

## Teachers earn \$900 for opportunity fund

On Sunday, October 28, 16 Heppner teachers, their friends and families assembled at the Forest Service compound behind the Coast to Coast store to begin a day of work that would earn another \$900 for the MCEA Opportunity Fund. The Opportunity Fund was established last year to provide financial assistance to students who would like to pursue further learning opportunities outside of their regular classroom.

Even though there was rain that morning, the workers enthusiastically tackled the job of pounding in a stake next to a seedling, putting a Vexar tube over the tree, and twisting the tube to the stake. This procedure was too insure that the seedlings would be protected from animal damage. With the sun trying to break through the grey clouds, the teachers and other volunteers took a brief lunch break and then returned to continue their work.

At 4 p.m., having completed approximately seven acres, the workers collected and returned the excess materials to the vehicles where they were congratulated for a job well done. Everyone agreed that it was a day well spent even though they were very tired.

Any student in Heppner may apply for financial assistance from the MCEA Opportunity Fund to attend an educational camp or class, a sport camp (K-8 only), Saturday Academy, or even Hands on Science right here in our own community. A student may obtain an application form from any teacher or contact Jean Strange.



Marie & Bob Connor of Huston, Texas.

Members of the Oregon Tourism Division-sponsored "Fam Tour to Hell," enjoyed an Irish stew dinner during their visit to Heppner.

"Fam Tour to Hell" is actually a tour destined for Hell's Canyon starting and ending in Boise and looping through northeastern Oregon. The tour included Ontario, Baker City, Sumpter, Prairie City, John Day, Hardman, Heppner, Echo, Pendleton and Joseph.

The travelers are themselves tour directors. During their luncheon stop in Heppner they were entertained by a program including Roger Williams of the U.S. Forest Service, who spoke on the Scenic Byway and Jean Nelson of the Historical Society, who spoke on the Oregon Trail. Morrow County Museum director Marsha Sweek acted as a tour guide from Hardman, speaking on Hard-

man and the history of the Irish and Swedish communities in the area.

The luncheon was hosted by the Heppner Chamber and the Morrow Co. Museum and provided by the St. Patrick's Committee and the United Methodist Church women, Jean Brazell and Beth Bryant.

Traveling with the tour were Jerry Prigge of Discovery Coachline, Wisconsin; Marie and Bob Conner with Sierra Stagecoaches, Huston, Texas; Eleanor Light, Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix, Arizona; Joyce Lowe, Let's Travel, Tacoma, WA.; Alice Colling, Hart of the Rockies, Denver, CO.; Goldie Fassold, Odyssey Club, Portland; and Alice Trindle, Oregon Tourism tour director and van driver, Baker City.

Chamber Manager Claudia Hughes said Heppner was fortunate to have this opportunity to promote St. Patrick's Day, the Scenic Byway and Oregon Trail. "Tour operators are looking for new experiences for clients who want off the beaten path," she said. "The visitors were especially impressed with the excellent Morrow County Museum and the information shared by Marcia Sweek. Their hour visit to Heppner included 'down home cookin' they'd like to see repeated on future tours. "The idea is to offer creative experiences not available everywhere else," said Hughes.

Alice Trindle commented that "not everyone wants Disneyland. What you have here are great people who are willing to go the extra mile."

## Cardinals named to All-Conference team

By Anne Morter  
The Ione Lady Cardinals placed three members on the All-Conference volleyball team recently announced by officials of the Big Sky League. Junior Kari Morgan was named to the second team and junior Nancy Morter and senior Wendy Anderson were honorable mention.

## Columbia Jr. High students tour Port

The Port of Morrow was of special interest to the students of the Talented and Gifted program of Columbia Junior High School on Wednesday, October 24. Lisa Mittelsdorf, assistant manager at the Port, gave the students a 'most enjoyable and informative tour.' The morning started with a video produced by personnel of the Port of Morrow showing the various activities there.

The group then boarded their bus for first-hand experiences on the products produced and shipped from Boardman. Large equipment operators loaded barges, moved containers and gave the group an insight on the vastness of the operations accomplished at the site. The final stop was at the Lamb-Weston plant where they toured the plant's complete potato operations. A fitting climax was a treat of piping hot fries served by personnel of the plant.

Those attending were Lee Holmes, Bryan King, Ahna Lietke, Ethan Maffey, Mark Medel, Brent Payne Kristi Killingbeck, Allen Day, Jason Brown, Chris Huxoll, Shanna Tallman and Lonnie Spray. Sally Edinger is coordinator for the students at Columbia.

## Ione Youth Group plans activities

By Anne Morter  
Six members of the Ione Youth Group attended the United Church of Christ Leadership Convention in Nampa, Idaho, the weekend of November 9-11.

Upcoming events for the group include a program given by the Reverend Esa Brown and a trip to Portland to work with the homeless.

On November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ Reverend Brown will present an informative program on Native American spirituality. All junior and senior high school students are invited to attend.

On November 23, the youth group will travel to Portland where they will team up with the Hillsdale Youth Group to feed 150 homeless people at the Burnside Relief Center. The Hillsdale Group has previously worked on this project. The Ione Group will spend the night at the

Hillsdale Community Church and return on Saturday.

Although the deadline for ordering Christmas trees has passed, the youth group will have several extra trees available. Anyone interested in a Douglas Fir plantation-grown tree delivered to your home by December 13 may call Jeri McElligott at 422-7257.

Ione Youth Group activities are open to all high school students. For more information call Cathy Halvorsen at 422-7107.

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## Off The Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

It's cow boogie-home time as cattle are brought home from summer pastures. Sounds easy when it comes to raising these critters; just calve them out and turn them loose for the summer. And then gather them in the fall, wean calves and start all over again.

However summertime means irrigating and baling hay to provide a pitching activity all winter. Oh sure, with four-wheel drive pickups, the rancher doesn't have to hitch up Bonnie and Clyde to feed hay anymore especially when it's snowing or the chill factor starches whiskers. But sometimes there are minor tribulations like rolling around in the mud while putting on chains after a rig has slipped sideways down a steep hill or it has been buried to the axles.

And then there's calving time in late fall and early spring. This outfit does both just to stay in practice, as those baby bovines don't always enter this world during daylight hours or without assistance.

Somewhat four legs seem to have better traction than the two-legged person with a flashlight trying to capture a wily beast. And that night checker, who is also the daytime attendant, can look forward to crawling out of a nice warm bed. But too often the cows that were supposed to calve are penned up while ones not expected to calve are outside in the dark doing their thing.

And do those cows appreciate the fact that you're trying to help them? Some of them have the dispositions of Dracula even after you've frozen your hands while delivering a slippery, slimy babe. Those individuals would just as soon make mincemeat out of you or their calves.

Occasionally these newborns have brains the size of a pea. And they don't seem to know or care where the faucets are located. It's time then to make choices—thawing out saved colostrum or milking a bossy that is determined to separate you from your head. And the feeding tube or bottle used on an uncooperative calf can short-circuit the most-patient animal lover.

Recently our son called out the reserves for fall cattle gathering in an unfamiliar area. And that included a creaking grandmother and anyone else with a compunction to survive endurance-type horseback riding.

And when it comes to climbing walls, ones that you don't bounce off of without a lot of bruises, the surrounding area of the Minom River country near Elgin, takes the prize. Wild, rugged and scenic, the sheer canyon walls make a good hang-out for goats.

However our motley crew was determined to gather cattle that had spent the summer grazing along precarious rimrocks and scratching their backs on thornbrush tickets.

A frosty, crisp morning brought out the long johns, chaps and red noses. But only a suit of armor could protect a body from thorns that pierce the soul in the most tender places. However the trick was to convince cows to come out of the brush and get a move on before they found themselves hip deep in snow.

The ice crystal-clear river was at low ebb but the river bottom hosted a bed of slippery smooth boulders. Pontoons on horses might have been a better asset than iron horseshoes during repeated river crossings.

However an unexpected river baptism would not have been any more chilling than the drenching caused by the following day's storm. Somehow rain off of bushes and the run-off from a slicker always seems to find the saddle seat. Have you ever slipped and sat in a mud puddle and lived with that condition all day?

Experts tell ranchers to diversify. Maybe they could raise pot-bellied pigs or whatever else is in vogue. It takes about 35 acres of rangeland for one cow-calf pair. So if that land is valued at \$60 per acre that makes an investment of \$1800 in land. Add to that the taxes, the hay and other expenses that it takes to produce a calf that may bring \$500.

People in agriculture are a dedicated lot. There are no annoying time clocks to punch, few paid benefits and days-off are scarce. But then not everyone can have government desk jobs dictating the regulations imposed on livestock growers. However advocates of this self-inflicted outdoor lifestyle are the ones that loudly proclaim "aren't we having fun."

## Fillies out of playoffs

The Heppner Fillies volleyball team was downed 15-9, 15-1 in state playoff action against Vale Saturday, but the girls could take consolation in knowing they lost to one of the state's best volleyball teams.

The Fillies, who ended up with a 16-12 season and a tie for first in the Columbia Basin Conference, played Vale tough in the first game, at one point holding a 7-7 tie, but eventually succumbed to the more powerful team.

Vale has been picked by many to take first at the state tournament this weekend.

**Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 22.**  
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