

## Oregon farm trend contradicts nation

By all rights Oregon should be losing farms.

That's the national trend. The number of farms in the United States has dropped every year since 1981, a downward trend that started in 1936. At the same time, average farm size has increased.

Not so in Oregon. Not only does the state have more farms than it had in 1981 (37,000 compared to 36,500), average farm size has gone down, not up. In 1981 the average Oregon farm was 496 acres. In 1991 it fell to 481 acres. On the other hand, the average U.S. farm in 1981 was 425 acres, which rose to 467 acres in 1991.

The reason Oregon defies national trends owes in large part to the many farmers growing "specialty crops" on small plots in the Willamette Valley, says Paul Williamson, state statistician with Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service in Portland.

Those "specialty crops" include vegetable and flower seeds, herbs, berries, wine grapes and nursery products.

Williamson says a good share of Oregon's "specialty crop" farmers are parttime farmers who want to "raise a little bit of this and a little bit of that."

"It's a sideline," he says. "It's not their main occupation."

A farm need only produce \$1,000 worth of agricultural products to be considered a farm by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Williamson notes.

"A lot of people are keeping a few head of cattle or a few sheep. They'll often qualify as a farm, especially if the prices are high," he says.

While the average Oregon farm has lost acres due to increase in small farms in the Willamette Valley-farms in eastern Oregon have generally gotten bigger.

For example, the average farm size in Harney County, a major cattle county, is 3,690 acres. On the other hand, the average farm in Lane County in the Willamette Valley is 136 acres. Clackamas County's average farm is only about 50 acres.

Whether large or small, most of Oregon's farms are family owned.

According to Williamson about 80 percent of Oregon's farms are owned by sole proprietors or individuals (generally assumed to be family farms), about six percent are partnerships and about four percent are corporations.

He notes that some of the corporate farms are simply family farms that have incorporated for tax purposes.

Williamson says the real shift has been not to more corporate farms, but to larger farms owned by fewer families, particularly in eastern Oregon.

"In order to have a unit that will sustain a family, they have had to grow and become larger and in the process a lot of small, inefficient operations has continued to grow and they have had to get larger and more efficient to spread the cost of some of these investments over a larger land base."

And what will the trends show in the future? Williamson believes as long as Oregon continues its diversity of agricultural products, the number of farms should remain fairly constant while the rest of the nation may continue to experience a decline.

For more information, contact Paul Williamson, 326-2131 or Bruce Pokarney, 378-3773.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's department reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

June 15: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a neighborhood problem.

June 16: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon post office for a report of vandalism done to two mail boxes. Approximate damage is \$50;

Morrow County deputy responded to I-84, for a report of a driver headed towards Boardman, west bound, in the east bound lanes;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance to the Haven House for a female.

June 17: Morrow County deputy responded to Wilson Road in Boardman for a report of a speeding vehicle. Investigations are pending;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Ione Fire Dept. to a reported residential fire on Gooseberry Road. CRP was on fire due to an out of control burning barrel;

Morrow County Sheriff's office arrested Timothy Donald Karr, Boardman, for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Open Container. Karr was cited and released.

June 18: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept to a grass fire on Hwy 730 mile post 169, by the railroad tracks. Fire department was unable to locate fire upon arrival;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance to the Asher Clinic in Fossil for a patient transfer;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept to a controlled burn out of control at a residence on the Paul Smith Road in Boardman. Fire was contained;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to Ready Mix, Boardman, for a man down with an unknown injury. Subject was transported to the Boardman Clinic.

June 19: Morrow County deputy received a report of an animal problem near Wilson Trailer Park in Irrigon;

Morrow County deputies responded to a vehicle/bicycle accident on Division St. in Irrigon. Driver of the vehicle, Benita Ramirez, 76, Irrigon, was southbound on Division when his vehicle struck two bicyclists. Both juveniles were transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with unknown injuries. One female juvenile Sara Erickson, nine year old, Irrigon, was airlifted to Portland. The other victim was Tana Dicks, 10, Irrigon. Incident is under investigation;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the Boardman post office for a female down and unconscious. Lisa McCoy, 17, McNary, was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence on W. Kunze Road in Boardman for a report of a man down and not breathing. Clyde Robinson, 92, was found dead on arrival and apparently died of natural causes. There was no transport made.

June 20: Morrow County

Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a one vehicle accident on I-84, mile post 169. There were minor injuries but no transport made;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to an industrial accident at Lamb Weston in Boardman. A 25 year old male received second degree burns and was transported to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray Ambulance for one male with cardiac problems. Subject was brought in by a private vehicle. Ambulance was advised and there was no transport made.

June 21: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon Fire Dept to a vehicle on Fire on Hwy. 206, .16-17, one mile east of Cottonwood Bridge; Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon Marina for a report of a disagreement. There was no further action taken;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon City Park for a report of a broken sprinkler. Deputy was unable to locate problem upon arrival.

June 22: Morrow County deputies responded to 8th St. West, Irrigon, for a report of a deceased male. Souksavath Souvannarath, 28, Irrigon died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon Fire Dept to a fire at the city dump. Fire was contained;

Morrow County deputy contacted an Irrigon resident on 4th st. W for a report of property damage.

## Births

**Jessica Marie Hughes**-a daughter Jessica Marie, was born to William Kevin and Angie Hughes, of Heppner on June 17, 1992 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 6 lbs. ½ oz.

Grandparents are Merlin and Claudia Hughes, Heppner; and Dan and Gail Haggard, Talent. Great grandparents are Ebb and Pauline Hughes, Ukiah; Corleen Coe, Walla Walla, WA.; Uyvonna Haggard, Redding, CA.; and Ray and Voila Lick, Talent. Great-great grandmothers are Mrs. A.H. Overby, Walla Walla, WA. and Jenny Paden, Oklahoma.

## Obituaries

### Marcel Jones

The funeral for Charles Marcel Jones was held at the First Christian Church in Heppner on Monday, June 22, 1992. Burial followed at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mr. Jones 79, Heppner, died Wednesday, June 17, 1992 at Amber Valley Care Center in Pendleton.

He was born Aug. 4, 1912 at Heppner to Charles and Marvel Miller Jones. He grew up in Heppner and attended local schools graduating from Heppner High School in 1933.

Mr. Jones served with the U.S. Army during World War II.

On Oct. 7, 1944, he married Thelma Dee Davis at Paris, Ark.

He served with the local draft board from 1958 to 1968.

Mr. Jones, who had farmed in the Heppner area most of his life, was named Conservation Man of the Year of Morrow County in 1971.

Survivors include a son, Ronald of Sweet Home; daughter Judy Denning of Portland; brothers Paul and Floyd, both of Heppner; sisters, Vallis Washburn of Philomath, Lois Graybeal of Ukiah, CA.; and Loma Chalfant of Morristown, Ind.; and two grandchildren. His wife died in 1989.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Christian Church Memorial Fund, Box 158, Heppner, OR 97836 or the Alzheimers Association, 1311 NW 21st, Portland, OR 97209.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

**Michael W. Merryman** Michael William Merryman, 46, Irrigon, died Wednesday, June 17, 1992 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

Memorial services were held in the chapel of Burns Mortuary June 20, 1992. Cremation was held earlier.

Mr. Merryman was born December 15, 1945 at Salinas, CA. to Dewey and Jennie Swank Merryman.

He was an active member of the Hermiston Amateur Radio Club, a member of the Military Affiliate Radio System, a member of the Amateur Radio Service and a member of the National Rifle Association.

Survivors include his wife, Marcheta at the home; his father Dewey Merryman of Seattle, WA. and his stepfather Don Watts of Reno, Nev.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association directly or through Burns Mortuary, Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

### Sara Rose Erickson

Sara Rose Erickson, 9, Irrigon, died Friday, June 19, 1992 at Oregon Health Sciences University of Portland, from injuries sustained when she and her bicycle were struck by a motor vehicle.

The funeral was held at the Columbia View Community Church in Irrigon on June 23. Burial was at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon.

Sara was born July 29, 1982 at Hermiston to Lloyd and Rita Erickson. She had lived in Irrigon all her life and was a member of the Columbia View Community Church.

She played minor league baseball and was a former member of the Umatilla Sage Riders. She enjoyed singing, horseback riding, swimming and gymnastics.

Survivors include her parents, Lloyd and Rita Erickson at the home; grandparents Tom and Colleen Blaylock of Irrigon; grandmother, Rose Erickson Duerson; and brothers Jason and her twin brother Cody, both of Irrigon and Bruce Whitman of The Dalles.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia View Community Church building fund or to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, directly or through Burns Mortuary, Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

### Clyde A. Robinson

Clyde Arthur Robinson, 92, Boardman, died at his home on Friday, June 19, 1992.

Graveside funeral services were held at the Riverview Cemetery in Boardman on June 23, 1992.

Mr. Robinson was born Nov. 28, 1899 at Des Moines, Iowa, and had been a resident of Boardman since 1945.

He had been a farmer and lumberman all his life.

Survivors include sons Bill of Powell Butte, Art of Pendleton and Tim of Baker City; a daughter Evelyn Hayes of Fossil; a sister Grace Harrison of Hayden Lake, Idaho; eight grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. His wife, Gladys and a daughter both preceded him in death.

Burns Mortuary, Hermiston, was in charge of arrangements.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF ELECTION

The City of Ione will hold an election on Tuesday, November 3, 1992 to fill the position of Mayor and three council positions. Filing petitions may be obtained at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione Branch or at the City Recorders' house, 110 E. 3rd Street. Petitions must be filed with the City Recorder by July 30, 1992.

Sharon Rietmann  
City Recorder

Published: June 24, 1992

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice of Election Council Members

Official terms expiring for the Town of Lexington are two Council positions and City Recorder. All three are for four year terms. Nominating petitions are available at City Hall or by contacting Sue Baker for the election to be held November 3, 1992. The petitions must be filed with the City Recorder no later than August 25, 1992 and contain signatures of qualified electors only.

Sue Baker  
Town of Lexington  
Published: June 24; July 8, 22; and August 12, 1992

## PUBLIC NOTICE

By order of the Town Council of Lexington:

A ban on open burning is to go into effect for the Town of Lexington effective immediately. This restriction will be in effect until further notice. No outside burning will be permitted within the Town with the exception that fires within burning barrels or other suitable inclosed receptacles with a screened covering to control the disbursement of burning particles will be permitted between daylight and 10 A.M. No outside burning, in any form, will be permitted after 10 A.M.

If you have questions regarding this outside burning ban you may contact Bill Sheirbon for further information.  
Published: June 24, 1992

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

#### Roof Modifications

at Boardman Elementary School, Boardman, OR

### MORROW COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 368  
Lexington, OR 97839-9368

The Morrow County School District invites bids for the removal and replacement of the built-up roof system at Boardman Elementary School in accordance with the project plans and specifications.

The estimated cost of this project is \$35,000 to \$45,000.

Sealed bids for the above described project will be received by the School District Administrative office until 2:00 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, Wednesday, 8 July 1992 and then publicly opened and read aloud. Each bid must be submitted on the prescribed form and accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond, payable to Morrow County School District, in an amount not less than 5 percent.

Examination of the project site may be arranged by calling the Morrow County School District, Maintenance Department Superintendent (Matt Warren, 503/989-8202).

The Contract documents may be examined at the following locations:

-Morrow County School District Administration Office, Lexington, Oregon

-Northwest Plan Center, Portland, Oregon

-Tri-City Construction Council, Inc., Kennewick, Washington

-SCM Consultants, Inc., Kennewick, Washington

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of SCM Architecture and Planning, P.C., 7601 West Clearwater Avenue, Suite 301, Kennewick, WA 99336, upon non-refundable payment of \$20.00 for each set.

Bids must contain statement that the provisions of the Prevailing Wage Rate, ORS 279.350 or 40 U.S.C. 276a, are to be complied with.

The Morrow County School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Published: June 17 and 24, 1992

## Use caution with fireworks

More than 10,000 Americans will be injured by fireworks this year in accidents that can be treated. Approximately 1,300 of these injuries will be treated at hospital emergency rooms for serious eye injuries and about 400 Americans will lose vision in one or both eyes.

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology recommends that anyone handling fireworks observe these basic safety guidelines:

Be sure each firework has a clearly printed manufacturer's name, address and cautionary label. A firework lacking this information is very likely to be illegal. Never attempt to make your own fireworks.

Never allow children to handle or ignite explosive fireworks. Adults should closely supervise children's use of relatively safe fireworks such as sparklers.

Always wear glasses or safety goggles when setting fireworks. Spectators in noncommercial firework settings should also consider the use of protective

eyewear.

Do not put firecrackers in bottles or tin cans or under clay pots because these objects can shatter and propel fragments into the eye.

Do not throw sparklers into the air or wave them near another person's eyes.

In case of an eye injury do not press, rub or touch the eye; seek immediate care at a hospital emergency room.

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology is the state's organization of eye physicians and surgeons. Ophthalmologists are medical doctors—educated, trained and licensed to provide complete medical eye care.

## DMV lists schedule

The Department of Motor Vehicles office in Heppner will be closed July 16, August 20 and September 17. The office will be open in Condon on those days. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

sent came from Chehalis and Pasco, Washington; LaGrande, Arlington, Condon, Hillsboro, Bend, Portland, Hermiston and Ione.

## Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Edwin Keith Smelzer, 20, Hermiston-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$22 fine;

Rachel Esther Peaton, 19, Hermiston-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$46 fine;

Shirley Anne McCarl, 56, Lexington-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 71 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$46 fine;

Mark James Bullman, 25, Seattle, WA.-Failure to Wear Safety Belt, guilty by default, \$93 fine;

Daniel Vernon Phinney, 23, Kirkland, WA.-Failed to Signal, guilty by default, \$71 fine;

James Walter Wing, 47, Spray-Driving While Suspended, (breath alcohol content failure), \$455 fine;

John Brent Looney, 47, Heppner-Operator's License Expired, \$18 fine;

Michael David Robison, 28, Heppner-No Operator's License, \$18 fine;

John Eldon Campbell, 27, Lexington-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 62 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$11 fine;

## WCCC Golf

### Ladies Play

June 16, 1992

Flight A: low gross-Harriet Pierson; low net-Pat Edmundson and Anita Boyer; least putts-Eileen Padberg; long putt-Luvilla Sonstegard; K.P.-Anita Boyer.

Flight B: low gross-Carol Norris; low net-Luvilla Sonstegard; least putts-Kay Anderson.

Flight C: low gross-Karen Wildman; low net-Annie Lusher; least putts-Bernice Lott.

### Family Barbecue

June 21, 1992

First place-a tie between Howard and Helen Gilliam and Duck and Annie Lusher, 25.5; second-Cindi and Mike Doherty 27.5; third-Tad and Melba Miller 30; fourth-Ray and Norma French 30.5; least putts-Howard and Helen Gilliam 15; K.P. hole #1 Cindi and Mike Doherty.

### Sunday Men's Play

Low gross: first-Tad Miller; second-Mike Doherty; third-Dave Gunderson and Roy Martin.

Low net: first-Dan Matthews; second-Dave Wildman and Earl Norris; third-J.J. Shaw.

K.P.: Dan Matthews and Dave Wildman.

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See them all at

## WRIGHT CHEV.

### INC.

#### Fossil, Oregon

#### CONTACT

Herb Wright

Bill MacInnes or

Billy MacInnes, Jr.

(503) 763-4175