

Record game animals on display



Hunters will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see some of the Northwest's biggest game animals at a display during the Morrow County Fair, August 20-23, across from the Heppner City Park.

The display will feature 20 world record animals. Hunters

may also bring in their horns, heads or antlers to be measured for the record books.

Admission is \$3 for adults; children up to 15 years old will be admitted free.

Show hours are as follows: August 20, 3-8 p.m.; August 21-22, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; August 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business:

Shri Kathryn Estes, 53, Ashland-Illegal U-turn, \$72 fine; Sabrina Wellman, 26, Ione-Driving While License Suspended infraction, Driving Uninsured, \$214 fine;

Cheryl McBride, 40, Heppner-No Valid Operator's License, \$72 fine;

Gerald Smith, 57, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 76 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$127 fine;

Michael Lynch, 40, Lexington-Driving While License Suspended, \$502 fine;

Joseph P. McElligott, 45, Ione-two counts Animal Abuse, \$302 fine;

Phillip Tellechea, 19, Heppner-Minor In Possession, \$302 fine;

Barbara VanArsdale, 54, Lexington-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Kenneth Smith, 77, Heppner-Disobeying Traffic Control Device, \$112 fine;

Kay Proctor, 43, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Randy Anderson, 44, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 77 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

John Murray, 34, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Ryan Nevala, 21, Ione-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 71 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Robert Pepperling, 36, Arlington-Driving Left on a Curve, \$142 fine;

Anthony Orlando, 36, Boardman-Disobeying a Traffic Control Device (stop sign), \$142 fine;

Terri Palmateer, 41, Ione-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Janet Beamer, 63, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$82 fine;

Diana Paullus, 35, Hermiston-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 49 mph in a 35 mph zone, Driving While License Suspended infraction, \$224 fine;

Paul Focht, 36, Irrigon-Driving While License Suspended, Driving Uninsured, \$794 fine;

Dale Seavey, 47, Eugene-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 76 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$127 fine;

Tony Fox, 20, Heppner-Exceeding Maximum Speed Limit, 80 mph in a 65 mph zone, \$142 fine;

Josephine Kindsfather, 57, Lexington-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine.

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Young people take time to volunteer

by Scot Jacobson, CRC

Who says kids don't volunteer? Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home is the welcome recipient of volunteer visits from young people within our community. For the past four years, during the school year Heppner Elementary teacher Lea Calvert and her second grade class visit the residents and staff each week. Once a week, the class walks up the hill to the nursing home, stops for cold drinks at the water fountain in the lobby, and heads down the hall to say hello and visit for an hour. "They are wonderful!" says Tonya Jones, activities director for the nursing home. "We can count on them each week to bring smiles to our folks." Memories of happy times and having fun as a youngster come back to many of the residents who look forward to these visits.

During the summer, several young people volunteered their time to visit, play games, read books, or just listen. Sarah Jacobson, Mindy Wenburg and Tim Jacobson have spent many hours with the residents. Sarah, 11, Mindy, nine and Tim, 13 have gotten to know several of the residents better through their interaction. "It's kinda like having my grandma around all the time," said Sarah Jacobson. "She lives far away, and since I

can't see her, I like to come here."

Volunteers do many things. They help the staff with passing snacks and ice water; they help with the weekly picnics on the outside patio; and they help make beds.

For the past year Jayme Hansen, who graduated from Heppner High School this year, has come to the nursing home to play games.

"Volunteers are a special part of the patients and residents lives" says Scot Jacobson, human resource director for the health district. "their interaction with the residents allows them to see someone else besides staff members. Volunteers can be their family members, friends or neighbors. It is always nice to see someone you know." Tonia Adams of Heppner, has brought her children, Trisha and Brad, to visit for several years. "You can see it in their eyes how excited the residents get when young people visit", says a staff member. "Some of the residents seem to 'come to live' when the young people come around." "The Morrow County Health District salutes these young volunteers for a job well done. Volunteers are always a welcome part of the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home." Anyone interested in helping out may contact Jacobson at 676-9133.

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Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: gtr@grandserve.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$18 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant counties, \$25 elsewhere.

David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

A piece of Eden among the canyons

It may be one of the last places in Oregon you would expect to find fruit trees bearing apples, pears, peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries and apricots. Heck, you might not even expect to find trees, period. Just a few miles from the John Day Fossil Beds, among the rim rock canyons of the John Day River in the Grant County community of Kimberly, surprised travelers unexpectedly find the 180-acre Thomas Orchards-- a business that has been around now for over 50 years.

Just another example of Oregon's tremendous diversity of agriculture-production taking place at locations one would never imagine.

"When outsiders come in, they are surprised," says owner John Thomas. "The orchard has been here for 70 years. So all the local people know about it and think of it as part of the community. But when outsiders come, they are amazed to see any orchard in Grant County, Oregon."

Timber has long been king in Grant County. Agriculture usually takes the form of cattle ranching and some production of alfalfa hay. But the climate, combined with the expertise and willingness of a family like the Thomases, can produce a commodity not normally found in that geographic area. Thomas Orchards proves you can't necessarily tell a farmer what they can or cannot grow.

"The fact that you can successfully grow tree fruit in Grant County says something about the diversity of the state," says Thomas.

There are advantages and disadvantages to the orchard's location. Pests seem to be less of a problem than in areas of more widespread and intensive tree fruit production. The soil and climate tend to give the Kimberly fruit more flavor than other orchards, especially those outside of Oregon. On the downside, markets tend to be far away as are agricultural suppliers.

"This happens to be where we live and we just make the best of it," says Thomas.

The orchard is no secret to its legion of loyal customers. About 20 percent of its production is sold directly at the on-site fruit stand. Kimberly is

well off the beaten path-- north of U.S. Highway 26 and not really on the way to any popular destination. So drive-up customers are unlikely to stumble upon the orchard by accident. Still, they come to buy some of the state's most flavorful and juicy fresh fruit.

"The word has got out," says Thomas. "There are people in the Willamette Valley that know about us. There are people on the Oregon Coast. There are people in Nevada and Idaho who drive over to see us at times. People from Bend or Portland like to drive to the John Day Valley-- maybe to the fossil beds. They will stop by the orchard and pick up some fruit. It makes for a nice day trip."

Thomas Orchards also supplies fresh fruit to many of Central Oregon's supermarkets. It is clearly marked in the produce section as locally grown. In fact, consumers in Bend, Prineville, John Day and other Central and Eastern Oregon cities who want local fresh fruit are probably going to end up buying from Thomas.

"We are not that significant in the total economic production of this area," says Thomas. "But we are a substantial part of the local area's diet. If we weren't here, there would not be a lot of fresh fruits on the local scene."

Most of the fruit is trucked out to packers and brokers, eventually reaching other parts of the U.S. and some international markets. Fruit is also shipped specifically to Montana for local distribution-- a niche that works well for Thomas Orchards.

Thomas is modest about the business's impact on the county economy. Annual payroll is more than \$200,000. Operating costs are more than a half million dollars each year. That has a ripple effect on local suppliers of related goods and services.

Orin Kimberly was the first to plant fruit-bearing trees in the area earlier this century. By the late 1930s, he sold about a thousand dollars worth of fruit each year. That was a lot of money at the time. By then W.B. Thomas, John's father, was growing berry plants near John Day while looking for other agricultural opportunities. He found the Kimberly orchard--

small but full of more potential-- and decided to start an orchard of his own. In the 1960s, the Thomases bought Mr.

Kimberly's orchard after he died and gradually expanded.

"Orin Kimberly gets the credit for starting an orchard, but my father gets credit for seeing a bigger potential and working to turn it into reality," says John Thomas.

Thomas Orchards is beginning to transition some of its fruit into certified organic production. Once again, niche marketing is part of the plan. But the Thomases are also concerned with keeping the production sustainable under an increasingly environmental microscope.

How does this orchard compare with those in the fruit bearing regions of Jackson County, Hood River County, Milton-Freewater and the Willamette Valley?

"The traditional areas have more of a high tech philosophy perhaps," says Ron Peterson, field supervisor with ODA's Commodity Inspection Division, who inspects Thomas Orchards' controlled atmosphere storage facility. "But this location gives him easy access to a substantial number of people in Central Oregon."

Visitors offer familiar questions nearly every day: How come this orchard is out here? There aren't any other ones out here-- how do you make this one work?

"We've managed to survive and make a living here," says Thomas. "I want to see this stay productive for another 100 years, maybe 500."

In Oregon, a lot of different kinds of agriculture can take place in a lot of different regions if the producer has the expertise and desire to succeed.

For more information, contact Bruce Pokarney at (503) 986-4559.

Rodeo/fair band plans rehearsal

The rodeo/fair band will rehearse on Thurs., August 20, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Heppner High School band room.

The band will be playing the school song, Ralph Werner, HHS band leader, invites all band members sixth grade through seniors in high school to participate.

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