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VOL. 115 NO. 49 6 Pages Wednesday, December 4, 1996. Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Andersons named state conservation farmers

Morrow County farmers Eric and Marnie Anderson of Ione were recently named State Conservation Farmers of the Year by the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL).

The Andersons operate 7,000 acres in Morrow and adjacent Gilliam County—it is a land of little rain (annually 9-9½"), a lot of wind and challenging erosion problems. Wheat, commercial and seed, is their main crop. On four irrigated circles, they also raise pea seed and dry peas, and contract for some potato production.

The Andersons rely on production to solve some of the erosion problems. "High production is the best tool we have," said Eric, as it results in a high amount of residue which helps keep soil in place.

The Anderson crew strives to operate tillage machinery in a manner that will discourage blows. If a blow does start, a supply of straw is on hand to fill them and hold the soil. Straw is also applied to wheel line tracks.

Careful managers of water, the Andersons have been known to turn off the irrigation pumps on a growing crop of wheat if the prospects for higher returns has dropped. They have experimented with a variety of crops, but back out if an enterprise is not profitable.

In wet years when there is a high level of volunteer wheat,



Eric and Marnie Anderson

the Andersons will harvest the volunteer crop. Yields on the volunteer crops may be low, but so are input costs.

The Andersons are also careful in their use of chemicals. Insecticides are applied in the furrow when possible, to avoid harming beneficial insects.

Sediment dams are used to control runoff and 100 acres are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

The Andersons share with the county winners and other farmers a long-range perspective that calls for them to "leave the land in better shape than

when they got it." "We're just temporary stewards of the land," Eric said.

The Andersons were chosen from a field of county conservation winners that included: Mark and Julie Unger, Cornelius, North Valley counties; Rucker Farming, Arlington, Gilliam County; Sunny Cove Farms, the Cannon Family, Athena; and Dave and Sheryl Hug, Summerville, Union County. The OWGL will sponsor a tour of the Anderson farm early next summer.

This is the 49th year of the OWGL conservation awards.

Medical district to proceed with Irrigon Clinic

The Morrow County Medical District, at its regular meeting Monday night, Dec. 2, at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner, gave a preliminary go-ahead for purchase of the current Irrigon City Hall building.

The district plans to renovate the 1440 square foot building into a medical clinic.

MCHD administrator Kevin Erich said that purchasing the building and the estimated cost of renovating the building together could be in the neighborhood of \$150,000, compared to the estimated cost of around \$300,000 of building a 2,600 square foot modular structure.

Erich reported that the city hall building would be expandable later if needed. The Irrigon City Hall is still located in the building, which is owned by an individual.

The board also heard a report and work calendar from Terry Edvalson, director of the Regional Services Institute at LaGrande. The institute is compiling a health district survey and report which will

be sent to a random sample of district residents for their information and response.

The board received a letter from Don Eppenbach, Irrigon, to Edvalson disputing the truth of materials submitted for the survey by Raymond Michael of Boardman.

Eppenbach's letter to Edvalson stated that the material submitted by Michael, a Boardman pharmacist, has a "limited amount of facts and those facts are not pertinent to the question addressed", and further said that there was no "clear listing of advantages for either Boardman or the county" in establishing a Boardman medical department and "is certainly the collation of personal opinions rather than a consensus of this group".

Eppenbach added that "it is clear that no cooperative efforts will be realized from the Boardman representatives in our group."

The Boardman contingent, consisting of Michael, Tom Meyers, Anthony Carabba and Martin Montes de Oca, resigned from the Morrow

County Health District Community Response Steering Committee in response to Eppenbach's letter.

The Boardman group said, "We can no longer support the work of the committee, nor do we want our names printed on its report, the 'Fact Sheet'."

They also included a six page letter citing reasons for withdrawal.

"We're looking for the rest of the story, not the vocal minority," said MCHD Board Member Jim Hankins, concerning the county-wide survey on health care issues.

"The thing we hear across the board," said Edvalson, "is, 'we're just plain tired of the North-South bickering.'"

Grant Union plans feed

Grant Union High School, John Day, will hold a spaghetti feed from 5-7 p.m. during the basketball tournament to be held there Friday, Dec. 6.

Heppner varsity girls and boys will participate in the tournament.

Log truck crashes into BEO annex building



Jeff Orr (left) and Ken Eckman, of Eckman Construction, prepare to close up wall damaged by logging truck

The Bank of Eastern Oregon got a new drive-up window at their annex building on Main Street in Heppner Tuesday, Dec. 3. The window, however, was a little bit too open, especially in this crisp December air.

A log truck crashed through the wall of the building around 11:30 Tuesday. Driver of the truck, Jim Rollis, 42, Heppner, said that he had stopped at the stop sign at Coast to Coast as he came into town and then decided he would turn in at Central Market to get a bite to eat. "As I was pulling into the parking lot, two people walked in front of me," said Rollis. "I touched the brakes to stop and keep from hitting them and it wouldn't stop. So I turned the wheel to keep from killing the people walking across." Rollis said the impact broke the front grill and the bumper and cracked the hood of the truck.

Rollis' truck hit and dented a parked car, owned by Cindy Schmidt of Heppner, before it struck the wall of the BEO building, which is owned by



Jim Rollis' logging truck

Butch Laughlin. "Everything started to vibrate," said Sylvia Sandford, BEO employee. "I'm kind of used to sonic booms, but then the wall started to collapse."

BEO operations manager Linda LaRue said that no desks were located near the collapsed wall and added that, although a typewriter had been

there, no equipment was damaged. "It didn't hurt any of our equipment or our people," said LaRue. "We're really lucky."

A crew from Eckman Construction boarded up the outside of the building.

There is no estimate of the damage to the building or the vehicles.

No charge for Greens Workshop

The Heppner Garden Club will not charge admission to the club's Greens Workshop which will be held adjacent to the annual Artifactory Craft Fair this Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

People coming to the workshop will be provided greens, cones and assistance in making wreaths and swags, said Jane Rawlins, Garden Club spokesperson.

Wreath orders may be picked up Friday, Dec. 6.

This year, there will be a \$2 charge for admission into the Artifactory. Soroptimist International members say that proceeds from the admission charge will go toward scholarships for area youth.

The Artifactory features crafts and baked goods for sale. Lunch and dessert will be available for purchase.

Presentation date changed

The Blue Mountain Community College financial presentation for students and parents will be held at Heppner High School on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

The presentation was originally scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12.

Christmas concert planned Dec. 15

The South Morrow Community Choir and the Willow Creek Youth Symphony will perform jointly for "A Christmas Concert" on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Heppner. The public is invited to attend. There is no charge for the concert, but a donation basket will be available to continue the support of both groups.

Deborah Wryn, lone, is the director of the choir and Sharla Erich, Heppner, accompanist. Erich is also the director of the symphony. "Both groups are looking forward to sharing their music with the community and hope people are in the holiday spirit," said Wryn.

The choir has prepared a variety of music, and several are variations of traditional Christmas carols, such as "Joy to the World" combined with "Go Tell It on the Mountain." The group will also sing "Away in a Manger" and a combined song of "Silent Night" and "O Holy Night."

Another addition to the program will be several musicians joining for several pieces. Flautists Ann Murray and Susie Stillman, both Heppner, will play flute for two selections. A brass quintet will perform for two other selections.

Members of the group are Matt Jepsen and Paul Marshall, trumpet and Bill Jepsen, trombone, all Heppner; Brad Boulington, tuba, Hermiston; and

Brian Garcia, French horn, Echo. "The group is excited to share their choral music with these musicians," adds Wryn.

The symphony will perform several selections for this concert—"X-Mas Sing-A-Long," "Great Gate of Kiev" and several others. Another small group performing will be Amy Jepsen performing a medley of Christmas carols on her harp, accompanied by a quartet consisting of a flute, violin, viola and cello. Amy has been taking harp lessons for almost one year in the Tri-Cities.

The symphony will perform Tuesday, Dec. 17, in Boardman at the Riverside High School auditorium at 7 p.m. The same selections as the concert on Dec. 15 will be performed with other local musicians joining them. Ken Morris, Boardman, will sing two selections and a local Hispanic trio will be singing several songs in Spanish. A piano selection, "The Shores of Capri" by Dennis Alexander, will be performed by Hannah Fry of Boardman.

Both the choir and the symphony are members of the Morrow County Arts Council that was formed this past spring. The choir has been in existence since 1984 and the symphony was formed a year ago. Funds for both groups this year have come from the Morrow County Unified Recreation District, who helped purchase music, risers and stands.



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