

Army Spec. James C. Thomas has arrived for duty at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Thomas is an avionics communications equipment repairer with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Group.

He is the son of Ronald and Norma Thomas, Baker City.

His wife Jodi, is the daughter of Leslie and Margaret Nichols of Irrigon.

The specialist is a 1979 graduate of Baker High School.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Not only will 2,000 cyclists from all over the United States be pumping away September 9, so will the community of Heppner, Oregon (pumping adrenalin, that is). Feeding 2,000 cyclists box lunches, dinner and breakfast will be a major undertaking for this community of 1,500, but nothing is impossible when the community and surrounding area work together.

Heppner will be the first overnight stay on a 420-mile trip across Oregon, giving many of the cyclists their first taste of Eastern Oregon. Coordinators chamber manager Claudia Hughes and Mayor Cara Costa look at this as an opportunity to show these people that "Heppner has the best food, fun and festivities by a dam site." The event will be covered by KGW-TV 8 and The Oregonian, who are sponsors with Fred Meyer and Nike.

Cycle Oregon III committee chairs are: food-Marlene Currin; entertainment-Terrie Cutsforth; hospitality/information-Soroptimists, Pat Hyatt and Morrow County Tourism-Doug Rathbun; finance-George Koffler and Ann Spicer; homestay-Judie Laughlin; downtown and enroute booths-Rene Devin; security-Heppner Police and assigned organizations; sanitation-David Winters; merchants-Jerry Hollomon; welcome packets-Harriet Pierson; dumpsters-Wes Hickey, Tidewater; message board-Frank Osmin; beer garden-Heppner Fire Department/Jeff Mabon; parking of Cycle Oregon vehicles-Joe Miller. A souvenir and shuttle service chairperson is still needed.

"Many organizations have already responded but there are still slots to fill, so fill out a form soon at the Chamber office," says Hughes. Organizations who have signed up for helping with the meals will receive confirmation forms with their assignments in the near future. Homestay locations are still in demand.

Hughes and Costa say, "Keep that adrenalin pumping. This is an opportunity that fell into our laps and will benefit everyone in the community."

Chief Rathbun's Tips

Call the police if you see a crime or anything unusual in your neighborhood.

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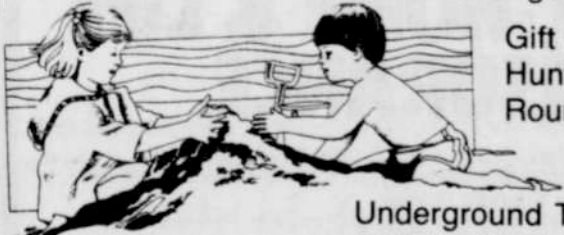
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Clem declared, "Miller's Mini Mart & Chevron is geared up for summer. They have picnic stuff, ice, fishing stuff and everything. I swear Grazelda, if I'm lyin', I'm dyin'!" Grazelda declared, "I'll take one air conditioner." Clem squirmed, "Oh oh, I'm dead."



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