

SWCD reviews year in annual meeting

Ecosystem management has put heavy demands on the resources of the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) during 1993 as reviewed by director Jerry Anderson during the annual meeting at the Town and Country event held in Heppner last Wednesday, Jan. 12.

Morrow SWCD was the first district in Oregon to sign a supplemental memorandum of understanding to allow the district to have input into the Food Security Act compliance review process. The local district also regularly reviews memorandums of understanding with USDA, SCS, USFS, Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resource Division, the Navy and a current interagency agreement with the Army.

The district staff attended workshops and training sessions to keep updated on changes in employment laws, weed control, pesticide application and natural resource related subjects.

But out in the field there have been many developments. In cooperation with ODF&W there have been seedings for wildlife and streambank riparian area fencing. A riparian and upland meadow enhancement project on Wilson Prairie was implemented in cooperation with landowners. Monitoring of Army Depot wildlife and weed control plus monitoring of range utilization in cooperation with lessees on the Navy Bombing range is part of SWCD's responsibility.

A spikeweed control project was completed in cooperation with local landowners in the Alpine area. A governor's watershed enhancement grant was used on Rhea Creek to repair and improve a riparian area in cooperation with Larry Inskeep. Grass seeding at Finley Buttes Landfill was a project to prevent wind erosion on a completed landfill cell. And willow trees were planted around the Willow Creek Lake.

To implement weed control the district purchased a Bowie Hydro Mulcher. In cooperation with other agencies, the mulcher was used to seed roadside banks along the state highway following the construction of a left turn lane at Kinzua Mill. The machine is also available for other seeding projects.

Morrow SWCD sponsored a resource conservation and development measure in conjunction with the West Extension Irrigation District that converted about 100 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation to conserve water in the Irrigon area. This agency also sponsored an RC&D measure for skeltonweed control in the weed districts of Morrow, Umatilla and Gilliam counties.

In cooperation with the Morrow County Children and Youth Services Commission an Oregon Youth Conservation Corp provided summer jobs for local youths who built and maintained hiking trails at Heppner city parks and next to the Willow Creek Lake.

Currently the local weed control district is involved in encouraging the USFS to complete an environmental assessment for weed control on national forest land and to assist Morrow County producers, the district has dedicated time to encourage the extension of the current Conservation Reserve Program as they continue to assist landowners in resource management.

Seminar on gang activity slated

Reports in recent months of drive-by shootings in Hermiston and the appearance of gang related graffiti and activity in a number of communities, including Boardman and Irrigon, have brought the issues of youth gangs to the attention of south Morrow County residents. As community members travel to neighboring communities and as regional growth brings new people into our neighborhoods, previously unheard of questions begin to be asked? "Are there gangs where I shop? In my neighborhood? How would I know if my children or their friends were becoming involved in gangs? What can I do to avoid it?"

Speaker Jesus Villahermosa, a gang expert from the Puget Sound area will try to answer some of these questions when he addresses parents and community members Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria. Babysitting will be available. Those needing to use the babysitting service should contact Darcy Robinson at the high school 676-9138.

A presentation will also be held at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce from noon to 1 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club.

A staff inservice is scheduled for both Heppner and Ione schools on Tuesday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Schools will be dismissed at 1 p.m.

"Addressing our gang problem is of concern to me for several reasons," says Heppner High School principal Steve Dickenson. Dickenson cites national research that gang involved youth have lower achievement and higher drop-out, truancy and suicide rates. They are also more likely to develop a criminal record than non-involved youth.

"My main reason for having this presentation," says Dickenson, "is to help make parents, staff and community members aware of the telltale signs of gang activity as they travel to shop, do business, or compete in athletic events in neighboring communities which may have a gang problem."

While Heppner, Lexington and Ione don't appear to have a gang problem at this time, the same could have been said of a number of eastern Oregon and Washington communities a few years ago, which are now combatting gangs. Presentations like that scheduled with Villahermosa will help develop a community awareness of youth gangs that will empower parents and community leaders to keep their communities safe and gang free, said Dickenson.

Jesus Villahermosa presents up to the minute information in an interesting style, combined with recent anecdotes and humorous analogies emphasizing practical and useful advice. Villahermosa is familiar with Hispanic culture, being of Puerto Rican descent. Parents should be aware that Villahermosa advises that most gang seminars are not appropriate for youth.

The program is being funded through the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families.

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Chamber announces man, woman, educator and business of the year awards at Town and Country



John Edmundson

A familiar face in so many aspects of Morrow County life, John Edmundson, 1993 Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, is always there behind the scenes.

John was principal at the Ione Schools before he served as assistant superintendent for the Morrow County School District. After retirement, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service.

Edmundson's list of volunteer service is extensive, to say the least. He is a past president of the Heppner Lions Club and has served as secretary. He is past president and is still an active volunteer for the Willow Creek Country Club. He was a member of the Morrow County Juvenile Services Commission. He has been a member of the Heppner city budget committee for the past five years and served as chairman for two of those years. He is a member and past chairman of the Morrow County Tourism Committee. He is currently on the board of the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association and is the Heppner Chamber of Commerce second vice president. Edmundson is also on the Heppner City Planning Commission subcommittee to study the city's urban growth boundary and is secretary for the Heppner Coordinating Council.

In his 'spare' time, Edmundson is a golf instructor through Blue Mountain Community College. He has taught skiing at Spout Springs and was an active mountain climber as a member of the Hood River Crag Rats. He is also a member of All Saints Episcopal Church and has set up and manned the local booth at the Oregon State Fair.

And, as if that wasn't enough, Edmundson has some projects in the fire. He is working on obtaining a city map sign to orient out-



Corrine Lindsay

of-towners to the area and is in the early stages of organizing a local Volkssports Club for walking, biking and cross country skiing.

Edmundson and his wife, Pat, a retired school teacher, have three children, Vicki Brookshire, Kristi Smalley and Jeff Edmundson, and six grandchildren.

Corrine Lindsay, whose talents are multi-faceted, is not only a wife and mother of a large family, but is also involved in the family business and the community.

Lindsay is the manager of the Lindsay Ranch Feedlot through which over 8,000 calves pass through in preparation for finishing feedlots. A University of Portland degree in chemistry helps Lindsay formulate special feed rations for the cattle, using a mixture of grains, silage and hay. She also keeps detailed computerized performance records to help cattle owners upgrade their herds.

In addition to home and business, Lindsay stays active in community affairs. She has served as the chairperson of the Morrow County Juvenile Services Commission for the past three years. The commission has helped provide funding for the Heppner Day Care Center, Hands-On-Science classes and Head Start.

Lindsay was a 4-H leader for around 10 years, while her children were involved in 4-H and FFA. For 20 years she was a religious education leader and coordinator of high school youth programs. She is a member and past president of the St. Patrick Catholic Church Altar Society.

Lindsay has also coordinated a family musical group which has played Irish music for St.



Dave Gunderson

Patrick's Day for the past 15 years.

Lindsay's concern for others is even more far reaching than her immediate community. In 1975, she and her husband, Larry, sponsored 30 Vietnamese refugees. The Lindsays provided the refugees with housing, farm jobs, English classes and training at their ranch.

Lindsay was born in Watertown, South Dakota. She graduated from high school at St. Mary's Academy in Portland and was valedictorian for the class of 1961 at the University of Portland. She attended the University of Cologne, Germany, on a Fulbright Scholarship and was a chemistry instructor at the University of Portland. The Lindsays had nine children, Ann Murray, Cathy Pedro, Alex, Theresa, Barney, Danny, Joe, John Paul and Claire Michelle. John Paul and Claire Michelle died earlier. The Lindsays also have six grandchildren.

Citizen Educator of the Year, Dave Gunderson, has shown a deep involvement with area kids.

Gunderson took over directorship of the Colt Basketball program, which teaches basketball fundamentals for kids in fourth through sixth grades, in 1984. He has also been active in the Little League and T-Ball programs for the past seven years.

Gunderson was elected to the Heppner Elementary/Middle School Site Base Council this past fall and has been a volunteer on the school improvement team since 1991. He is a member of the Morrow County Education Association has been a teacher-organizer of the sixth grade Outdoor School at Tupper.

Currently in his 13th year of teaching at Heppner Middle



Helen and Tom Riehl

School, Gunderson also taught five years at Roseburg. In addition to teaching at HMS, he also coaches at the middle school and the high school.

Mr. 'G', as he is affectionately known by his students, graduated from Heppner High School in 1971. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1976 and participated in a University of Oregon intern program from 1976-77.

Gunderson and his wife, Tricia, have two sons, Brent and Derek.

Tom and Helen Riehl, owners of the R & W Drive-In in Heppner were the recipients of the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award.

The Riehls came to the Heppner community 13 years ago when they bought the drive-in. In addition to raising their three sons, Rick, Bob and T.R., and putting in many long hours at the drive-in, the Riehls have nurtured budding readers in the community through a special program. Eight years ago the Riehls suggested a system of rewards to create incentives for children to develop the reading habit.

The program challenges students to meet goals and share information about the books they

have read. Reading teachers adjust the goals to meet the individual capabilities of each student. Students must read a certain number of pages or books and report on the material read. The students then are rewarded with free treats from the drive-in. The program has grown from 105 students earning 190 certificates in the 1986-87 school year to 184 students earning 490 certificates in '92-93.

The Riehls also provide ice cream treats as rewards for other programs, such as the summer reading program at the Heppner Library.

For many years, the Riehls, often helped by their sons, provided community roller skating at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. They were also loyal supporters of the Heppner High School sports program.

Tom Riehl came to the rescue of many area businesses last winter, when he used his small tractor, fitted with a blade, to clear heavy snowfall from city sidewalks.

Helen is active in the Altar Society of St. Patrick Catholic Church which they attend. Tom has been a member of the Heppner City Planning Commission.

Besides three children, the Riehls have four grandchildren.

Ione City Council reviews plan to replace roof

The Ione City council reviewed the plan for replacement of the Ione reservoir roof. The roof will be replaced by the city using volunteer labor. The city has been unable to get grant money because the roof is a replacement and Ione water quality has been good. The council hopes to keep the costs at or less than \$25,000. Ten thousand dollars will be from

the Finley Butte grant reviewed by the city.

The Emert addition was also discussed. The first home in the addition is in place and the water line will be activated soon. All work done by the city will be billed at the rate set for out-of-city-limits work. Work will be inspected by Tenneson Engineering of The Dalles.

The council elected Cleo Childers as council chairman for 1994 and committees were appointed.

The city received a special city street allotment from the state of Oregon, Department of Transportation, for \$25,000. The allotment will be used for improvement of Main Street from Spring Street to 'A' Street.