

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's office in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

Dec. 26: Morrow County deputy began a theft investigation from an Irrigon residence; Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray Fire Dept. to a structure fire on Kahler Basin Road, Spray; Morrow County deputy investigated suspicious circumstances in an Irrigon neighborhood.

Dec. 27: Morrow County deputy arrested Travis Lane Thomas, 24, of Boardman, for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Attempting to Elude. Thomas was cited and released with a court date;

Morrow County deputy arrested Casey Daniel Rodriguez, 22, of Irrigon, for a Failure to Appear/Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle warrant. Rodriguez was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance to a residence on C Street for an male with an illness. The patient was transported to the Madras hospital.

Dec. 28: Morrow County Sheriff's office paged the Boardman ambulance to a reported rollover on I-84 milepost 157 westbound. No injuries occurred, no transport was made;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance and Fire Dept. to a single vehicle accident on I-84 milepost 156. No injuries occurred;

Morrow County deputy began a theft investigation from an Irrigon residence;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a single vehicle accident on I-84 milepost 152. One patient was transported to the Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

Dec. 29: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Oregon State Police and a tow truck to Highway 74, past the Heppner Fairgrounds, for a vehicle that had slid off the road due to ice. One person was transported by private vehicle;

Morrow County Sheriff's office received a report of a truck rollover on Highway 74 milepost 21. No injuries occurred, but lanes were blocked. The Oregon State Police responded;

Morrow County deputy responded to a report of a hit and run vehicle at Beecher's Restaurant in Ione;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to Bucknum's Tavern in Heppner for a female with a knee injury. The patient was transported to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital;

Morrow County deputy responded to Ione High School for a report of vandalized cars.

Dec. 30: Morrow County deputy responded to assist the Oregon State Police and Umatilla County for a reported juvenile problem just east of the Umatilla/Morrow county line;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray ambulance to a residence on Alder

Creek for a female with an injury. The patient was transported to St. Charles Hospital in Bend;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. to a report of a structure fire on Willow Fork. It was an overheated furnace;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area to take a report of vandalism;

Morrow County deputies responded to check reported motor vehicle accidents at I-84 milepost 170 westbound and milepost 152. The deputies were unable to locate either accident;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to stand by at the station for the reported motor vehicle accidents. The dispatch was cancelled.

Dec. 31: Morrow County deputy responded to check a suspicious vehicle in the Irrigon area;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence in Boardman for an elderly female with an unknown injury. 0552 dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. to assist the Boardman ambulance with the injured person;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Boardman Bombing Range for suspicious persons;

Morrow County deputy responded to a motorist assist on Highway 207 milepost 13;

Morrow County deputy responded to I-84 milepost 161 for a report of a vehicle in the median. No injuries occurred;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of a stolen auto. A report was taken.

Onion workshop set for Jan. 17

The third annual onion workshop, sponsored by the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service and local chemical dealerships and onion processors, is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Pheasant Cafe on Main Street in Hermiston. The workshop is scheduled to begin with registration at 7:45 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Topics will cover subjects related to both onions grown for dehydration and the fresh market. Specific talks will include discussions related to problems in onion production this past year, seed corn maggot, herbicide injury, greening and stubby root nematode control. Other speakers will address topics dealing with onion nutrition, general weed control issues, production of onions in the Treasure Valley, results from Columbia Basin onion variety trials, production of Walla Walla sweet onions, production of overwintering onions, white rot disease control and marketing potential for onions grown in this area.

Washington and Oregon pesticide recertification credits have been applied for, as well as credits for certified crop advisors.

Questions about the workshop can be answered by calling the OSU Extension office in Hermiston at 567-8321.

Coyote Springs generating power

The Coyote Springs Generation Plant, located at the Port of Morrow Industrial Park in Boardman, is Portland General Electric's (PGE) newest resource in meeting the growing energy needs of PGE customers, the state of Oregon and the region. Coyote Springs is PGE's, and Oregon's, first new electric generating facility since the Boardman Coal Plant began operation in 1980.

PGE declared Coyote Springs in service in late November, following Raytheon Constructors, Inc., designer and builder of the facility, notification that the operational testing started in September had been successfully completed.

Coyote Springs is a 220-megawatt, natural gas-fueled, combined-cycle combustion-turbine facility. It operates with a staff of approximately 17. Using General Electric's new 7FA combustion turbine technology, "Coyote Springs can boast of being one of the most efficient and economical thermal generating plants in existence," said a PGE news release. Steam from the plant is also available for nearby industrial use, such as food processing.

PGE's decision to construct Coyote Springs came on the heels of the company's decision to close its Trojan Nuclear Plant, the region's largest electric power source.

Tips offered on feeding wild birds

Millions of Americans enjoy watching, feeding or photographing birds near their homes. By providing the basics—food, shelter and water—you can often attract a number of species of birds to your yard or patio.

Wild birds normally rely on wild foods including seeds, fruits, nuts, insects and other invertebrates and small mammals, explained Dan Edge, wildlife specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. Some birds, including finches and grosbeaks, prefer plant foods—they feed on seeds, fruits and nuts.

Others are omnivores—birds such as chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers—that rely on both plant and animal sources of food. Birds of prey, such as kestrels and shrikes, are carnivores that feed on other animals, including insects, other birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

People can provide food for wild birds in two ways: through supplemental feeding or by growing plants around their yard that offer fruits, seeds and habitat birds use.

Winter is a good time to feed birds, explained Edge, because birds have only short days to find enough food to keep them warm and alive through the long, cold winter nights.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, one of the leading wild bird research centers in the U.S., recommends black oil sunflower seed as the best seed to use to attract a diverse group of birds, including chickadees, nuthatches, finches, grosbeaks, sparrows, blackbirds, jays and woodpeckers. Black oil seed is less expensive when purchased in quantity. Other seeds, such as millet, rapeseed and

cracked corn will attract other species.

"Typically, less waste occurs if you provide only one type of food per feeder, rather than mixed bird seed," said Edge. "Birds feeding at feeders with mixed seed discard the seeds they do not want, while selecting their favorites."

To attract insect-eating birds, offer suet in the wintertime. Studies have shown that these birds prefer plain, inexpensive beef suet over fancy commercial suet cakes with seed. Wire the suet to trees or place suet in mesh onion bags or wire baskets, or press them into holes in a small piece of wood.

Ground-feeding birds like juncos, sparrows, towhees and mourning doves prefer cracked corn, scattered on the ground or placed on an elevated tray.

Edge offers these hints on how to be a "responsible" bird feeder:

Once you start to provide food for birds, continue throughout the cold season. Locate feeders or food in a sheltered area, out of the prevailing wind, a few feet away from protective cover such as shrubbery. This allows birds to escape from house cats. Do not feed birds spoiled leftovers, salty snack foods or sugary cereals. In rainy or wet conditions, use a feeder or area protected from the elements so the food stays dry. Clean feeders regularly to prevent diseases and deter pests such as rats. If possible, disinfect hopper-style feeders by washing and rinsing in one part chlorine bleach and nine parts lukewarm water. Dry feeder before refilling. And do not build feeders out of plywood, as chickadees may eat the glue.

OSU honor society recognizes scholar

Oregon State University's Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi has announced that Peter Pearson, formerly of Heppner, has earned the society's Junior Accolade. Pearson, the son of Frank and Chloe Pearson, is a junior in business administration.

The honor recognizes students who rank scholastically in the upper 10 percent of their class.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's largest honor society and encourages "excellence in scholarship among all fields of study."

DMV plans Condon hours

The Heppner branch of the Motor Vehicles Division will be at Condon in the courthouse

basement on Thursday, Jan. 18, Feb. 15 and March 21. Hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sheep conference planned for Wednesday, Jan. 10

A conference for Morrow and Umatilla county sheep producers will be held Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the Oregon State University (OSU) Hermiston Agriculture Research and Extension Center on Hinkle Road in Hermiston.

Registration for the conference will begin at 1 p.m. and will include coffee and refreshments. The program will start at 1:30 p.m. with a presentation by Randy Mills, OSU Extension livestock agent for Umatilla County, entitled "The Callipyge Gene and Lamb Production," and will include a discussion on the recently discovered heavy muscled gene in sheep.

A segment on "Ewe Nutrition for Efficient and Cost Effective Lamb Production" will be presented by Dr. Jim Thompson, Extension sheep specialist for the OSU Department of Animal Sciences. Dr. Thompson will focus on feeds and nutrition for optimum production of lambs and wool.

After a short break, Clint Krebs, from Krebs Ranches, Cecil, will present a slide review of the historic Krebs Ranches sheep operation in north-eastern Oregon, and will include a description of how sheep production has changed on the ranch from the 1930s to the present day. This slide presentation was a popular attraction at the 100th annual convention of the Oregon Sheep Growers Association recently held in Pendleton.

Bill Broderick, Morrow County Extension livestock agent, will then introduce the topic of the National Sheep Referendum that county producers will vote on Tuesday, Feb. 6. Broderick will explain voting procedures and vote eligibility.

Bob Jappert, a sheep producer from Powell Butte, and Oregon's ASI Checkoff representative, will explain the proposed Sheep Checkoff and how it would function. The proposed checkoff is similar to commodity checkoff programs currently in place by other livestock industries such as beef and pork. It is designed to fund promotion, research and education programs on the behalf of the industry and would replace the monies that were lost when the Wool Act of 1954 expired at the end of 1995.

A question and answer session will conclude the program at approximately 4:30 p.m.

For additional information on the conference, contact the Morrow County Extension office, 676-9642 or the Umatilla County Extension office, 278-5404.

The conference is sponsored by the Extension services in Morrow and Umatilla counties, the OSU Extension Service and the OSU Dept. of Animal Sciences.

ODOT offers winter driving advice

Drivers need to know they are responsible for driving according to the conditions of the road and to adjust to poor driving conditions caused by bad weather. If you choose to drive in bad weather, do the smart thing and be prepared. The following guidelines and suggestions from the Oregon Dept. of Transportation may help keep drivers out of harm's way:

Bad weather makes for dangerous road conditions—slow down. Pack a survival kit—preparing for the worst is not a bad idea for winter driving. Emergency survival kits should include the following: traction devices, pliers and screwdriver, flashlight/batteries, ice scraper, bottled water, blankets or sleeping bags, jumper cables, shovel, flares, tarp, non-perishable food and a first aid kit.

Safety belts and child safety seats—use them at all times. Not only is it the law, but in addition to keeping you in the vehicle during a collision, they will also keep you and your child from being thrown around inside your vehicle should you go into a skid or hit an object.

Stay clear of snow plows and sanders—watch out for these vehicles as you round corners and curves. They do not travel at a high speed; therefore, you will

tend to come up on them quickly.

Snow plows and sanders will pull over periodically to let traffic pass. It is risky to pass on the left side of a snow plow because of blowing snow.

Never pass on the right. Flying rock can damage your car if your pass a sander. The best advice is to stay three car lengths behind plows and sanders.

Follow the beaten path—stay in line when traveling to or from a snow zone. Do not blaze your own trail, especially going downhill. This practice will only serve to congest the only open space emergency vehicles have to use.

Plan ahead—plan ahead when approaching intersections or stopped cars so that braking can be done smoothly. Maintain at least three times the normal distance.

Act quickly—if you go into a skid, act quickly by taking your foot off the accelerator. Keep your foot off the brake and steer in the direction that the rear of the vehicle is skidding. If you want your vehicle to go right, turn right.

Keep roadways clear—do not park or abandon your vehicle on or alongside roadways. Road crews cannot sand or plow blocked roads.

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