

## Internet interest group to meet

A physician in a rural hospital consults on a tricky case with a specialist in a major city thousands of miles away. A farm wife sends a letter to her daughter in another state and receives a reply the same afternoon. A student searches a database in another country for a school project. A business executive chooses to raise his family in the pristine environment of a rural area and "telecommute" to his office via his home computer and the telephone lines. All these things are now using the

Internet.

Suddenly what was merely a science fiction dream only a few years ago is reality for many people. Politicians and the media are tossing around buzzwords like information super highway and national information infrastructure. A lucky few in Heppner are actually able to use the Internet now in their work and private communication at a reasonable cost. However most people in Heppner as in the rest of rural Oregon have to make expensive toll calls to their nearest Internet node.

A movement has begun to find less expensive ways to access this modern marvel of communication. "The Internet has the potential of revolutionizing life in small towns like Heppner," says Wendell Buck, director of Oregon Trail Library District. "Rural areas stand to gain even more than urban places from the new telecommunications technologies, if we can only figure out the ways to make these links less expensive."

That's why Buck has called a meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at the library. "I keep hearing about another person who wants to get onto the Internet or who has managed to try it. Several of us think it is time we all got together to share what we know and explore the possibilities for developing an inexpensive local Internet connection," he says. The meeting is not intended only for the few who feel that they know something about computers, modems, band widths and fiber optics. Anyone who is interested or thinks she or he might be interested is welcome to join in the informal meeting.

"The library needs to know what kinds of interests there are in our communities in the newer communications technologies. We cannot plan the future of our information services without knowing what our public would like to see," says Buck.

## Grains commission may contract help

The Oregon Grains Commission will hold a regular commission meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17 beginning at 7 p.m. via conference call.

The Oregon Grains Commission is restructuring itself into an organization with a reduced staffing level. To that end, OGC has discussed with Oregon Wheat Growers League the possibility of contracting administrative services through OWGL and going without full-time staff. The arrangement would involve termination of the OGC's administrator position and the individual in that position would be hired by the OWGL in a different job but carry out the duties outlined in an administration contract between OWGO and OGC.

The proposed contract will be discussed at the conference call, and copies of the contract may be obtained by writing to the commission office.

Commission meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to do so. Anyone wishing to attend the meetings but needs special accommodations should contact OGC 48 hours in advance at (503) 229-6574, TDD (503) 986-4762.

## EOSC announces orientation sessions

Eastern Oregon State College's division of extended programs will hold several special winter meetings to explain continuing education opportunities for nontraditional time and placebound students. The meetings will provide information regarding the division of extended programs' external degree in liberal studies.

The winter term orientation session schedule for the Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler County area is: Jan. 24, Boardman, Feb. 8, Spray and Feb. 22, Heppner.

Sessions will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in locations to

## Hazard warning message boards placed on main roadways

In the unlikely event of an accidental release of chemical agents from the Umatilla Army Depot Activity, travelers on the roadways need to be warned, said a press release from the Chemical Stockpile emergency Preparedness Program. Eight highway message boards, similar to the ones that warn motorists to chain up on mountain passes are being installed at key points on roadways in the vicinity of the depot. These electronic reader boards will also be used to warn motorists of day-to-day hazards such as icy roadways or blowing dust.

The message boards are being installed at the following locations: Rt. 207 at Madison Corner, northbound, south of Hermiston; Jct of US 395 and 730, southbound north of Hermiston at the McNary Dam entrance already installed; and I-82 at the Westland Road Interchange northbound near the junction of I-82 and I-84, I-84 at the Boardman interchange, eastbound, milepost 164; I-84 near the Stanfield Junction westbound, mile post 191; I-84 on Rieth Ridge, westbound west of Pendleton mile post 203; US 730 east of Hat Rock State Park; Junction of Bombing Range Road and Route 207 mile post 10 south of Boardman. All of these will be installed within the next two weeks.

During an emergency these message boards will display instructions to motorists traveling through the area. In the unlikely event of a chemical accident at the depot, the signs would warn motorists not to enter the area. In case of bad weather or

an accident, the Oregon Department of Transportation or county officials can display warning messages.

The highway message boards are part of a sophisticated warning system that will include 42 sirens around the depot. The message boards and sirens should be operational by this fall. This warning system will eventually include tone-alert radios for every building within a few miles of the depot. This combination of warning devices for people outdoors, indoors and on the road will be a great improvement over the present warning system, says Geoff Tyree, Morrow County Emergency Public Information officer. Right now, the Emergency Broadcast System is the sole means of issuing a disaster warning to the community.

Hermiston contractor J.L. Brandt is installing the warning system. The project is administered by the Oregon State Police Division of the Emergency Management. The project contractor is TRW, Inc. based in Cleveland Ohio.

The warning system is part of the CSEPP. The CSEP Program is funded by the U.S. Army and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA. The goal of the CSEP Program is to prepare communities near chemical weapon storage sites for major emergencies through disaster planning, public education and early warning systems, said Tyree.

For more information call the local Emergency Management public information office at 922-4437.

## Flu vaccines still available

Flu vaccinations are still available through the Morrow County Health Department and are available at all regular clinics as long as the supply lasts. Blood pressure and immunization clinics are held every Thursday at the Health Department in Heppner from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the first and third Tuesdays at Boardman city hall from 1:30-4 p.m.; the second and fourth Tuesdays at the county Annex building in Irrigon from 1-4 p.m. and the third Tuesdays at lone City Hall from 11 a.m. to noon.

Oregon's first case of influenza for the 1994-95 season was identified recently according to Dr. David Fleming, state epidemiologist. The state's public health laboratory confirmed a case of type A influenza in a student at Western Oregon State College in Monmouth.

"Even though we found our first flu case yesterday, there still is time to get immunized," said Dr. Fleming. "We recommend immunizations for all persons over 65 years of age, persons with chronic heart and lung diseases and persons taking medications that suppress the immune system."

Influenza is an illness characterized by an abrupt onset of fever, muscle aches, sore throat and cough. Unlike other common respiratory illnesses, influenza can cause severe malaise lasting several days. Typically, the influenza virus persists in an area for six

to eight weeks after it is first detected.

Persons contracting the influenza virus should drink plenty of fluids and get adequate rest, Dr. Fleming said. Children should not be given aspirin because of the risk of developing Reye's Syndrome, a potentially fatal disease.

Although influenza already has been isolated in Oregon, vaccinations still may be beneficial in reducing the chance of becoming infected. The vaccine's protection usually begins within two weeks after it is administered. Persons requiring vaccinations should consult their physicians.

## HES/HMS site council meets

Joy Krein reported on the new discipline plan at the site council meeting of the Heppner Elementary and Middle schools Dec. 6. Krein said it is running smoothly and accomplishing its goals. This is in part due to noon detention, immediate parent contact and alternative recess options like study halls and inside recess rooms.

A new committee was formed to synthesize a school profile. Co-chairpersons for this committee will be Barb Orwick and Vicky Broden. Having a school profile will allow the group to apply for grants, set goals and assess school community needs.

Heppner Elementary and Middle schools are developing an educational program which prepares students in areas leading to the Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM). To earn a CIM students must demonstrate proficiency in the CIM outcomes that Morrow County School District selected as most appropriate to county schools. These outcomes or goals, effective the 1996-97 school year, require a student

to communicate, quantify, be a self-directed learner, deliberate on public issues, apply math and science, use technology and collaborate.

Part of the educational program involves assessing staff development needs for meeting CIM goals. Teachers met with Dean Thompson from the ESD to learn about scoring guides and performance assessment. Teachers have also received a notebook containing information about CIM outcomes, performance assessment, scoring guides and benchmarks students across the state are to reach at third, fifth, eighth and 10th grades. Staff training will be an ongoing project for the next three or four years.

The 1994-95 site council is committed to disseminate CIM information to students and the community and to suggest time blocks geared towards CIM teaching and learning.

Those attending the meeting were Linda Shaw, Bill Karwacki, Mark Miller, Steve Hill, Dave Gunderson, Pam Dowdy, Barb Orwick, Joy Krein, Cara Osmin and Vicky Broden. The next meeting was held Jan. 10.

## Gun club opens trapshoot season

The Morrow County Gun Club opened its 1995 trapshooting season Sunday, Jan. 8 after a short business meeting and election of officers.

Roger Mortimore was elected president; Kelwayne Haguewood, secretary treasurer and Harvey Childers, Mike Adams and Mark Schlichting advisory board members.

Once again MCGC will team up with the Walla Walla gun club to participate in the Spokesman Review Telephonic Shoot. The two clubs will combine their highest scores from the 16 yard line (singles) and the handicap yardage position for eight weeks. The highest scores will be called in to the Spokesman Review in Spo-

kane, WA. Gun clubs from all over the Pacific Northwest compete in this annual event.

High scores for the singles were Tim Hedman, Mike Adams and Sherron Woodside with 24 out of 25 targets broken. Pat Lovgren, Jeff Cutsforth, Loren Woodside, Bill Greenup, Kelwayne Haguewood and Curtis Cutsforth all shot 23 out of 25 to take second.

Pat Lovgren was high shooter for the handicap event with a score of 23 for 25. Curtis Cutsforth placed second with 22.

Cutsforth and Lovgren won both Annie Oakley events.

The next shoot will be held Sunday, Jan. 15 at noon at the gun club.

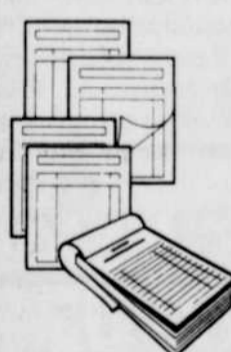
## Lexington Grange to meet

By Delpha Jones

The Lexington Grange will meet Jan. 16 for their regular meeting. The annual pancake supper will be prepared and served by the men. The program will include a talk and pictures of the Clarkston-Lewiston area by Ken Smouse. The supper will begin at 6

p.m. with the program to follow.

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