

'Corral 1000' plan detailed

Steve Yaw, Heppner businessman, unveiled a plan at the Town and Country meetings Wednesday, Jan. 15, that could bring a thousand more people to Heppner during the 75th Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo set this August.

1000", which, through cooperation among farmers, ranchers, business people and Heppner residents, would entice people from the valley and the Tri-Cities area to come and stay during fair and rodeo.

Yaw estimates that one thousand people (possibly 250 families) could increase the rodeo gate receipts by \$21,000, the fair gate by \$6,000, increase use of campsites, motels, bed and breakfasts and increase revenue to Heppner businesses and restaurants. Yaw said that the idea could be marketed as a tour package with rodeo and fair admission, dinners and possibly park and ride shuttles to the fair and rodeo housing would not be included in the package, but a housing committee could handle reservations. Yaw hopes that are farmers and ranchers will volunteer to let people park their RVs on their property.

Also at the meeting Sam Bellamy outlined changes planned at the fairgrounds this year and Gary Marks, Heppner City manager, discussed the renovation of Heppner City streets scheduled for this spring and summer.

Bellamy said that rodeo grounds will be updated, box seat aluminum bleachers will be installed and a new multipurpose building will be constructed at the fairgrounds for the livestock show. He said that the present sheep and swine barns are in need of renovation and will need to come out, however, the beef barn is still okay. Two construction sites are being considered either where the current sheep and swine building is situated, which would take out much of the beef building, or in the grassy area. In option two, the cabin on the grassy area would have to be moved.

Phase I of the construction, which would be funded through county monies, would be a 100 by 140 foot open sided building, phase II would be adding on and enclosing the building. Monies for phase II would be provided by grants and private donations. "We'd like this to come from the community," said Bellamy. The phase II building, when completed, would house most roping and barrel racing activities and could be used as a multipurpose building which could be used year-round, he said.

Marks said that in the Main Street renovation project, Main Street between the two bridges over Willow Creek will be completely excavated and a new street, storm drain system, sidewalks, curbs and power poles and lights would be installed. Marks said that contractors will maintain access to all businesses during all times, except for a day or two pouring concrete. The project will probably get underway in May or June and is expected to be in full swing by August. Marks said that Main Street would probably not be available for the fair and rodeo parade. The possibility of running the parade down Court Street, perhaps beginning and ending at the courthouse, was discussed.

One of the features of the new Main Street will be a huge green shamrock inlaid in concrete in the street on the intersection of Main and Willow Streets.

Swaggarts to celebrate 65th anniversary



Merle and Luella Swaggart

Merle and Luella Swaggart of Ritter will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 1-4 p.m. at the Pendleton Elks Lodge. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Swaggarts were married on Feb. 1, 1932, at John Day and have lived in Grant and Morrow Counties all of their lives. Luella, whose maiden name was Baird, was postmaster at Ritter for 27

years, retiring at age 72. Merle was a cattle rancher in the area for more than 60 years. They are involved in the Eastern Star, the Elks Club and enjoy their many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Althea Gibbs, Stanfield; Mary Lou Blackwell, Anahim, British Columbia, Canad, and Cecil Swaggart, Ritter. A daughter, Betty Kennedy, is deceased. They have 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

The Swaggarts' children are

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SWC District meeting scheduled

A regular meeting of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)/Weed Advisory Board will be held Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. at the Pettyjohn Building in the SWCD office at Heppner.

Agenda items include: election of officers; an update on Farm Bill

training; the manager's report; the weed report; and agency reports.

The meeting is open to the public.

WOSC names

local honor

students

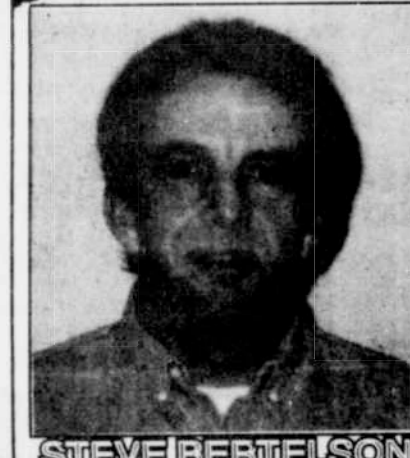
A total of 130 students have been named to the president's list and another 562 students have been named to the honor roll for fall term 1996 at Western Oregon State College.

President's list students achieved a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, while honor roll students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average.

Western, with an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students, is a four-year, liberal arts college within the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Local honor students included Betsy M. Hernandez, Boardman

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8 a.m. -- 12 noon



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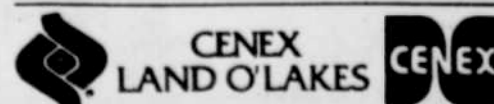
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