

Rail line is coming up



Korey Richins with A&K Railroad Materials, Inc., picks up railroad ties with a forklift.

People may not be aware that those railroad ties and switch stands along the now-defunct Heppner branch of the Union Pacific Railroad belong to someone, and taking them home is stealing.

Rocky Smith, superintendent of the Western Division of A&K Railroad Materials, Inc., with corporate headquarters out of Salt Lake City, says that he thinks people are taking the switch stands for memorabilia. While he doesn't believe people realize that they are stealing, he says that his company will prosecute for theft. A&K purchased the materials from Union Pacific. Smith added that liability in the event of accidents around the track is also a factor.

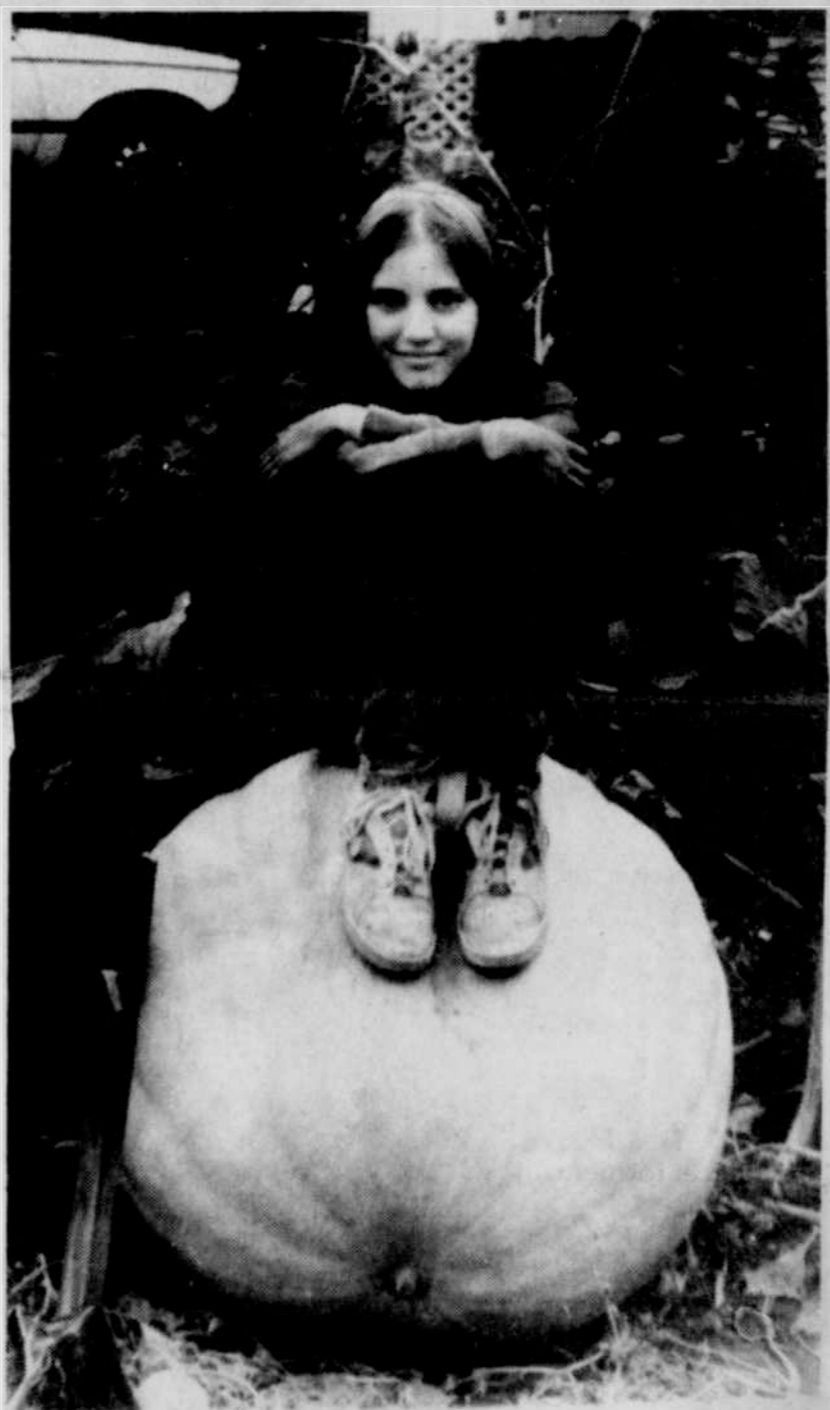
"We have over a million dollars invested in materials," said Smith. He says that the track will be reused as track somewhere else and that "every bit that can be used will be recycled." He said that some materials will be retained by Union Pacific and some will be available for sale in the community at a later date. Ties will be stockpiled in Lone.

Smith says he believes Union Pacific is in the process of negotiating property agreements with adjoining landowners.

Smith, who has been with A&K Railroad Materials, Inc. for 17 years, says that he and

a crew of up to 30 people will be living in lone for the next six to eight months while his salvage operation is completed. Right now he has a crew of around 20 at work, including his wife and son. "We've got all the housing available in lone," he added.

Drawing held for "big mama"



A pumpkin planted by the SpicerKuhn family in Heppner is indeed a "big mama". The huge pumpkin, called "Mama Pumpkin" by the youngest member of the family, 10 year-old Paula, weighed in at 206 pounds at the Morrow County Fairgrounds cattle scales.

While the pumpkin was destined to become gigantic, since it was grown from Atlantic Giant pumpkin seeds, it also got a lot of babying and talking to, in addition to a normal amount of water, fertilizer and weeding.

Ann Spicer, Paula's mom, says that they plan to carve "Mama Pumpkin" and put her on their porch for Halloween.

The SpicerKuhns donated another of their giant pumpkins to the Heppner Parents Club as a fund raiser for Tupper Outdoor School. The person who comes closest to guessing the correct weight, at

50 cents a guess, wins the pumpkin. The drawing will be held at the Moonlight Madness sale Thursday evening Oct. 27. Tickets are on sale at Murray Drugs.

A third pumpkin, given to Ann Spicer's parents in Selah, Washington, earned \$75 in an auction for Planned Parenthood.

Ann says that the pumpkins also have "wonderful flesh" and make great pumpkin pies. One can imagine just how many pies "Mama" would make.

Moonlight madness sale

The Heppner merchants' Moonlight Madness Sale will be held this Friday, Oct. 28, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The annual sale will feature lots of bargains from local stores.

HEPPNER



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Local brands on display at museum



Gene Pierce looks over brands from bank Museum.

Gene Pierce, former Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, shows off brands, formerly displayed at the bank, that now have a permanent place at the Morrow County

Museum. The brands were first displayed at the Heppner branch of the bank in 1975. In 1990, when the bank was remodeled, the brands were taken down and were going to be thrown away. Pierce rescued them and Marsha

Sweek, museum director, put them on display.

The boards were finished by Bob Lowe, who has since passed away. The brands from the 103 ranches in Morrow County were brought in and Monte Evans did most of the branding.

Extension and 4-H to be voted on

The future of 4-H and Extension work in Morrow County will be decided by a vote Nov. 8 on establishing a Morrow County 4-H and Extension Service District.

Don Eppenbach, chair of the county's Extension advisory committee, is heading the Volunteers for 4-H and Extension organization that is campaigning for Measure 25-8, which would form an Extension service district with a tax base of \$117,118.

"Forming a district is a way of ensuring that Extension will continue to offer educational programs and services to the people of Morrow County," said Eppenbach.

"Since Extension started in the county in 1918, the local contribution has come from the county's general fund budget. However, the Morrow County Commissioners, faced with an ever-tightening budget situation, have said they can no longer guarantee to support Extension in the county budget. The commissioners have worked with volunteers toward forming the district," he explained.

Although the salaries of county Extension agents and specialists are paid by state and federal funds, local funds support the operation of the coun-

ty office, including secretarial support, office supplies, and other costs. Without continued support, the future of the Morrow County Extension is in doubt, he stresses.

The Morrow County office currently houses two full-time Extension agents. Carol Michael-Bennett is county home economist and staff chair. Bill Broderick provides leadership for 4-H and livestock programs.

In addition, Phil Nesse divides his time equally between Morrow and Gilliam Counties, working with grain growers and other crop producers. Irrigated crop growers in the north end may call upon the services of Jeff McMorran at

the Hermiston office. Extension plant pathologist Phil Hamm, also stationed at Hermiston, is available to answer questions about plant diseases.

"All this could be lost without local support," Eppenbach adds. "The cost is modest, only at 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, or \$7.50 a year for a home valued at \$50,000."

If voters approve, Morrow would be the 13th Oregon county to form an Extension Service District. Others are Curry, Lincoln, Tillamook,

Clatsop, Columbia, Yamhill, Deschutes, Crook, Grant, Lake, Wheeler, and Union counties.

Regulations enforced in wilderness

Phil Kline, acting forest supervisor, reminds wilderness users of regulations pertaining to the three Wilderness areas located on the Umatilla National Forest.

"The North Fork Umatilla, North Fork John Day and Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Areas are popular spots during hunting season," said Kline. "We experience an influx of hunters this time of year, many of whom are not familiar with wilderness ethics and the regulations needed to protect wilderness resources."

Wilderness regulations prohibit storing, leaving or abandoning equipment, personal property or supplies for more than 72 hours. This violation occurs when hunting parties set up camp in the wilderness and then store or cache the equipment rather than pack it out.

Wilderness trailheads are posted with regulations regarding riding, hitching, tether-

MCGG annual meeting Nov. 7

The Morrow County Grain Growers annual meeting and banquet will be held Monday, Nov. 7, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Domestic Violence workshop offered

Domestic Violence Service will be offering an informational workshop and training for volunteers and interested community members Nov. 3-5.

The workshop will be at the conference room, State Building, Hermiston. The workshops will be held Nov. 3 and 4, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Nov. 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and registration call 276-3322.

ing or hobbling a horse or other saddle or pack animal.

Also prohibited within the wilderness is the disposing of debris, garbage, or other waste; possessing or using a wagon, cart or other vehicle; short-cutting a switchback in a trail; and entering the wilderness with a group consisting of more than 12 persons or more than 18 head of pack or saddle stock without permit.

For more information on Wilderness regulations, contact the Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office at (503) 278-3716 or visit 2517 SW Hailey Avenue in Pendleton.

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thru Oct. 31st

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Morrow County Grain Growers

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