

BESSIE WETZELL  
U OF ORE  
NEWSPAPER LIB  
EUGENE OR 97403

HEPPNER



50¢

VOL. 115 NO. 40 6 Pages Wednesday, October 2, 1996 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

## Grass fire rekindles near Heppner cemetery



Firemen controlled a grass fire that broke out Tuesday, Oct. 1, on Willow Creek Road behind the Heppner Cemetery. Heppner Fire Marshal Forrie Burkenbine said that the fire had rekindled from an earlier controlled burn. He said the fire was probably caused by matted grass that had smoldered overnight. Outbuildings on the John and Diane Kilkenny ranch were destroyed in a separate fire, reported to the Morrow County Sheriff's office on Sept 28, around 7:15 p.m.

## Mark and Tami Rietmann earn stewardship award

Mark and Tami Rietmann, livestock, hay and timber managers for the Don and Patricia Anderson Ranch in Heppner, were named the 1996 Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Environmental Stewardship Award winners during ceremonies in Portland recently. "The Rietmanns were honored for their cooperative and progressive management of their private lands in addition to their work on the Hardman Allotment in the Umatilla National Forest," said a news release.

The Anderson Ranch is an Oregon Century Farm founded in 1881 by Tami Rietmann's great-grandfather, Anson Wright. The Rietmanns currently manage 400 cow/calf pairs, in addition to their dryland wheat operation.

Bob Krein, district wildlife biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, recently wrote, "The Rietmanns are constantly developing new ways to effectively blend their operation with the environmental conditions that are present." Their management practices have included the installation of over 60 water developments, riding every two to three days to distribute cattle to the upland areas and the installation of both permanent and portable riparian corridor fencing to encourage forage and shrub recruitment.

By moving the portable fencing, which was purchased with Forest Service funds and installed and maintained by the

ranch, from pasture to pasture with the cattle, they have reduced their fixed costs and maintenance requirements while gaining additional opportunities to monitor grass utilization and shrub use.

By monitoring grasses and shrubs before, during and after grazing each individual pasture, the Rietmanns have "gained insight" regarding the utility of forages by both cattle and big game, said the release. Their monitoring has allowed them to maintain a 6' stubble height in riparian areas and have an effective noxious weed eradication program.

In 1996, the Hardman Allotment was host to the first annual OCA's environmental stewardship tour. The objective for the tour was to show improvement to riparian areas without livestock exclusion. "The Rietmanns have actively participated in the campaign to defeat Measure 38 because they can prove that cattle and healthy watersheds are mutually beneficial," said the release. Past tours included Forest Service personnel and the Morrow County Court.

With an eye on the future, the Rietmanns have made a commitment to their environment and their children; it is their primary goal "to care for the resources for future generations." As Krein wrote in his stewardship award recommendation letter, "Mark and Tami exemplify the concept of successful ranchers that adapt and modify their operation to match

changing environmental conditions."

The environmental stewardship award was created by the former National Cattlemen's Association in 1991 to honor "those cattlemen and women who have worked diligently to both enhance and improve the natural resources under their management," said the release. Each year, five regional finalists are selected from affiliate organizations, such as the OCA, from which the national award winner is selected. The Rietmanns' applications will now be forwarded to the newly formed National Cattlemen's Beef Association for consideration of the national award.

## Little League meeting set

A Little League meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School Library.

Anyone interested in coaching, managing or helping out is invited to attend.

## Council to meet

The Heppner Coordinating Council (HCC) will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 a.m. in the Heppner Ranger District conference room.

The discussion topics will be the state prison and regional jail siting.

The public is welcome to attend HCC meetings.

## Voters to decide on Heppner city charter

Voters within the city of Heppner will be asked to decide on a new charter for the city at the upcoming November 5th election. In February, the city council reviewed the existing city charter, which was adopted in 1974, and determined that several of its provisions had become obsolete due to changes in state laws and changes in the city's operations.

As a result of their review, the Council created a five member city charter committee to develop an updated charter. The committee consisted of Mayor Bob Jepsen, councilors Michael McGuire and Kay Robinson, city manager Gary Marks, and citizen-member David Allstott. Allstott chaired the committee.

The committee met several times, researched state laws, studied charters from other cities and developed a new Charter for voter consideration. "Wherever possible the committee attempted to adopt state laws through the charter," said Marks.

Marks said the proposed charter provides that city elections will conform to state law. The old charter had several lengthy provisions relating to city-run elections. These provisions had been made obsolete by state laws that overrode the Charter. The county clerk now administers all city elections. The proposed charter also adopts state laws governing the amount of debt the city can carry.

## Heppner library announces new hours

The Oregon Trail Library District, Heppner Branch, announces new library hours. The library will now be open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday from 1-8 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Story hour for children preschool to sixth grade will be on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., starting in October.

"We also have videos, books-on-tape, magazines, large print books, a small selection of CD-ROMs to use in the library, children's magazines and new books in for children along with popular new books for adults," said librarian Dorothy Wilson. "The Internet for public use is also a new addition to the library. We also have a FAX machine for public use."

Anyone interested in using the Internet or CD-ROMs is requested to call in and arrange a time to use them. The library has a time limit unless someone is working on a project that requires more time.

## Commission plans meeting

The monthly meeting of the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at the Morrow County School District Building in Lexington from 7-9 p.m.

The main item of business will be child care issues. The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussion. For more information, call 676-9675.

### NEWS DEADLINE

Monday.....5 p.m.

The Heppner Gazette-Times  
147 W. Willow  
676-9228



\$1.50  
PER GALLON  
Limit 2

CENEX ANTIFREEZE

REBATE OFFER!

Rebate Period  
October 1, Thru  
October 31, 1996

COUPONS AVAILABLE IN STORE

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396

"The benefit of adopting state laws in these cases is that the charter will remain relevant even after the State adopts new laws in the future," said Marks. "Having provisions in the Charter that cannot be enforced or that are outmoded by state laws only creates confusion."

The old charter did not specifically list a city manager because the position did not exist in 1974 when it was adopted, said Marks. In recognition of the council/manager form of government now in use by the city, the proposed charter lists the city manager and delineates his or her responsibilities.

Marks said the other major changes involve the powers of the mayor. The old charter provided veto power to the mayor and did not allow the mayor to vote, except when necessary to break a tied council vote. The proposed charter removes the veto power, but gives the mayor an equal vote on all city matters.

"As the city's highest elected official, the committee felt the mayor should have a vote on city issues," said Marks.

Marks said the committee discovered that no mayor had ever used the veto in the 22-year history of the existing

charter. He said that most cities do not have veto provisions in their charters.

The city council reviewed the charter committee's proposed charter at the July council meeting and decided to refer it to city voters for their consideration at the November election.

Marks stressed that the city's charter proposal was not related in any way to the county's charter proposal that was on the May ballot. "We hope there will not be any confusion on this point," said Marks. He said cities are required under Oregon law to have charters and counties are not.

"The county charter proposed a new form of government, while the city is simply proposing to update its charter," said Marks. "The city's current mode of operations will not be significantly changed by the proposed charter."

"The city has had a charter of some type since it was founded in 1887," said Marks. "It is a common practice among cities to review and update their charters at least every 20 years to make sure they are not obsolete."

Copies of the proposed charter are available at city hall for public review.

## HHS celebrates homecoming week



Jerry Stackhouse (alias Jeff Watkins) and Tony Delk (alias Lonnie Rill) were two of the famous athletes who turned up at Heppner High School during homecoming week, Sept. 30-Oct. 4.

HHS students celebrated homecoming week with 70s Day on Monday; Favorite Athlete Day, Tuesday; Cowboy and Native American Day, Wednesday; and Blue and Gold Day, Thursday.

The activities will culminate with the homecoming game vs. Sherman County at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, with a dance to follow.

## Wool contest slated for Oct. 26

The deadline for the District 5 "Make It Yourself With Wool" contest is rapidly approaching, reminds district director Maureen Krebs. The contest will be Saturday, Oct. 26 in Lone. Contestants must have their completed registration forms returned to Krebs no later than Saturday, Oct. 12.

Garments are judged on style and construction, and must be at least 60 percent wool. Winners will be announced at the style show open to the public Oct. 26 at 1 p.m. at the Lone High School.

The District 5 contest is open to residents of Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla, Wasco, Sherman, Wheeler and Hood River counties. Men and women are eligible to compete in four age

groups: preteen (12 and under); junior (13-16); seniors (17-24) and adults (over 24). Age groups are determined by the contestant's age on Dec. 31, 1996.

Winners in the junior, senior and adult divisions will advance to the state level competition to be held in conjunction with the Oregon Sheep Growers Convention in Newport in early December. A state junior and senior winner will then advance to the national competition to be held in Nashville, TN, in January.

Entry forms are available from local county Extension agents or from Maureen Krebs, Cecil Star Route, Lone, OR, 97843. Additional contest information may be obtained from Krebs by calling 422-7548.