

County officials attend seminar

By Anne Morter

Deputy District Attorney Val Doherty, and County Commissioner Ray French attended a seminar in Albuquerque, New Mexico, recently on behalf of Morrow County. The purpose was to learn how to protect their rights and the county's economic base in the face of today's environmental changes.

Entitled "County Government and Federal Lands Seminar" the meeting was intended to educate county officials on ways to deal with the effects of the environmental movement in their own areas. Sponsors of the conference were the National Federal Lands Coalition and the Coalition of County Governments of Arizona and New Mexico. Representatives from California, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon and Washington were in attendance.

Doherty said she found the conference "stimulating, rousing and terrifying" all at the same time. She says the amount of material and information they received was voluminous and slightly overwhelming. "The basis of the conference is a message that a movement is afoot. The effect is to control and limit people's access to and use of the land. When people don't control resources, the government does. When that happens, we don't have the kind of America that we grew up with. Natural resources are controlled by a central government bureaucracy," said Doherty.

Participants arrived at the seminar looking for a solution to their own specific problem with their own specific government agency. They came away with the basics of dealing with their problems and how all the problems were interrelated. According to Doherty, the conference "motivated people to go home and apply principles to their own specific situations."

Doherty says that the big issue facing all participants was control: control of not only public lands but also private lands in the runaway effort to protect natural resources. "The issue is very complex and very frightening. In the past, we've had adherence to multiple-use ideals. What the environmentalist, conser-

vationist and preservationist movement has done is to get agencies away from that principle to one of single use. That movement is moving people off the land and destroying the base industry that fuels the economy," Doherty said.

The driving force behind this movement are the many species falling in the categories of "sensitive" "threatened" or "endangered", inhabiting our forests, deserts and waterways. According to Doherty, 215 species will be added in those three categories in our state within the next year. The one with potential to be most devastating is the Columbia River salmon. She states that if and when the sockeye is listed as endangered, we will be prohibited not just from harming the fish but also its habitat. "Harm to the habitat" will affect farmers in ways they have not yet imagined, she warns. To date, we have heard about increases in electric and barge rates, changes that would certainly affect farming. She says that new regulations concerning silt, chemicals or anything else that could be considered harmful to the salmon's habitat that get into the watershed will physically affect farming practices and will undoubtedly take acres out of production. These measures are not that far down the road. Doherty predicts that we'll start to feel the effects within a year, if we haven't already.

The frightening part of the environmental movement is the potential devastation to the economy, a factor that is rarely considered. Doherty uses the example of the thousands of loggers in southwestern Oregon affected by the recent spotted owl ruling. The loggers lose their jobs and have no money to spend. Local businesses suffer and some are forced to close. Loggers move away, lose their property, fail to pay property taxes. Closed businesses no longer can pay property taxes. The county loses its tax base which in turn affects the services they offer, as well as schools. Without stretching the imagination too far, it becomes clear that no one in the affected area escapes the economic wrath.

The seminar gave the message that the county government can make a difference. They have access to notice of impending action by agencies making rulings and they have the right to insist on coordination of agencies.

Doherty says that everyone needs to be involved in this battle, because the battle will affect us all. She gives the following suggestions on how private individuals can make a difference.

* Educate yourself on the issues at hand-find out what information is available;

* Make your voice heard to local county government;

* Write to your higher elected officials and tell them they must get a handle on their agencies. Agencies created to promote multiple use are now narrowing their focus to single use.

* Talk to your neighbors, get a grass roots movement going. "When people stand together, it gives the county government much more power," says Doherty.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

WCCC Golf

Willow Creek Ladies

July 2, 1991

Flight A: low gross-Pat Edmundson; low net-Eileen Padberg; least putts-Bev Wilson.

Flight B: low gross-Jo Pettyjohn; low net-Betty Carlson and Doll Campbell; least putts-Dorris Graves.

Flight C: low gross- Daisy Collins; low net-Darlene Scroggins; least putts-Melba Miller.

Chip in: Dorris Graves #2 and Betty Rietmann #5.

Sunday Men's Play

July 7, 1991

Low gross: first-Don Lott; second-Dave Gunderson and Earl Fishburn; third-Ed Struthers.

Low net: first-Jon Mitchell and Earl Norris; second-Dave Allstott; third-Roy Martin and Tad Miller.

Least putts: Don Lott.
Long drive: Frank Pearson.
K.P.: Jay Straley.



One hundred seven people were present for the senior dinner Wednesday, July 3. The meal ticket was won by Norma French, the door prize went to Dot Halvorsen and the guest prize was taken by Linda Ruud. Members of the Catholic Church did the serving. Merna Toll entertained with piano music.

The menu for July 17 will be meat loaf, glazed carrots, fresh vegetable tray, dilly bread and pineapple upsidedown cake. Members of the Baptist Church will serve.

Seniors who aren't able to come to the meal site may have dinner delivered to them on Wednesday. Call the Senior Center office, 676-9030, preferably the day before. Suggested donation for the meal is \$1.75. Those needing a ride to the Wednesday dinner may call Dot Halvorsen, driver of the senior bus on Tuesday, 422-7143. Or call the Senior Center office for the dollaride car.

Meetings to remember are:

July 16: The senior groups of Morrow County Health Study will meet with Stan Hoobing and Grace Drake from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the dining room of the Senior Center.

July 17: Senior dinner at noon. Senior board meeting after dinner. VFW meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m.: quilting.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m.: exercise.

Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.: hobby time.

The meeting scheduled for July 18 has been cancelled by the ECOAC.

Bridgett McElligott wins Historical Society essay contest

By Delpha Jones

Morrow County Historical Society members were pleased with the student turnout for the essay contest sponsored by the society for junior high students. The topic this year was "Irrigation in Morrow County" with US savings bonds as prizes.

Tuesday evening June 4, Delpha Jones, president and Ruth McCabe, secretary, presented first place to Bridgett McElligott; second to Kim Bedortha and third to Jessica Stephani at the lone achievement awards party. Jamie Lovett received a certificate of appreciation.

On Thursday, June 6, they visited the junior high gym in Irrigon and presented Alajandra Torres of Boardman a US bond. She had tied for third place. The sole purpose of the group is for "preservation of the history of Morrow County," said a spokesperson, "and what better way than having the students do a bit of research on topics relating to this.

Members of the group say they hope the essay contest can be continued another year if there is interest in the schools. The group encourages more students to participate in this contest and appreciate the teachers, students and parents for their interest.

It will be time for the annual meeting soon and the speaker will be "Fanny", the Oregon trail woman, performed by Joyce Bagley Smith of Baker City. She is the executive director of the Oregon Trail Preservation Trust and makes public appearances in the role of Fanny, a pioneer wife recently arrived in Oregon territory. Smith makes her program from the diaries of women who traveled the Oregon Trail. Smith recently was present at the opening of the House of Representatives, at the invitation of Rep. Mike Nelson.

The annual Historical Society meeting is always the first Sunday in October at the Lexington Grange Hall.

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Merry DeSpain & Russell Brannon
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Shelly Turner & Greg Rietmann
WEDDING - August 10

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