

## Off the Wall By Meryn Robinson

Weekend thunderstorms brought a deluge in some areas that compared to being caught by the full force of a water from a fire hose opened to capacity. It was a case of too much, too late, especially for harvesters. Maybe this erratic weather of late has created a water on the brain condition.

Certain errors could be blamed on my typewriter or a copy editor if it weren't for the similarity through word association.

In a recent story about the two horsewomen visiting the area, a sentence expressed their efforts to video tape testimonials promoting a less-expensive health care insurance plan. Somehow that turned into video "tapping." While I'm sure there wasn't any line tapping involved, perhaps it was because we're all grateful that water still runs from a tap.

A while back a story of mine expounded on "affluent" water from the city sewer system. My explanation is that as the utility costs rise, only the rich can afford to waste water. And if the proposed plan to put effluent water on the golf course is carried out, then the affluent golf course will be \$50,000 to the good, plus city consumers will help to pay for a sophisticated watering system that will automatically keep the greens green.

Okay, so my story on seed weevils turned them into sea weevils. Well, they came from the Mediterranean Sea area, didn't they? And though I've never been there, I understand that there's enough wet salty stuff left in that body of water to create a problem when it's topped with oil spills.

The concern with water shortages, affects not only my brain but the forests, the rivers and streams and all of agriculture. So I question the wisdom of brains who think that the best solution to salmon recovery is to draw down the pools of Columbia River dams despite the impact to the Northwest economy.

While urban folks seem to think that all food is produced in a factory, the river system not only affects the food chain, but recreation, transportation and lots of agribusiness workers.

If preference is given to fish in that instance, then why is the Corps of Engineers proposing to draw down the Willow Creek Dam reservoir to give water to a few farmers? That pool, that is already lower than normal, is just beginning to attract fishing, boating and other water recreation users.

As a person with roots in the country, my empathy is with those Willow Creek farmers who could lose their crops. But how about all the other area farmers who don't live along Willow Creek and have no means of subsidizing nature?

Ever since I can remember, Willow Creek becomes bone dry during summers before it gets very far past Heppner. It would have taken some afthought, but irrigation water from the lake should have been stored above the level needed to maintain water quality in the reservoir.

Heppner lived down the reputation of having a leaky dam that might wash away and destroy the town. Due to drought conditions in recent years, hardly anyone got excited about a recent testing of the flood warning system.

If the lake is lowered by 1,000 feet for irrigation plus the normal amount of evaporation perhaps Heppner will create new headlines for dying fish, stagnant water and the area boasting the most midges. I doubt that it would add to the scenic attraction of the proposed lakeside overnight campground.

But before it's suggested that I stick to erroneous reporting and that a bucket brigade manned by reporters be used to carry water to dying crops, I best get on with my own water problems--a leaky washing machine and the flattened flowers that have been carefully nurtured.

## Corps to release dam water

One thousand acre-feet of water stored in Willow Creek Lake outside Heppner will be released for local irrigators, according to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers press release.

The requested water would be used to irrigate 2,668 acres of cropland along Willow Creek in the communities of Ione and Lexington. Without this water, crops valued at \$500,000 could be lost because of drought conditions in Morrow County, said the Corps.

The Corps determined that releasing the water would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The Corps prepared the environmental assessment and a finding of No Significant Impact, after eight Willow Creek farmers applied for 2,128 acre-feet of water from the Willow Creek Lake. The Corps, operators of Willow Creek Dam, determined that 1,000 acre-feet was the most that could be made available from the lake.

Emergency drought conditions are being prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Governor Barbara Roberts declared Morrow County in a state of drought emergency on May 15.

Removing 1,000 acre-feet of water for irrigation could reduce the pool level by 7.5 feet, decreasing it to about 2,051 feet elevation by mid-August and ultimately down to 2,039.5 elevation during the late fall.

It could also reduce populations of large and small mouth bass, crappie, other panfish and brown bullheads. "The reduced populations of these fish would put them below fishable levels for several years," said the Corps. "Also, the entire population of trout in the lake could potentially be eliminated. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stock rainbow trout in the lake. Fishing opportunities could be lost for several years," they continued. "Recreation could be reduced. The water surface of 75 acres on the lake could be as much as 21 acres smaller than normally expected during the late summer."

## Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

June 23: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area to investigate a report of telephone harassment. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County deputy responded to a theft in Irrigon. Investigation is continuing.

June 24: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance for a female in Boardman. Female was transported to the Boardman Clinic;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington Fire Dept. to a grass fire on I-84, milepost 128-129;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon Fire Dept. to a grass fire north of the City Farm;

Morrow County deputy arrested Leanna M. Fennemore, 29, Portland on a Multnomah County Warrant for Probation Violation, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. Fennemore posted bail and was released with a court date. She was also arrested for Hunting in a Prohibited Area (to wit Roadway). She was cited and released with an appearance date;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington Fire Dept. to a grass fire on Blalock Road;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Ione area to contact a citizen regarding a juvenile driving problem;

Morrow County deputy arrested Robert Brehm, 21, Irrigon on a Benton County, Kennewick, WA, warrant for Theft II. Subject was transported and lodged.

June 25: Morrow County deputy responded to the Nugget Motel for a suspicious person report. Deputy was unable to locate anyone upon arrival;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of animal cruelty. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a neighborhood dispute;

Morrow County deputy responded to 3rd St., Irrigon, for a report of animal abuse;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to 308 Columbia, Boardman. One patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray Fire Dept. to a grass fire on 2nd St., Spray. Fire was contained;

Morrow County deputy responded to West Extension Irrigation in Irrigon for a report of windows damaged at a pump station. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a semi-truck rollover near the TACX plant in Boardman. One male was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital by a Umatilla ambulance, with unknown injuries. Boardman ambulance was unable to respond. Morrow County deputies responded for traffic control.

June 26: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. to a vehicle on fire on I-84, milepost 161. There were no injuries, fire was contained;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to 535 Elder St., Heppner, for an 80 year old female with stomach pains. Female was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital;

Morrow County deputy received a report of possible animal neglect on 8th St., Irrigon. Call was unfounded;

Morrow County Sheriff's office

dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. to a grass fire on the railroad tracks on I-84, mile post 159. Fire was contained.

June 27: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. to a hay fire near Wilson Road/Laurel Lane, Boardman. Fire was contained;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a two vehicle accident on I-84 milepost 168 eastbound. Unable to locate;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept. to a grass fire on the top of Heppner Hill;

Morrow County deputy responded to Olson Road for a report of a deceased male. Homer Prichard, 68, Boardman, died of natural causes;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of harassment. Investigations are continuing;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a civil matter;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Ione Fire Dept. to a lightning caused fire at Cecil;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Ione Fire Dept. to a fire caused by lightning at Morgan;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon EMTs to the clinic for a male with injuries;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Ione Fire Dept. to a fire caused by lightning at Cecil;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon Fire Dept. to a lightning caused fire on the Gilliam County side of the John Day River;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. to a field fire near the Ready Mix on Columbia;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington Fire Dept. to a grass fire in Scotch Canyon S. Hwy 19;

Morrow County Sheriff's office advised the Army Depot of a field fire on the Army Depot.

June 28: Morrow County deputy took a report of vandalism from the Lexington area;

Morrow County deputy responded to take a report of theft from Phil Ralston, Umatilla. Taken were two fire extinguishers from a boat at the Irrigon Marina valued at \$15 each;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman area for a family disturbance;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of harassment;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon Fire Dept. to a field fire at Sam Seale's ranch;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Ione Fire Dept. to a grass fire near the George Miller ranch on Emmigrant Road. Fire was contained;

Morrow County deputies responded to Lexington for a report of flash flooding. Excessive rain on Black Horse Canyon caused minor flooding, deputies discovered one bridge out and some road washouts. No injuries were reported. Some local businesses experienced flooding, road crews were called out to block off Black Horse Canyon road and Bell Canyon;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the S. Gilliam County Fire Dept. to a grass fire south of Condon toward Lonerock. Fire was contained.

June 29: Morrow County Sheriff's office marine deputies responded by boat to a report of a beached boat on an island near Irrigon. Boat was found intact and towed into the Irrigon Marina;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to I-84, mile post 151,

east bound for a female having convulsions along the side of the road. She was gone upon arrival;

Morrow County deputy responded to a residence in Irrigon on 9th St. for a report of a female being threatened;

Morrow County deputy responded to Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington, for a report of a burglary. Approximately 20 large truck tires were taken, estimated value \$6,000. Investigation is continuing;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon Trailer Court, Irrigon, for a report of a possible theft of a refrigerator. Call was unfounded;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to 125 Shane Dr., Arlington, for a report of a male with chest pains. Transport was made to Mid Columbia Medical Center, The Dalles;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Ione Fire Dept. to a grass fire on Arcada St., Lexington;

Morrow County deputy received a report of a missing motorcycle from the Miller residence in Ione. Value was undetermined, investigation is continuing.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Election  
Council Members  
Town of Lexington

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 1, 8 and 15, 1992

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Council for the City of Heppner, Oregon will conduct public hearings at 7:00 PM on July 13, 1992 at Heppner City Hall, 188 West Willow Street regarding violations of City Ordinance No. 474, an Ordinance Abating Nuisance for Accumulation of Solid Waste and Fire Hazards.

The following properties are in violation of the ordinance because of deposits of solid wastes scattered about the premises that create a fire hazard and harborage for rodents and insects and is injurious to the health, safety and general welfare of the people.

1. 220 West Willow Street, Map #2S 26 35BB, Tax Lot #6900.  
2. 595 Jones Street, Map #2S 26 27DD, Tax Lot #1900.  
Published: July 1, 1992

## PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
IONE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
6-604  
P.O. BOX B

IONE, OREGON 97843

The Ione Rural Fire District 6-604 invites bids for the construction of a metal building to house the equipment for the District in Ione, Oregon.

The work will consist of grading, concrete floor and slab, a metal building, interior partitions, electrical, mechanical and plumbing work. The District intends to hire one general contractor to complete and/or coordinate subcontractors for the completion of all work.

Sealed bids for the above described project will be received by the District Board until 8:00 P.M. PDT on July 13, 1992 and then publicly opened and read aloud. Each bid must be submitted on the prescribed form. The bids can be mailed to:

Ione Rural Fire District 6-604  
P.O. Box B  
Ione, OR 97843

or hand delivered to the old Reitmann Hardware store on Main Street by the prescribed time.

It is recommended that interested contractors visit the site prior to the bid date. Call Bill Reitmann at 422-7296. The Contract Documents can be obtained by contacting Mr. Reitmann or David H. Krumbert at 276-3244.

Bids must contain a statement that the provisions of ORS 279.350 are to be complied with.  
Published: July 1, 1992

## Thanks to Teachers Like Joanne Miksis, The Future Is In Good Hands.

Our future will soon be in the hands of our children,  
and US WEST is proud to recognize Joanne Miksis  
as a teacher preparing children for the challenge.

Joanne is the recipient of the 1992 US WEST

Outstanding Teacher Award for Oregon. As a home

economics teacher at Churchill High School in

Eugene, Joanne developed a teen parenting

education and day care program to enhance

parenting skills and to assist students in com-

pleting their education.

The US WEST Foundation created the Outstanding

Teacher program to enhance the teaching profession.

This year 14 teachers from the US WEST region were

selected to receive \$15,000 over a two-year period

to pursue an educational project or professional

development. It's just one of the many investments

US WEST is making as part of our Foundation's

Educational Initiative.

At US WEST, we believe teachers who reach beyond

classroom walls today will make a world of difference

for future generations.



Joanne Miksis  
Churchill High School

For information on US WEST's 1992 Outstanding Teacher program, write to:  
The US WEST Foundation, 7801 East Orchard Road, Englewood, CO 80111-2526

**USWEST**

Making the most of your time.

Ssshhhhhhh!!!

**DANNY WILSON'S**

going to be

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