

Mustangs win season opener

Big plays on both sides of the ball made the difference as the Heppner Mustangs opened the season with a 13-12 home victory over the visiting Imbler Panthers, Friday, Sept. 2, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The game started like a horse race with three touchdowns scored in the first nine minutes. The Panthers got on the board first on a 42 yard touchdown run by junior Austin Bigamen. The 62 yard eight-play drive took just three and a half minutes. The Mustangs struck back quickly as senior quarterback Chad Skroch hit senior running

back Chris Dickenson with a 55 yard touchdown pass. Dickenson caught the ball in the right flat, juked left and then out sprinted the defense to the end zone. Dickenson added the pat and the Mustangs led, 7-6. The Panthers wasted little time taking back the lead on the next drive. QB Ben Lowe hit tight end Zac O'Kelley on a five yard drag pass for the touchdown. The big play in the drive was a Lowe to Justin Copping pass play that covered 38 yards. The pat pass attempt was incomplete and the Panthers led 12-7 with 2:57 remain-



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Ethan Burnside (58), Chris Sykes (77) and Jon Hanna (76) all help bring the Panthers down.

ing in the first quarter.

The halftime score remained 12-7 as both defenses stiffened.

The Mustangs came out fired up in the third quarter. Dickenson scored his second touchdown of the night on a 32 yard running play. He carried the ball three times for 62 yards in the drive. The pat attempt was wide right and the Mustangs led 13-12.

Imbler used up most of the rest of the third quarter on a 16 play drive. Senior defensive end Bill Schlaich tackled ball carriers twice for losses totaling 17 yards. Schlaich was a dominating force in the second half on defense. Dickenson and sophomore corner back Eric Schonbachler led the Mustangs charge in the defensive secondary.

The teams exchanged punts

to open the fourth quarter with Schlaich again stopping the Panthers, forcing a punt. Skroch recovered a fumble to stop the Panthers' last drive and the Mustangs ran out the clock to take a 13-12 victory.

The game was a typical early season tilt with coaches Greg Grant and Les Payne experimenting with a number of defensive combinations.

Offensively Dickenson and junior running back Shaun Hisler ran the ball effectively. Dickenson gained 79 yards on six carries and Hisler added 67 yards on 16 carries.

The Mustangs host cross county rivals, the 3A Riverside Pirates, Friday September 9, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. This is the homecoming game this year for the Mustangs. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Cardinals return 14 lettermen

"We're young, but learning fast, lone head coach Gregg Rietmann says of his 1994 Cardinal football squad.

The Cards are returning 14 lettermen from last year, but only three were starters.

In the backfield is a pair of veteran running backs in 185 pound Jerad Ashbeck and 170 pound Greg Holtz. On the line is the other returning starter Nathan Heideman. All three are seniors. Also working out of the backfield will be senior Rod Ehrmantraut.

Nineteen players are out for the team this year. Of those, six are sophomores, including Luke Swanson, who will start at the quarterback slot, Kelly Morgan, a 230 pound lineman, Randy Scott, a running back, and Joe Bacon and Ryan Nevala, both sophomore offensive linemen. "We have a lot of sophomores and they will be playing a lot of football this year," says Rietmann.

Cardinal fans will see a mix

of passing and running this season, with about 70 percent run and 30 percent pass to start off with, says Rietmann. "But we could change the mix later," he adds. "We're a ball-control football team. We like to run the ball and use the clock."

On the defensive side of the ball Rietmann said he will be giving lots of different looks. "You'll see a 3-3, 3-2, 4-2, but basically we'll probably run a four-man front. We're going to substitute a lot on defense."

This year's Big Sky conference has everyone talking about Dufur, which is returning a team stocked with returning senior starters, and has been to state the past two years.

"They're going to be tough, but second place is wide open," said Rietmann, pointing out that it's a toss up between Lone, Culver and Wasco.

Lone opens against Wallowa at home this Friday, Sept. 9.

Off the Wall

By Martyn Robinson

Were you among the 63 million Americans who went camping this year to experience a back-to-nature feeling while cushioned by a camper or motor-home? Perhaps the attraction of big city lights provided a work-free atmosphere during the Labor Day three day weekend.

Rural families often have odd habits of working overtime on holiday weekends. Then there are the mighty archery hunters who crunch through tinder-dry woods in search of big game. The rivers and lakes also attract boaters and fishermen, whose sunburns often outshine their catch. Anglers wouldn't have had much luck along local creeks where aquatic specimens need to pack canteens.

When it comes to entertaining guests at this 'Funny Farm', last weekend provided some unusual entertainment. With the help of neighbors and guests around 80 head of early calves were put through the chutes for the usual vaccinations and pesticides treatment. The plot thickened when the calves were taken away from the cows and weaning commenced. But it did provide that western musical atmosphere.

After the mother cows were transported to the Hinton Creek feedyards, they decided to break out and return to their calves held here in Sandhollow. It's a good thing that all of our great neighbors weren't away from their homes. They came to the rescue as these critters scattered along the state and county roads while checking to see if there were any lush pastures. That round-up wasn't the usual western cattle drive.

We did provide lots of soap for guests who experienced alar-natural greenish facial treatments. Bruises became badges of valor for those unfortunate enough to get kicked.

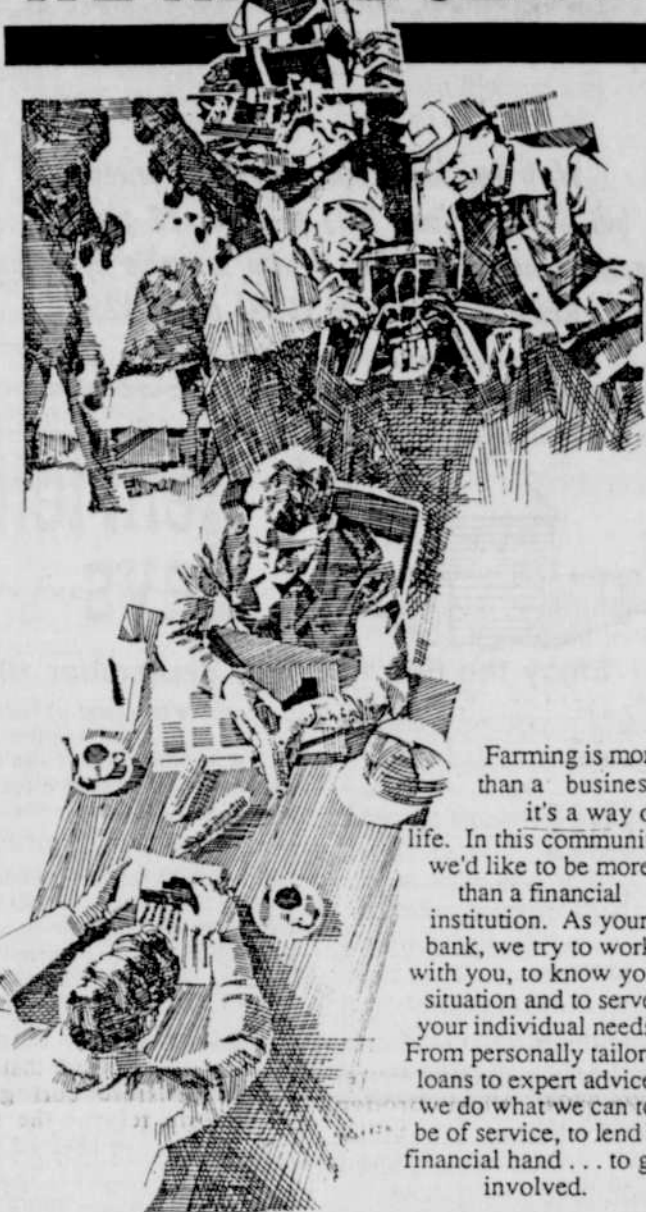
To round out a western experience, last weekend was topped off by a day long trail ride. The mountain scenery was heady, but we lacked a hot tub which would have been nice for those that had trouble walking after dismounting from horses. Somehow I don't think that our entertainment is a sure way to attract repeat visitors or enhance tourism.

Switching animal subjects, you might want to consider a proven method of rodent control. Mice seem to be as prevalent as scarcely remembered heavy rainfall drops.

We could supply some medium sized mouse catchers. This variety is self-starting and have four-legged drive. They are vehicle and dog trained, accustomed to maintaining their own coats that are weather resistant. Although they do like to 'smell the flowers' they are easier to contain than cows, trust me.

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WCCC to hold barbecue

The Willow Creek Country Club will have a family barbecue on Sunday, September 11, at 4 p.m.

Each family will bring their own meat to barbecue. Those whose names begin with "A"

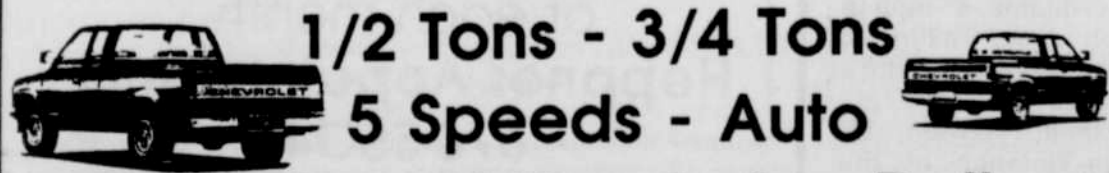
through "I" should bring dessert, "J" through "Z" should bring salad.

Host will be Randy and Bernice Lott, Howard and Beth Bryant, Earl and Carol Norris and Frank and Neoma Bailey.

Lutherans to hold yard sale

The Valby congregation will hold a yard sale at the home of Betty and Louis Carlson on Saturday Sept. 10. Monies from this sale will be matched by Aid Association for Lutherans for the mission and ministry of the Valby Lutheran Church. Free coffee will be served and pies will be available for a modest donation. The sale will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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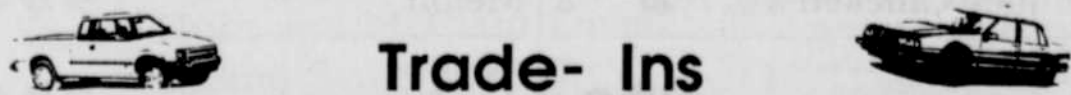


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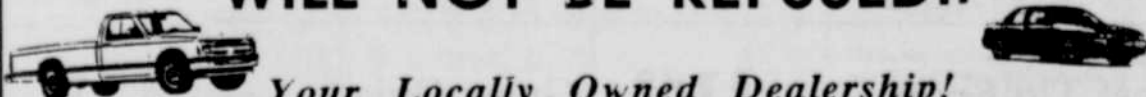
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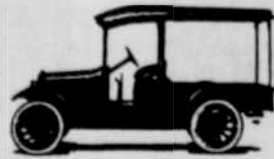


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