

HEPPNER



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VOL. 113 NO. 29 8 Pages Wednesday, July 6, 1994 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Computer system to aid emergency response

With the click of a computer "mouse" button, emergency response coordinators in Morrow County will soon be able to know what resources are available and where to send that help during an emergency. Morrow County Emergency Management has announced it will purchase a Geographic Information System, or GIS.

The GIS is a computer-generated map with many layers. A GIS map can show not only where roads are, but also the location of buildings, water mains, utility lines, and the number of beds available at the hospital.

In a community crisis, emergency response coordinators have to know immediately what resources are available. The GIS can be programmed, for example, to show the location of vehicles needed to evacuate students and residents, or the whereabouts of food that is required at an emergency shelter.

During an emergency, emergency responders also need to know where to send help. At the click of a mouse, the GIS will display the populations of local schools and businesses. It will also show where special needs people live, what their needs are, and the nature of the assistance they have requested during an emergency. In the coming year, Emergency Management employees will survey county residents living in the vicinity of the Umatilla Army Depot for this information.

The GIS was purchased with funding from the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, or CSEPP, but the GIS won't be used just by Emergency Management. The GIS will also provide new planning capabilities for other county departments to support their participation in CSEPP. For the cost of a few pieces of computer hardware, these departments will

be able to program information and produce GIS map layers of their own.

Morrow County Emergency Manager Casey Beard says, "This system will enhance our ability to respond to CSEPP emergencies or any hazard, while providing a valuable planning tool to other departments so they can assist us."

Scheduled for installation in October, the GIS will augment the department's rudimentary automated response system currently in place. The GIS will also enhance another planned automated response system known as the Federal Emergency Management Information System, or FEMIS. Together, these systems will help Morrow County officials respond to an emergency.

For more information contact Geoff Tyree Public Information Officer at 503 564-5792 or 503 567-2084 or 503 922-4133.

Alzheimer's series to be aired Ch. 3

Morrow County Medical Services will air a five part series on Alzheimer's Disease through the public access channel of Heppner TV, Inc. The series begins July 11 and will run through July 15. Each one-hour program will be shown on channel 3 at 7 p.m.

"These programs have been provided to us by the Columbia-Willamette Alzheimer's Association and are full of ideas and resources for dealing with this debilitating disorder," says Pam Sagely, grant coordinator for Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Sagely says each show will address a different Alzheimer's related topic. Viewers can expect to learn how to identify normal forgetfulness from early Alzheimer's Disease, what to expect as the disease progresses, current treatment advances, how to help someone suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and how to cope with this disease as a caregiver.

Alzheimer's Disease is the

fourth leading cause of adult death in the nation. Approximately four million Americans are currently afflicted. With the rapidly increasing aged population, estimates are that between 12 to 14 million people will be affected by the year 2040. "Unless a cure is found, Alzheimer's Disease will become a reality for many of us, either as a victim or as a caregiver for an Alzheimer's victim," said Sagely.

Sagely says Morrow County Medical Services is pleased to be able to expand its community health education efforts to include a televised format. "Heppner TV has been very supportive of this undertaking and we anticipate airing programs on a variety of health related topics," she adds. She encourages anyone interested in a second showing of the Alzheimer's series to contact her at 676-9133 or Heppner TV at 676-9663. Suggestions for future programs are welcome and may be submitted to Sagely.

Babe Ruth All Stars selected

All Stars for Columbia Tri-County Babe Ruth were selected June 24 by area coaches. Five kids from Heppner, Ione and Lexington were named to the 13 year old all star selection. Derek Gunderson, Tim Dickenson, Jeff Waterland, Shane Matheny and Danny Coiner began district tournament play in Boardman July 5. The tournament runs through July

10.

Selected for the 14-15 year old all star team were Josh Coiner, Eric Schonbachler, Donny Pointer, Dan Burnside and Tim Sumner. The tournament will be held in The Dalles July 12-17.

South Morrow County coached by Rick Johnston won the league championship with a 13-2 record.

Local family's invention a breakthrough

An invention by a Heppner man, Lowell Gribble, and his sons, Stuart and Douglas, may revolutionize maintenance at the PGE Coal Fired Plant near Boardman.

The invention, called the Ultra-Lube, consists of a aviation headset which is placed on the end of a grease gun and allows an operator to determine by sound whether bearings are over or under-lubricated and if the bearings are defective. The machine indicates hard-to-detect mechanical noises and conditions in gearboxes and other rotating equipment that can precede breakdowns.

Lowell Gribble said that Stuart and Douglas earlier spent three days testing equipment at PP&L. They had found one motor that they believed was in critical condition. The next week, said Lowell, the motor in question did go out and the whole plant was shut down. "This is a tremendous breakthrough in the field of maintenance and lubrication," said Lowell. Prior to their invention, there was no way to determine if a bearing was lubricated enough. Gribble says that over-lubrication is as dangerous as under-lubrication, because an over-lubricated bearing can overheat and blow a seal. "There is no end of the potential (of the Ultra-Lube) for big business, down to little business," said Gribble.

The Gribbles delivered the first \$1,850 Ultra-Lube to the coal fired plant on June 20. PGE workers will use the Ultra-Lube to check the bearings of coal conveyor belts.

Gribble first developed a service company, UPM (Ultrasonic Predictable Maintenance) through which he was able to test bearings for wear and lubrication. Then around eight years ago, Doug came up with the idea to put a detector on the end of a grease gun and the Ultra-Lube and Ultra-Vibe Lubrication Monitoring System (UVLM) was born. Now Gribble says that they plan, with the assistance of Merrill Lynch and Randy A. Edgerton of Decision Dynamics of Lake Oswego, to come out with a software program which will combine UPM and UVLM. Decision Dynamics writes software programs for maintenance systems. Gribble says that the marriage of the UPM, UVLM and Decision Dynamics will create a "completely new approach to maintenance" and will give Deci-



L-R: Lowell, Doug, holding Ultra-Lube and Stuart Gribble

sion Dynamics a more complete picture in maintenance systems.

In communicating with Gribble, Eugene Bryan, president of Decision Dynamics, writes, "You have in Mr. Doug Gribble, a son you can be proud of. He has an all-too-rare combination of high intelligence, creativity, ambition and rock solid integrity. We look forward to a long-term win/win relationship with Doug, Stuart and you as we bring our receptive strengths together to do great things."

Gribble started out 25 years ago with a Delcon Dectector, manufactured by Hewlett Packard. The detector tested the condition of the bearing, but many times, the companies that had the detectors didn't know what to do with them. So, Gribble built a service company around the detector.

Gribble's experiences are many and varied. At one time he owned a service station in Pendleton. Out of that came a district sales manager position. He then went to work for a farm chemicals company at Athena and later operated a farm chemicals distributing company in Morrow and Gilliam County called Inland Chemical Services, bringing Shell NH3 chemical fertilizer into the area. He eventually sold out to Shell around 17 years later. He then came upon an ad for the Hewlett Packard detector and became involved in that enterprise. The Gribbles, who came to Heppner in 1952, later moved to Salem where they spent 12 years before returning in 1990. "We love this community," said Gribble, who, along with his wife, Dolores ("Dee"), is an avid golfer and was a key figure in the formation of the Heppner golf

course. Gribble, who just turned 84, was also instrumental in bringing irrigation to Morrow County. He wrote a proposition to Shell Chemical Company in regards to irrigation in north Morrow County. While Shell's system wasn't implemented, Gribble's idea sparked interest and what would evolve into a multi-million-dollar industry. During the Gribbles' first sojourn in Heppner, Lowell and Dee, 83, both did a stint as Justice of the Peace at the Morrow County Courthouse.

Gribble credits God and his close-knit family for their success. He is president of UPM and a board member of UVLM. His wife is UPM vice president; Doug is secretary-treasurer of UPM and president of UVLM; Stuart is boardmember of UPM and vice-president of UVLM; daughter, Barbara Diggins, boardmember of UPM. Doug has been in the business 25 years and Stuart, 23. The senior Gribbles now have six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ultra-Vibe, the instrument Gribble uses in his service company, has been copyrighted and registered by UPM. UPM now has stock which will be available for sale soon in Oregon. Ultra-Lube has been registered and patented through UVLM. UVLM stock is not available. Gribble says that all 10 of the original Ultra-Lubes and another 25 on order have been sold. Plans on the horizon for the companies include developing export potential, expansion, developing new technology and creating new opportunities for employment. "Morrow County's been good to me," concluded Gribble, "and I think I've been pretty good to it."

Wranglers trail ride July 9

The Wranglers annual Trail Ride will be held July 9 starting at 11 a.m. with a barbecue to follow at approximately 3 p.m.

The ride will be on the Alder, Skookum trails and will take around four hours. Riders should bring canteens.

Directions are as follows: Go 26 miles to Anson Wright Park, take a left for nine miles to Tupper Guard Station, three miles past Tupper to the Alder,

Skookum trail sign with a left off the main road at the sign, 1/4 mile to the barbecue site. It takes around one hour to haul with a total of 38 miles from Heppner.

Cost for the ride and barbecue is \$5 single and \$15 family. Those attending should bring a salad or dessert.

Everyone is invited to participate. RSVP to Judy Barber 676-5037, Terra Adams 676-5819 or Judy Eckman 989-8498.

Coordinating Council to meet

The next meeting of the Heppner Coordinating Council will be held Tuesday, July 12 at 7:30 a.m. at the GEODC office.

Council members are nearing completion of the rewriting of the Heppner Strategic Plan. Goals and strategies statements have

been completed. Specific action plans designed to accomplish the goals and strategies are being formulated.

The public is invited to attend Heppner Coordinating Council meetings.

Hearing on health districts set

A public hearing concerning the formation of two health districts in Morrow County will be held on Wednesday, July 6 at 7 p.m. at the Morrow County School District Office in Lexington. The Morrow County Court will hear public comment on the issue.

The first such district is known as the "Boardman Medical District" and the second district is known as the "County-wide Medical District". This meeting is a continuation of the first hearing pursuant to the statutory district formation process. Anyone may appear and be heard.

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to Charlie Graybeal

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