

BESSIE WETZELL
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MC Livestock Growers annual meeting held



Cow herd management panel (left to right); Tim Delcurto, Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center at Union; Kyle Robinson, Heppner; Bob Lazinka, Pilot Rock; Dr. Dick Temple, Lexington, veterinarian; Bill Zollinger, Corvallis, OSU beef specialist.

By Merlyn Robinson
Cattle producers gathered for the Morrow County Livestock Growers' annual meeting at the Heppner Elks Club on December 12. Following afternoon meetings, members and guests enjoyed a prime rib dinner.

The afternoon session was targeted at giving operators the latest information on cow herd management. Highlighting the afternoon was an address by Sharon Beck, Cove, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association president. Beck is the first woman to hold this position in the 83-year history of the organization.

"The cattle industry is on a roll," Beck said, noting improved cattle prices. But on the down side there are issues impacting one of Oregon's largest agricultural businesses.

Landmark environmental legislation stemming from the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act poses economical hardships and downsizing for resource users operating on both private and public lands.

"Ranchers have always been leaders in resource management," Beck said, "as they are quick to adapt using the latest technology. However organizations like the Oregon Natural Desert Association call livestock grazing the single biggest source of water pollution in the state."

Enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 1993, Senate Bill 1010 charges the Oregon Department of Agriculture with helping reduce water pollution from agricultural sources and to improve conditions in watersheds. Hence ecosystem watershed councils have been formulated throughout the state. ODA is scheduled to write management plans for every basin in the state over the next four years.

In addition to regulations imposed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, livestock grazing permits must now undergo a state assessment of whether livestock grazing affects water quality within an allotment. Lawsuits and appeals are ensuing, which impacts use of those resources.

Oregon's latest list of so-called "water-quality limited" waterways includes 870 rivers and streams bordered by both private and public land. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires state certification for applicants seeking permits on public land. SB 1010 doesn't require certification on private land, although landowners following a management plan won't be subject to enforcement even if water quality standards, as currently defined, aren't achieved. Landowners could still face civil penalties if they don't follow a plan and it is determined that their activities contribute to water pollution. But ranchers claim that unrealistic and



Sharon Beck, Cove, Oregon Cattlemen's Association president; Rod Dowse, Portland, OCA executive vice president.

unscientific water temperature standards, also considered pollution, are a major problem.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is encouraging ranchers to get involved in local watershed councils along with monitoring water temperatures or developing management practices that include fencing, off-stream watering systems or planting vegetative buffers. However these procedures can be very costly and landowners stand to lose the use of property should buffer zones be required. OCA hopes to expand on its Watershed Ecosystem Program to help ranchers manage their property effectively without government intervention.

"There's too many layers of

bureaucracy," Beck said. "While there are no simple solutions, ranchers must be pro-active. It's the agenda of many environmental groups to prevent grazing of land adjacent to the listed water-quality streams during the next 10 years."

As head of the organization that keeps ranchers informed about legislation affecting the industry and actively campaigning for their rights, Beck said, "Oregon's open range law is also being challenged. Petitions are being circulated which could put this issue on the ballot. If passed by the voters, fencing of some ranges would limit livestock grazing due to lack of water sources."

Two injured in Heppner accident

Two people were injured in an accident at the corner of Chase and Cannon streets in Heppner on Wednesday, Dec. 10, around 8:45 p.m.

According to Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun, Brian Rystedt, 19, Heppner, was driving an ATV on Chase Street at a high rate of speed without his headlights on when the ATV lost control and struck a 1995 Toyota pickup driven by Corey Sweeney, 24, Lexington.

Rathbun said that Sweeney had stopped at the intersection of the streets and then pulled out to turn right onto Chase Street when his vehicle was struck. Sweeney's pickup sustained considerable damage.

Rystedt and his passenger, Josh Norton, 11, also of Heppner, were transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Sweeney and his passenger, Brent Wright, Heppner, were not injured.

"Dinner for a Toy" at the Elks

The Heppner Elks Club has planned a "Dinner for a Toy" on Friday, Dec. 19, from 6-8 p.m.

Those planning to come are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to the lodge and enjoy an all you can eat spaghetti dinner, courtesy of the Heppner Lady Elks.

"We all know how important this time of year is to the children," said Elks First Lady Andrea Mortimore. "Your assistance will make this Christmas a happy one for a child

who may otherwise not receive a visit from Santa. Please make an effort to stop by and put a smile on a child's face on Christmas morning."

Mortimore invites everyone to bring a gift and stop by the Elks for dinner before attending "The Messiah" to be performed by the Oregon East Symphony with the South Morrow County Community Choir at 7:30 p.m. at the Heppner Middle School gym.

Accident victim update

Bryon Zumwalt of Heppner, who was burned in an accident at Kinzua Resources is still in serious condition in the burn unit at Emanuel Hospital in Portland, according to hospital staff. Staff at Kinzua say that cards

may be sent to Bryon in care of the Emanuel Oregon Burn Unit, Room #4407, 2801 N. Gantenbein, Portland, OR 97227. Or you may call at 503-413-2200.

HEPPNER



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Cub Scouts donate to Neighborhood Center



Cub Scout Pack 661 Bear Cub Den #3 presented toys they collected to Jan Skaggs of the Heppner Neighborhood Center. The boys donated the toys to the center as their "good turn activity". Pictured left to right are: back row-den leader Debbie Peck, Paderick Monahan, Aaron Allstott, Scott Maker, Quinn Peck, Jan Skaggs; front row-Matt Wishart, Tony Haguewood and Drake Cvarak.

"Messiah" performance set for Dec. 19

The South Morrow County Community Choir, in conjunction with the Oregon East Symphony and Chorale, will perform "The Messiah" at the Heppner Middle School gym on Friday, Dec. 19, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Punch Card winners drawn

Twenty five dollar gift certificate winners this week in the Heppner Christmas Punch are as follows:

Karen Wildman won a \$25 gift certificate to Coast to Coast. Bobbie Rankin won a gift certificate to Les Schwab. Johanne Wood won a certificate to Petersons. And Roland Bergstrom won a gift certificate to Yaw's. The winners can pick up their gift certificates at the businesses.

There will be a new set of winners next week, and remember all punch cards go into the final grand prize drawing of \$700 in gift certificates to be given away Dec. 29.

Anyone can enter, just pick up your punch card whenever you shop at any of the participating businesses, and for every five dollars in purchases at any participating business, get your card punched.

Gazette-Times closed Dec. 25-26

The Heppner Gazette Times will be closed on Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday.

The Gazette-Times will be published a day early next week because of the Christmas holiday.

Ione schools' winter program held

By Nova Rietmann
The Ione Schools winter program was held on Wednesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. in the Ione High School cafeteria. Grades K-12 participated in the concert.

The grade school children K-second grade sang; the third and fourth graders sang and played recorders; and the fifth and sixth grade band played several Christmas songs.

The news deadline for the Dec. 23 issue will be this Friday, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m. The advertising deadline will be Monday, Dec. 21, at noon.

The entire staff at the Gazette Times wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas.

The high school choir sang "Carol of the Bells", "I Sing on Christmas", "On a Starlit Night", and "Come and Go With Me". Their performance was superb, said audience members. The choir and band director is Ron Neighorn, music teacher at Heppner and Ione.

The high school choir has also sung at the nursing home in Heppner, at the volleyball and football games and at local functions.

New Year's Eve dance to be held

A dance for Heppner and Ione high school students and '97 graduates has been scheduled for New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at Heppner High School. The dance is sponsored by the Heppner Oregon Together and the dance is an alcohol, tobacco and drug-free activity to provide a safe event for youth.

The music, featuring a live DJ, will be provided by RADIOACTIVE music. A wide

variety of music will be played, accompanied by a large video screen and lights. Prizes will be given.

A bus has been scheduled to take students from Ione and Lexington to the dance and back. The bus will leave the Ione High School parking lot at 9 p.m. and return after the dance.

For more information, call Barb Peterson at Heppner Elementary School, 676-9128 or Ione High School, 422-7131.

We will be CLOSED Dec. 24th at noon and Christmas Day

Merry Christmas from all of us at MCGG

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396

