

Gang awareness seminar held



Gang expert Jesus Villahermosa brought a little bit of the gang culture to Heppner at a seminar he conducted at Heppner High School Jan. 25.

Villahermosa, a 12-year veteran of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office at Tacoma, told an audience of around 75 people that gangs are the result of a breakdown in family structure, a lack of moral training and a desensitization toward violence, created in part by television. He also said that children must be taught the consequences of their actions. He added, however, that "not all bad kids have bad parents."

While Heppner does not have a gang problem, Villahermosa said that a gang had existed in the area. He also said that people in rural communities such as Heppner should be aware of signs of gang activity when they travel to

other communities. Villahermosa illustrated some of the stances, clothing styles, hand signals, language, tatoos and graffiti common to gang members.

Villahermosa said that girls are the fastest growing element of gang life. One Heppner girl, believed to have been at risk for gang activity, said that Villahermosa, accompanied by Heppner Police Officer Merle Cowett, made a special trip to her house. "He talked me out of the whole gang thing," she said. "I'm keeping my nose clean."

In addition to conducting seminars nation-wide and working as a full-time sheriff's deputy, Villahermosa, 34, also teaches evening self defense and education courses. While he is employed with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Villahermosa says he does not represent them in his seminars.

Fillies stay in CBC top spot



Jodi Johnston (24) blocks shot

Photo by Joyce Hughes



Kelsie Evans (10) goes for the steal

Photo by Joyce Hughes

The Heppner Fillies remained in the CBC number one spot after beating the Wahtonka Eagles 49-37, for the second time this season. There are three weeks of league games left to play.

Heppner struggled with their shooting in the first half and was without starting forward Jenny Krein. Krein was out with a sprained ankle and hopes to return to CBC action this Friday against Weston-McEwen.

The Fillies held the Eagles to two points in the first quarter but

let them come back in the second quarter outscoring them by one point, 19-18, with the halftime score 31-21, Heppner.

Junior Kelsie Evans was high game scorer with 15 points for the Fillies while Sara Greenup added 10. Andrea Eagy had 13 points for the Eagles.

The Fillies travel to Athena Friday, Feb. 4 to challenge Weston-McEwen for the CBC number one spot. Both Weston-McEwen and Heppner are 6-0 and ranked high in the CBC coaches poll.

Heppner Garden Club to meet

For those gardeners now searching the seed and nursery catalogues and dreaming of their '94 yards and gardens, Heppner Garden Club will offer a program on Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center.

The program is entitled "How To Design a Flower Garden" and the roll call, "Something new I'm going to plant this year."

A special display will be February arrangements or decorations brought and designed by club members.

Also on the agenda are: the budget for '94, community pro-

jects to support and plans for St. Patrick's weekend.

Hostesses are Jane Rawlins and Alberta Johannes.

All garden lovers are welcome to attend.

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St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board



There were 112 people present for the senior dinner Jan. 26, with five visitors and four meals taken out. Members of the Lexington Baptist Church and Christian Missionary Fellowship served. Mildred Wright won the free meal ticket, Rev. Stan Hoobing the door prize, Helen McClintock, the guest prize and Irene Anhorn took home the birthday gift.

The menu for the Valentine dinner Feb. 9 will be turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, Waldorf salad, rolls and cookies. Members of the Episcopal church will serve.

There will be an advisory meeting of the AAA following lunch at Weston on Wed., Feb. 9. The senior bus will leave the Heppner Senior Center at 9 a.m. Seniors wishing to attend should sign up at the center.

There were four ladies playing cards Friday afternoon in the sitting room at the center. Nine people were present for the movie Sunday night. The second video in the "Five Mile Creek" series was shown.

The quilters didn't meet Monday, Jan. 31. They plan to meet again Feb. 7. Tickets for the St. Patrick's quilt are available at the Senior Center. The drawing will be March 19.

Dates to remember are: Monday, Bible study, 10:30 a.m.; quilting 1 p.m.; Tues. and Thurs., exercise, 10 a.m.; Wed., senior dinner, noon; Thurs., knitting, 7 p.m.; Friday, cards, 2:30 p.m. Sun., movie, 6 p.m. Saturday evening there will be a dance in Hermiston.

Off the Wall By Meryn Robinson

With January shot in the foot, it's time to get on with things other than football and income taxes. When all other subject matter is exhausted we can discuss weather as groundhog predictions are taken into account. I've yet to see one of those fuzzy little fellows that are so talked about, but it's a cinch that our ground squirrels aren't going to poke their noses out when it's this chilly.

The 1994 Farmers Almanac predicted a severe cold wave in early February, followed by a warm spell midmonth with heavy rains. It goes on to say March will be very cold with heavy snows but near normal precipitation. This forecast for the entire Pacific Northwest will certainly fall true in some locations. Though I don't forecast early gardening weather here, this optimist did buy garden seed last week, so maybe I need to build a greenhouse.

There's also some interesting information in this booklet, in case you haven't got to the library lately for racier-type books. Read-aholics like myself will digest anything at hand, particularly lots of munchies.

The Almanac says that a new moon is considered a time of weather changes. In case you didn't notice there was a new moon on January 27. Weather records confirm that days following either a new or full moon are most likely to be rainy or stormy. So if you can't see the moon for fog or the television, one can check out the calendar.

The tides, rains, reproduction and fertility, plant life and even the cycles of animals and humans seem to be affected by the moon's pull, it says. Without that steady gravitational pull to regulate the seasons and climate, the spinning earth would undergo chaotic variations. Maybe somebody forgot to dim the moon or keep shades pulled during those disastrous midwest floods.

The Almanac also says that a winter's full moon is a time for a long, cold snap. In April it brings frost. Two full moons in one month increases the chances of flood; a pale full moon indicates rain while a red one brings wind. If there is a full moon at Christmas it predicts a poor harvest.

The age-old practice of performing farm work by moon signs stems from the belief that the moon governs moisture. I don't know about others but here the most pressing farm chores sometimes depends on a flashlight rather than moonbeams. It's always exhilarating to bare one's arms on a cold, dark night while assisting a heifer giving birth.

When the moon 'is on the wane' it is considered the best time for killing weeds, thinning, pruning, mowing, cutting timber and planting below-ground crops. But in spite of the use of herbicides, even if there were no sun or moonlight, I'm sure some weeds would continue to flourish.

The new moon or first-quarter phases are considered good for planting above ground crops, putting down sod, grafting trees and transplanting. It doesn't mention barnyard stuff transported by overshoes. I always believed that this foot-carried fertilizer is what made weeds grow so rank near the house.

Lunar folks advocates suggest avoiding surgery during a full moon. Supposedly there is a risk of increased bleeding as the flow of blood is suspected of responding to the moon's gravitational pull. If the moon can't rid my house of dust bunnies, I don't think it can raise my blood pressure. Lack of good weather is more apt to do that.

Scientific studies have tried to link a full moon with times of increased violence. Some small scale studies have shown correlation between a full moon and increased violence or suicide, it says.

Paracelsus, a 16th-century physician, said the moon "has the power to tear reason out of man's head by depriving him of humors and cerebral virtues." That certainly should be good grounds for defense lawyers in those 'somebody or something else is responsible' court trials. And now you know why you have to endure these columns, the moon causes my typewriter and me to go haywire. And if there's six more weeks of winter—heaven help you.

Ione Topic Club reviews book

Birdine Tullis reviewed the book "The Hope" by Herman Wouk at the Ione Topic Club meeting on January 26 at the home of Katherine Lindstrom.

"The Hope" is a modern story of Israel from the War of Independence in 1948 through the Six Day War of 1967. The story follows the lives of four men during this time. It portrays not so much the victory of one people over another, as the human spirit,

surviving and triumphing against crushing odds, said a Topic Club member. "In that sense it can be called a tale of hope for all mankind; a note that Herman Wouk has stuck in all his writings against the prevailing pessimism of our turbulent century."

During the business meeting plans were made to hold a food sale the weekend before Mother's Day. Special guest for the day was Michelle Raible.

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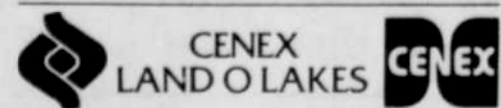


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