

Hunters might lose in fight over salmon

(Editor's note: Following is a reprint of a story that appeared in the August 29, 1996 issue of the Oregonian.)

By Bill Monroe
of the Oregonian staff

Duck and goose hunters have become hostages in the controversial political squabble over the future of salmon in the upper Columbia River Basin.

The Port of Morrow has threatened to close more than 5,000 acres of public hunting area in the heart of Oregon's heaviest concentration of wintering ducks and geese unless the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife develops a port-approved pro-farming publicity program.

An Aug. 22 letter from Gary Neal, Port of Morrow general manager, to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife demands that: a) The department conduct a farming-friendly publicity program about wildlife benefits from agriculture along the John Day Pool, a 60-plus mile reservoir backed up by the John Day Dam and, b) ODFW give the port final review authority over information in the campaign.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission met Friday to set 1996-97 duck-and-geese-hunting seasons and promptly removed all references to the port and several other participants in the Boardman Regulated Hunt Area from state regulations. Total closures, including Taggares Farms, which operates on publicly owned land it subleases from the Boeing Co., could add up to more than 10,000 acres.

The Port wants state help in what it believes is a fish-versus-farming storm brewing in the upper Columbia Basin—specifically a proposal to draw down Umatilla Reservoir to pre-John Day Dam levels in an effort to help upriver salmon and steelhead juveniles shorten their journeys to the Pacific Ocean and increase their survival.

Such a drawdown would be a serious blow to irrigation and the shipment of farm products from the Port of Morrow to market via barges.

There was no debate Friday from the Fish and Wildlife Commission about the decision of Jim Greer, ODFW's wildlife division chief, to deny the port final authority over agency news releases and publicity.

Greer and his staff had offered to publicize the benefits of agriculture to both upland game and waterfowl and public hunt programs in the upper Columbia Basin.

Brad Bales, ODFW waterfowl coordinator, said it is likely the other private landowners in the area also would withdraw their lands from the popular hunt program if the port pulls out.

More than 2,000 hunters used Port of Morrow and other private and leased land in the Boardman area last fall and winter to hunt waterfowl—primarily Canada geese.

"We had some good things going with these partners and I hate to see that jeopardized," Bales said. "I hope it's kind of

like a little family squabble. I'd like to see it resolved and get back on track again."

Neal was not optimistic. "We will oppose this concept as strongly as we can," he wrote of a reservoir drawdown in his Aug. 22 letter. "This single issue could very easily override the programs currently in place."

Neal said Monday he hadn't met with port commissioners to see whether they would go through with the threatened closure, but warned that "we're very serious about being specific."

Neal said he doesn't believe the port is holding hunters hostage, but rather that the Department of Fish and Wildlife "needs to get out and give this message."

Greer and Bales said agriculture is clearly beneficial to wildlife in the area, but there may be some damages to fisheries and it's the state's responsibility to present a balanced information picture.

"I asked them to take a stand on wildlife, not fish," Neal said, noting he had dealt only with the department's wildlife division. "They're obviously not willing to do that."

Bales said only Sixmile and Threemile canyons and Columbia River frontage along Tower Road between Boardman and Arlington remain officially available to public hunting near Boardman, if the Port and other landowners go through with the closures.

Even if the Port recants and allows hunting, the program will not be published in the 1996-97 bird hunting regulations, sent to press Friday to meet distribution deadlines before seasons begin in October.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses during the past week:

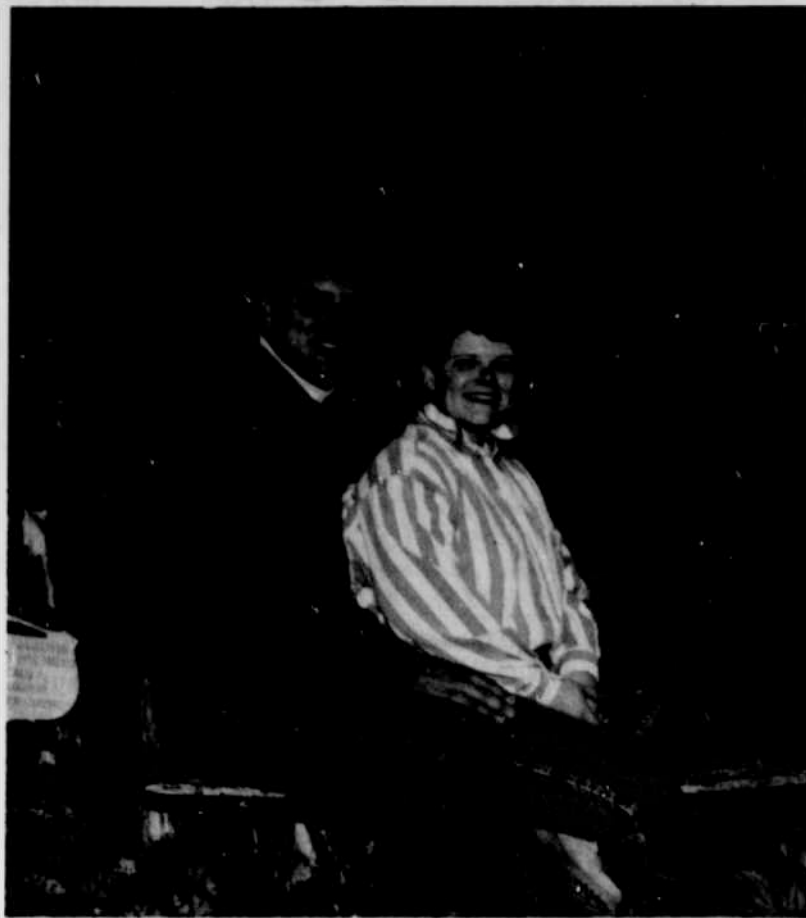
Sept. 24: Shane Lee Eng, 21, Heppner; and Jennifer LeeAnn Miller, 21, Heppner.
Martin Rubio Estrada, 32, Boardman; and Sonya Ilene Macomber, Boardman.

In the Service

Navy Seaman Recruit William R. Kraft, son of Thomas and Frankie Kraft of Heppner, recently reported for duty aboard the ballistic submarine USS Rhode Island, homeported in Groton, CT.

The 1994 graduate of Heppner High School, Kraft joined the Navy in January, 1996.

Engagement



Chowning — Klinger

Joni Sue Chowning of Hermiston and Kenneth Michael Klinger of Ione announce their engagement to be married.

The bride-elect graduated in 1984 from Eastmont High School in Wenatchee, Washington. She is employed as an accounting assistant/export coordinator with Oregon Hay in Boardman.

Klinger graduated from Beaverton High School in 1983 and from Oregon State University. He is employed as a wheat farmer in Ione.

The couple plan a November 16 wedding at 4 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Ione. A reception immediately following the ceremony will be held at the American Legion Hall in Ione.

Business workshops offered by BMCC

Local facilitators have developed workshops with business needs in mind and are offering them through Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC).

The fall schedule for Pendleton starts Monday, Oct. 14 from 6-9 p.m. Each Monday evening is a new three-hour workshop that can be selected according to individual needs.

Schedule is as follows: Oct. 14-interviewing; Oct. 21-employer interviewing; Oct. 28-managing conflict; Nov. 4-negotiating 101; Nov. 18-business etiquette.

Other nights of the week have been selected for the following workshops: Tuesday, Nov. 12-customer service and Saturday, Nov. 16-resume writing, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The same workshops are offered as needed in Heppner, Boardman, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Baker City.

For more information and to enroll in these workshops, contact BMCC's Continuing Education Department at 278-5762. Those interested in having one of these classes or a special class developed for a particular business, call the BMCC Business and Industry Services office at 276-6233.

Sheriff's Report

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

September 24: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept. to a grass fire behind Heppner High School; the fire was put out;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched Boardman ambulance and Fire Dept. to I-84, mile post 151, eastbound for a motor vehicle accident. The call was canceled;

Morrow County deputy assisted the U.S. Forest Service with a vehicle stop;

Morrow County deputy responded to a residence in Lexington for a dog complaint.

September 25: Morrow County deputy assisted a citizen with a flat tire on I-84, mile post 170;

Morrow County deputy responded to Tower Road for a report of a suspicious vehicle;

Morrow County deputy responded to Highway 74 outside of Heppner for a report of a deer on the highway;

Morrow County deputy responded to the West Glen area in Boardman for a family disturbance.

September 26: Morrow County deputy responded to Root Lane in Boardman for a report of a suspicious vehicle;

Morrow County deputy responded to I-84 westbound, 1/2 mile west of Boardman, for a report of a disturbance taking place in a vehicle;

Morrow County deputy responded to Wilson Road/Bombing Range for a report of vandalism to a vehicle;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington Fire Dept. to a grass fire on Shane Drive.

September 27: Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of an abandoned vehicle. The vehicle had been stolen out of Umatilla;

Morrow County deputy responded to Hillview Dairy on Wilson Road for some cattle on the road. They were put back in the pasture;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Lone Quick Response and Heppner ambulance to a resident in Ione for an adult female with an unknown illness. The patient was taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner;

Morrow County deputy assisted the Boardman Police Dept. and checked the vicinity of Hab-Doc Apartments for shots fired; the deputy was unable to locate the source.

September 28: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the Nomad Restaurant for an adult male with an illness; the call was canceled en route;

Morrow County deputy took a report of telephone harassment in Boardman;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon, Ione and Arlington fire depts. to a large fire in the Rock Creek/Ridge Road areas;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to Willow Fork Drive, Boardman for female with heart problems. She was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray ambulance to a rural residence on Highway 19 for an adult female with an illness. She was airlifted to Bend;

Morrow County deputy took report of theft in Wagon Wheel Additions, Irrigon.

September 29: Morrow County deputy assisted Boardman Police Dept. with an unwanted person at the Nomad Lounge;

Morrow County deputy responded to assist the Boardman Police with a prowler at a residence on Anderson Road in Boardman;

Morrow County deputy responded to the Irrigon area for a report of suspicious activity;

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance and Fire Dept. to I-84 westbound mile post 153 for a rollover accident. There was one transport to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston;

Morrow County deputies responded to Cutsforth Park for a report of shots fired;

Morrow County deputy arrested Jesse Eugene Lewis, 52, Heppner for Reckless Endangering. He was given a court date.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray ambulance to a residence in Spray for an adult male with an unknown illness. He was airlifted to Bend Hospital by AirLife.

September 30: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Spray ambulance for a rollover on Highway 19 mile post 92. There was no transport made.

WCCC Golf

Willow Creek Country Club ladies met Sept. 24 for the last of this season's organized play.

After playing nine holes, the ladies enjoyed a potluck salad luncheon.

The business meeting was called to order by president Karen Wildman. Members voted in a new slate of officers—the new president is Susan Atkins; vice president, Jackie Allstott; secretary-treasurer, Cam Wishart; board member, Deborah Kendrick.

Awards were given for the Eddie Skow championship to Suzanne Jepsen and club champion to Pat Edmundson. Three electric awards were given to the most improved players: Lorene Montgomery, Jackie Allstott and Betty Christman.

Many prizes were given for the last day's special events. Susan Atkins and Lorene Montgomery were in charge of the day.

Results are as follows:
Low gross of the field: Pat Edmundson 38.

Flight A: low gross Karen Wildman; low net Linda Schultz; least putts Susan Atkins; long drive Linda Schultz.

Flight B: low gross Betty Carlson; low net Bernice Lott; least putts Kay Anderson and Luvilla Sonstegard.

Flight C: low gross Jean Ball and Doll Campbell; low net Jackie Allstott; least putts Doris Graves.

Chip in: Doll Campbell #14, Karen Wildman #10, Birdie: Karen Wildman #10, Susan Atkins #18.

Other happenings: short putt Susan Atkins; closest to the ditch without going over Luvilla Sonstegard; accuracy Kay Anderson; most drives to the green Cam Wishart; most times in the creek Jenny Reynolds; most putts for a hole Lorene Montgomery; least putts Betty Carlson and Doll Campbell.

Organized play will resume the first Tuesday in April 1997. All women who wish to golf and belong to the Willow Creek Country Club are welcome to join.

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Auction to begin at 8:00
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