

## Livestock Growers hold annual meeting

By Merlyn Robinson

Formation of an Oregon branded beef corporation and livestock districting were pertinent topics presented by speakers Larry Rew, Pendleton and John Hays, Unity, during the annual meeting of the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association (MCLG).

This afternoon meeting was held during the annual Town and County Day events at the Heppner Elks Lodge on January 13.

Hays, who was elected president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association in November is working proactively on environmental issues that continue to plague the industry. A plan has been endorsed by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association to be known as the Oregon Trail Beef Cooperative. The aim is to bolster beef producers' incomes and provide consumers with a quality product by selectively obtaining, processing, aging, packaging and marketing beef

produced by OCA members.

"We have no control of the finished product," said Hays. Producers do not receive a fair share at the retail level, Hays said. Markets have been lost because top quality beef is mingled with sub-standard meat, including imports. According to Hays, the lack of a safe, quality product has turned many consumers away. Creating this 'niche market' for a dependable, top quality product of high standards will bolster consumer confidence, he said. Cattle sold through this cooperative would bring premium prices when sold on the hoof and producers would also share in retail profits. If processing plants are established as planned, production could begin by August 1, 2000.

Seminars on this proposal are to be held in the near future, said Hays.

Larry Rew, a Pendleton attorney, discussed livestock districting in Morrow County. Rew's opinion, based on



Kyle Robinson (right), Morrow County Livestock Growers President, and John Hays, Oregon Cattlemen's Association President.

research, is that the legal definition of livestock districting in South Morrow County is inconclusive based on boundary descriptions in 1962 statutes.

Closed livestock districts in the north end of the county and a more recent one in south Morrow County have been formulated. Historically the remainder of south Morrow County has been deemed an "open range" livestock district. This allows livestock to access water sources. For example, a livestock operator may own rangeland on both sides of a road; however water may only be available on one side of said road. In that scenario, fencing of roadways would leave large tracts of rangeland unusable.

"You don't have it now," said Rew, referring to an accurate legal description of an 'open range' livestock district. Rew said that one course of action would be to file a petition with the district court to correct the legal description of the livestock district boundaries. Or livestock owners could, by means of petition, call for a public vote. Rew, who also owns cattle, said responsible cattle owners aren't the root of the problem. It's those individuals who irresponsibly allow cattle to wander at large or who do not properly maintain fences, he said.

Livestock owner, Dr. Harold Huber, said that a closed livestock district between Heppner and Lexington was

formulated to protect some property owners during disputes that occurred between involved landowners during the acquisition of adjacent property when the Union Pacific spur railroad was abandoned.

Members unanimously re-elected to terms on the MCLG board were Dave Riekkola, Mark Rietmann, Kevin Hughes and Bill Van Schoiack. Other board members are Jean Bennett, Matt Clark, Monte Evans, Bill Gover, President Kyle Robinson, Vice President Pam Wunderlich and Secretary Bill Broderick.

MCLG manages the 4-H and FFA livestock auction at fair besides working on issues that affect the industry.

## Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters.

### Teacher continues class project

To the Editor,

For the past five years, as a language arts teacher in Oregon, my students have participated in a letter to the editor project. The objective always has been for students to express their voices in a community forum and to have their voices heard. Last year, my students had 39 topics published in 201 newspapers in 48 states—pretty amazing.

This year I'm a mass communications teacher at Palombi Middle School in Lake Villa, Illinois, and the project seems more relevant (in terms of curriculum) than ever. One of my

classes is particularly jazzed over the prospect of being published all over the country and these kids can write letters and express their opinions with enthusiasm and intelligence.

If you do publish the enclosed letter, could you please send the student a copy of your newspaper? You will help foster an appreciation of print media in a young person's mind and you will definitely make a young person's day in the process.

(s) John Moody

Mass communications teacher  
Palombi Middle School  
Lake Villa, Illinois

### Listen to your children

To the Editor:

My name is Krista Valenziano and I am a sixth grader at Palombi Middle School in Lake Villa, Illinois. My mass communications class is writing letters in hopes of being published and this is why I am writing to you.

I'm concerned about parents not listening to their children. I can understand what it's like because I have a little sister and my mom

is always paying attention to my sister. My story isn't as nearly as bad as some other ones I've heard through. I've heard stories as bad as a parent not listening to a child and that child would get really bad grades because of it.

So if you're a parent reading this, please make sure you listen to your children. It might help their grades.

(s) Krista Valenziano  
Lake Villa, Ill.

### Church of the Nazarene plans speaker, potluck

The Church of the Nazarene will hold a potluck dinner and missionary service on Monday, Jan. 24. The potluck will be at 7 p.m. with the service to follow. The Church of the Nazarene is located at 335 North Gilmore. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bob and Colleen Skinner, missionaries in the Ukraine, will speak about their missionary service.

The Skinners are career assignment missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene in the Ukraine. They are living in Kyiv with their three sons, Robby, nine, Michael, six, and Joshua, two. Prior to their current missionary assignment, the Skinners served in the Philippines from 1990 to 1994. They were reassigned to the Ukraine District on the Eurasia Region in June 1994. They are area directors for the whole scope of work for the Church of the Nazarene in the Ukraine.

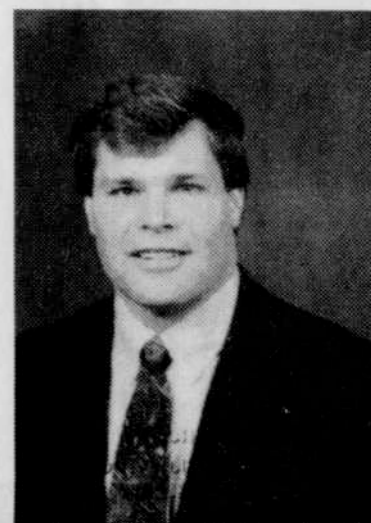
They are responsible for planting new churches, leadership training, purchasing and building of properties, pastoring and leading the people to "call upon the Lord."

During their former term of service in the Philippines, the Skinners' responsibilities included administering to existing churches and the planting and establishing of new churches on the Southern Tagalog District. As it was in the Philippines, and is now in the Ukraine, much of Rev. Skinner's time is spent working with and coordinating work and witness teams in construction or reconstruction of church properties.

Bob was born and raised in Oregon. He played college football while earning a degree in psychology at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. He attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho, and

Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) in the Philippines. He received the master of divinity and missiology degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

Colleen grew up in the Philippines. She is the daughter of long-time missionaries to the Philippines, Ronald and Neva Beech. She received two degrees from Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho, and she also attended APNTS in the Philippines. She earned the master of arts in Christian education degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.



### Leason joins with HEDC to promote subdivision lots

John Leason, president of Lakeview Heights Corporation, announces a joint effort with the Heppner Economic Development Corporation to advertise and promote the sale of the remaining lots in the Lakeview Heights subdivision in Heppner.

Special pricing and financing arrangements have been made to complete the sales of the view properties overlooking Willow Creek Lake at Heppner. The subdivision has all city services, utilities, pavement, curbing and sidewalks in place.

The Bank of Eastern Oregon's Heppner branch has joined the effort with a special financing package of zero down, 10 percent interest and a 10 year payback to qualified buyers. Lot prices range from \$13,500 to \$17,500.

Sales of the remaining lots stalled early last year when the local mill announced a shutdown.

This week's announcement by the Port of Morrow and Advanced Composite, Inc. of a new particle board plant opening at the former mill site has re-

ignited sales efforts of the lots. The new facility is expected to initially employ 60 people.

Interested parties may contact John Leason at 541-548-2626 or George Koffler at the Bank of Eastern Oregon at 541-676-9125.

### Growers meeting scheduled Jan. 21

A growers' meeting will be held at Willows Grange in Lone on Friday, Jan. 21 from 8 a.m.-12 noon.

Representatives from Monsanto, DuPont, UAP, Bayer and the Pendleton Experiment Station will be on hand.

Applicator credit hours will be given and lunch will be provided.

### Office Supplies

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