

HEPPNER



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Wheeler Point fire 3-4 miles from Spray

The Wheeler Point fire has had only a small amount of movement since Monday, Gary Clark of the Heppner Ranger District told the Gazette-Times Tuesday.

Clark said that the fire sprang up and moved toward Spray on the southeast corner, but that was stopped and the fire remains between three and fourth miles from Spray.

A community meeting was scheduled Monday night for Spray area residents to obtain accurate information concerning the situation and learn about contingency plans. No evacuation had been scheduled as of presstime, according to Joanie Bosworth, U.S. Forest Service public affairs assistant, Umatilla National Forest.

Clark said that the east edge of the fire has been held where it was Monday and that it is still at around 21,000 acres. He added, however, that lightning was supposed to be headed this way Tuesday.

According to Clark, the perimeters of the fire are as follows: south edge-Sourdough Ridge, about four miles northwest of Spray; east edge-near Henry Creek in Dixon Basin, roughly a mile and a half west of Kahler Basin (west of Hwy. 207); north edge-on a line from Crawford Spring on the northeast corner to Wheeler Point on the northwest corner; southwest corner-a little north of Frizzel Mountain.

The Wheeler Point fire had burned approximately 20,000 acres, as of 7 a.m., Monday, Aug. 12. The fire, located 15 miles east of Fossil, burning portions of Wheeler County, is

burning on both private and federal lands.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. It was detected at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, and quickly grew to 7,000 acres by 3:30 a.m. Sunday. The fire has destroyed 18 buildings.

At this point the fire is about 70 percent lined, said an Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) news release, with no estimated time of containment. Governor Kitzhaber declared a state of emergency Monday, which will remain in effect until the threat is "significantly relieved."

Approximately 500 firefighters are taking part in this effort, which is a cooperative incident management effort with personnel and equipment from ODF, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State Fire Marshall, Wheeler County Sheriff, Wheeler County Search and Rescue, Fossil and Spray Fire Depts., Boise Cascade and Kinzua Resources, and private logging and firefighting contractors.

The fire is being managed under a unified command between the ODF and USFS. One firefighter has been treated for heat exhaustion. No other injuries have been reported, said the news release.

Approximately 35 homes have been evacuated, the news release continued. No further evacuations are imminent, although a contingency evacuation plan for the community of Spray has been developed. Spray lies about four miles south of the fire.

Evelyn Sweek to be honored



Evelyn Sweek

By April Hilton-Sykes

Evelyn Sweek, dietary supervisor at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home in Heppner, has been selected for the Oregon Health Care Association's "Love is Ageless" award, in recognition for her 35 years of service.

Sweek will receive her award at a luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Oregon Health Care Association's 46th annual convention at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

Sweek was born in Portland and raised in Newberg, moving to the Monument area in 1948. She graduated from high school at Monument, out of a graduating class of two. The high school at Monument, with only 20 students, was quite a bit different than her school in the valley, with 1900 students. When she moved to Monument there were no paved highways and no electricity.

She met her husband, Clayton, in Monument and they were married when he went into the service during the Korean War. She worked for General Motors while her husband was in the service.

The Sweeks have four children, Mike, Heppner, Dana, Washington, Curtis, Hermiston, and Sheridan, Pendleton, and five grandchildren.

Evelyn comes by her profession naturally. Her grandfather started bakeries all over the U.S. and both her mother and father, who were born in Poland, were bakers, too.

"I didn't want to get into food service," laughs Evelyn. But she started work at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, "only for one year" as a cook in 1961. After two months as a cook, she became dietary supervisor and that one year turned into 35. In 1971 Evelyn received her dietitian manager's certificate, which is equal to a year in college, through the University of Florida.

"I've got a very rewarding career," says Evelyn. "I feel very honored to receive this award. I feel wonderful."

Court experiences make special memories for Queen Brenda

Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo's 1996 Queen Brenda Holtz is the 17-year-old daughter of Elmer and Sandy Holtz of Lone. Like all of her princesses, she is the youngest member of her family. She has three older brothers, Jim, who works for his uncle and cousin on their wheat ranch; Brian, who just graduated from Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) and will work for Lone Repair after completing his harvest job; and Gregg, who still has one more year at BMCC.

"My family has always supported me—even with early mornings and long trips to horse shows and parades," the queen said. "My brothers and their friends tease me and keep me humble, but when I'm down, they always know how to make me feel better. Dad and Mom haven't missed a parade or rodeo all summer, which is normal. They've been to nearly every horse show, basketball and volleyball game I've participated in and never missed any of my brothers' football games either."

The blue-eyed brunette has lived in the same house in Lone all of her life and will be a senior at Lone High School this fall. She began playing volleyball in sixth grade, basketball in the seventh grade and is a member of the Lady Cardinal varsity volleyball and basketball teams. She competed in track one year in junior high, but found the springtime too busy with horse show competitions to continue with the sport.

Brenda has been a class officer several years and is a member of the Heppner-Lone International Club which is planning a trip to Italy next spring. She was chosen to attend the American Legion Auxiliary-sponsored Girls' State this summer at Linfield College where she was elected a delegate from her county.

The queen credits former area resident Gayle Papineau with her interest in horses. When she was in kindergarten, her babysitter, Gayle, always had horses around, so she got to help feed and brush them. Gayle and a neighbor, Laurie Barrow, whom the queen has dubbed her "other mother," encouraged her interest in horses by starting the Lone Jr. Riding Club for several area kids like Brenda.

Later, Brenda became an associated 4-H horse club member and finally a regular 4-Her. Longtime Heppner 4-H leader Al Brazel also helped Brenda with her riding skills when the two clubs had joint meetings, and going "above and beyond" a 4-H leader's duties by traveling with her and her parents to area horse shows.

Brenda's experience includes a couple of years in a cooking club, learning basic cooking skills and how to behave in front of people while demonstrating how to bake chocolate chip cookies. A year in a sewing club helped her decide that sewing is probably not for her since the white shirt and black-with-white figured pants outfit she struggled to make is still hanging in her closet, just the way it was at fair six years ago.

Eight years in Martingales 4-H Horse Club has helped her decide to follow a horse-related study program at college after graduation next spring. "I just can't see myself being happy if I'm not working with horses in some way, or maybe teaching others to work with them," the queen said candidly.

The queen encourages any girl who can ride and thinks she might be interested in representing the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo to try

**Queen
Brenda Holtz**
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Parents: Elmer and
Sandy Holtz
Age: 17 years old
Senior at IHS



Activities: Lady Cardinal volleyball & basketball, class officer, International Club, Girls' State, 4-H horse & cooking clubs.



Brenda and two new friends, Mickey Bergantzel of Albany (left) and Julie Thayer of Scio, smile for the camera in their dorm at Linfield College during the 56th session of Oregon Girls' State.

out for the court next year because it is a fun and learning experience. Times she has shared with the other girls on the court are special memories not everyone can have.

This year on the court has had its ups and downs for the queen and her court. She says it's been a challenge to maintain the poise and fulfill the duties of queen without prior experience as a princess. "It's an honor, though," she admits, "that the fair and rodeo board, the rodeo committee and the fair committee had enough confidence in me to select me for this position. I just hope I have lived up to their expectations."

Among the challenges, the queen says, was coordinating outfits and trying to find a cream-colored hat, belt and boots to match her official outfit. "I thought we never were going to get things worked out," she said, "but, finally, it all came together."

Another time she remembers as difficult was during the parade at The Dalles, when her official mount, a six-year-old paint mare named Spooks Painted Bar, bucked along the parade route. "I had to get her back under control and pretend that nothing had happened, so I swatted her once to get her attention and kept smiling and waving to the crowd and making her follow along in our pattern."

Queen Brenda has learned how to handle horses in many situations from her years as a pennant bearer for Queen Judy Jepsen, herding cattle, riding mountain trails and the hills in Morrow County, her 4-H experience, cross-country jumping, her riding coaches, and years of experience at sanctioned area horse shows.

The best part about being queen of the fair and rodeo court, she says, has been the support from her princesses, pennant bearers and the community. "My princesses and pennants have been dedicated in coming to the parades and rodeos, and have worked hard keeping their horses and outfits in shape," Brenda noted. "People have been wonderful coming to our fund raisers and giving donations. When they

see us at parades and rodeos, they come up to us and congratulate us or tell us how good we look and what a good job we're doing. It's wonderful to feel such support from everyone."

The most memorable event so far, the queen recalls, was her coronation at the Town and Country banquet in January. "I was so nervous about having to give a speech in front of all those people that I put horse-radish on my baked potato. And, when I got up to go on the stage, my knees were shaking so bad that I thought everybody could see and hear them, but afterwards everyone congratulated me and told me I'd done a good job. I was so excited I couldn't stop thinking about it for days."

She expects the grand entries at the Morrow County fair and rodeo to be just as exciting, but not as intimidating, as she and Spooks run around the arena greeting rodeo fans and hearing their cheers and applause. "My court and I hope everyone comes to the fair and rodeos. We know the show will be enjoyable, and we will have fun meeting and talking with everyone," the queen concluded.

Fair in full swing

The Morrow County Fair is in full swing this week at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

The fair will feature contests and exhibits, demonstrations, fashion shows, a market sale, food booths and concessions, entertainment, a Saturday morning parade and a street dance Saturday night.

For more information, see the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Premium Book and the Heppner Gazette-Times special fair and rodeo supplemental.

County Jackpot Rodeo Sunday

The Morrow County Jackpot Rodeo, featuring Morrow County residents and alumni, will get underway Sunday, Aug. 18, at 1:15 p.m.

Lamb auction to benefit teens

A lamb auction to benefit the Heppner teenagers injured in an auto accident July 11, will be held following the 4-H and Future Farmers of America market sale, which will be held Saturday, Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

Those who don't want to purchase the lamb, but want to make a contribution, may make donations by calling 676-5110 or 676-5250.

The lamb to be auctioned off will also walk in the parade starting at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Power outage moved to Aug. 23

A power outage, originally scheduled for this Friday, Aug. 16, and affecting Columbia Basin Electric customers, has been rescheduled for Friday, August 23, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The outage, planned for Bonneville Power Administration

maintenance, will affect Heppner, Lone, Lexington, Ruggs, Olex, Cecil, Morgan, Hinton Creek, Willow Creek, Rhea Creek, Rock Creek, Shutler Flat, Lower Willow Creek, Mikalo, Clem and Ajax.

Junior golfers to compete

Heppner Junior Golfers will compete in a tournament in Echo on Tuesday, Aug. 20,

with Hermiston juniors. Pete Strawick is the instructor.

MCGG will be back to REGULAR HOURS
Monday, August 19th
We will be CLOSED SATURDAY, Aug. 17th
"See you at the Morrow County Fair & Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo"
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