

## Reserves, Search and Rescue solve mock crime



Morrow County deputy Steve Myron (left) explains policies and procedures to (L-R) Mary Van Bibber, Jeff McCauley and Ed Wilson in their recent mock disaster training.

The Morrow County Reserves and Search and Rescue combined their training skills to solve a mock crime scene investigation at Lindsay Canyon on April 21.

The reserves kicked off the training by contacting and interviewing with an occupant of a "suspicious vehicle." They determined the male subject was a suspect of a domestic assault and possible kidnap incident occurring out of Morrow County. The suspect was taken into custody and the reserves attempted to find the female involved.

The Search and Rescue members took the measurements of the victim's foot prints in the immediate

area. They determined that the male and female departed from the vehicle in a southerly direction. Participants learned procedures for locating and preserving evidence, whether it be cigarette butts, gum wrappers, clothing, hair, etc.

Eventually the tracks headed in an easterly direction through the sagebrush. Scattered clothing and turned-over topsoil indicated a possible grave. One set of foot prints departed from the site, returning to the vehicle.

Overall, participating members said they enjoyed the training, sharing the skills of each unit and combining their abilities to work together as a team.

## Conservationist offers tips on wind breaks

Last spring, were your young crops pelted by blowing soil? Uprooted by gusts of wind? This scene has been familiar to farmers in Morrow County. You can change this picture though, by planting field windbreaks and leaving crop residue on the field.

Field windbreaks prevent the wind from eroding the soil and damaging young crops. Add crop residue, and the farmer can virtually eliminate erosion by wind. "To get started, a farmer needs a windbreak plan which includes the design, and the kind of tree and shrub species," said district conservationist, Loren Unruh.

Money for purchasing and planting trees is available from cost-sharing programs offered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). ASCS compensates the farmer for 50-75 percent of the cost. To be eligible for cost-sharing, a windbreak plan must be approved by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Any changes in the tree and shrub numbers or species must be approved by the SCS prior to planting in order to qualify for cost-sharing. Windbreaks must be maintained for 10 years.

The windbreak design will depend on the crops to be protected, the soil texture, degree and length of slope, the prevailing wind direction and the potential height that can be expected from the trees on the given soil. The height of the trees determines the extent of field protection.

Planting an effective windbreak requires a knowledge of the wind erosion process and careful planning, says Unruh. "We need to know the location of above and below ground utilities, and tile drainage lines. Snow on the downhill side of the windbreak can be a nuisance on soils that are not well drained. They can cause a delay in working the ground in the spring and sometimes

contribute to water erosion," he said. Unruh recommends that trees not be planted too close together in a windbreak. "If wind current can't pass through the trees, the wind will carry the snow up and over the trees and deposit all of the blowing snow on the downwind side," explained Unruh. The idea is to get an even distribution of snow through and behind the windbreak.

"Spacing of trees within windbreaks is critical for another reason," said Unruh. Trees usually die after planting for two reasons: trees were planted too close, or soil conditions are too dry. Lower limbs of conifers easily die if planted too close together. Trees require spacing from 6 to 18 feet within rows, depending on the species. When multi-row windbreaks are planted, a 20-foot distance may be adequate. The distance between shrubs varies from three to eight feet.

Usually, a single row of trees is planted for a field windbreak, said Unruh. However, he added, "If you want to encourage wildlife habitat, additional rows of trees and shrubs are a must."

"Select the trees and shrubs based on your local soil type and windbreak design," said Unruh. The Soil Conservation Service has a list of tree and shrub species adapted to Morrow County soils.

To prepare a site infested with perennials, summer fallow the area to be planted. If necessary, treat the area with herbicides prior to the planting year. If crops have been grown on the site, leave crop residue on the surface and prepare the site for planting in the spring.

Trees should be protected from rabbits and mice, which clip or girdle young seedlings. Various forms of protection can be used. Clearing the row of weeds by cultivating or applying herbicide makes the windbreak less attractive to rabbits and mice.

## Ione holds prom, banquet, tea

By Anne Morter

This past weekend was a special weekend for Ione High School students with the Junior-Senior Banquet on Friday, the prom on Saturday and the Mother's Tea on Monday.

Juniors, seniors, senior parents and special guests enjoyed a mouth-watering dinner of teriyaki chicken, fresh fruit salad and chocolate mousse at Friday's banquet, which included the reading of the seniors' wills and prophecies.

On Saturday the Legion Hall was transformed into a land of castles, princes and princesses for that annual rite of spring, the prom. "Forever Young" was the theme of the evening, topped off by the crowning of Wendy Anderson and Jim Holtz as queen and king. The finale to prom weekend is the annual Mother's Tea held on Monday afternoon at the Legion Hall. The mothers and other special guests from town are invited to view the prom decorations as the girls model their dresses.

## 1981 class reunion meeting scheduled

A meeting of members of the Heppner High School class of 1981 will be held Monday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at Kate's Pizza to discuss a class reunion. All classmates are urged to attend said a reunion organizer.

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## McElligott to speak at meeting

A Heppner evening home Extension club meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Extension office conference

room. Speaker will be Laura Burnside-McElligott, who will speak on childhood diseases.

## Johnny can't read? Maybe he can't see

About 16 percent of children 5 to 12 years old have vision problems that can lead to reading disabilities, says the American Optometric Association. This is about one child of every six.

Even if a child is of average or above-average intelligence, reading comprehension problems can affect his or her classroom performance and lead the youngster to accept being labeled "slow" or "stupid."

Vision-related learning problems may cause a child to suffer from low self-esteem, depression or other psychological problems. According to Carol Bennett, Morrow County Extension agent, these problems could interfere with a child's ability to function effectively in society.

"Early detection through a professional eye exam is the best way to correct any visual deficiencies that could cause a vision-related learning problem.

Once diagnosed, some causes of problems can be corrected by prescription eyewear. Vision therapy is another treatment program in which repetitive visual exercises are used to coordinate eye movement and focus ability.

Some indications that a child may have trouble seeing:

- \* Dislike and avoidance of close work;
- \* Short attention span or frequent daydreaming;
- \* Tilting the head to one side or closing one eye;
- \* Trouble finishing timed written assignments;
- \* Placing the head close to a book or desk when reading;
- \* Excessive blinking or rubbing of eyes;
- \* Losing place while reading;
- \* Complaints of headache, nausea and dizziness; and,
- \* Blurred or double vision.

Since reading disabilities usually have multiple causes, parents, educators and eyecare specialists

should work together to address a child's learning needs.

While most schools "screen" children to detect vision problems, school eye exams generally test only a child's visual acuity—the ability to see objects clearly from 20 feet away. A child may pass such vision screening, but still have vision disorders that interfere with reading ability and learning.

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