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Three high school rodeoers to go to national finals



Blake Knowles (left), Lacey Matteson and Ryan Matteson

Three Heppner high school rodeo athletes have qualified for the National High School Rodeo Finals to be held in Springfield, Illinois, July 22-30. Heppner's Ryan Matteson, Blake Knowles and Lacey Matteson have all qualified. Ryan and Blake will see action in the steer wrestling and team roping, while Lacey will compete in the barrel racing.

Joining them will be Condon's Marne Wilkins in pole bending. Joe Irzyk will represent Sherman County in the steer wrestling.

Another contingent will travel to Fallon, Nevada, for the Silver State Invitational to run July 1-4. These youth finished fifth through 10th in their events. Travis Carmine, Condon, will compete in steer wrestling, while Arlington's Travis Yutzie will see bareback riding action. Chris Irzyk, Moro, qualified in the steer wrestling. Competing in breakaway roping will be Sybil Krebs, Ione, and Marne Wilkins, Condon. Tracey Griffith, Ione, qualified in pole bending, and Jerid Penturf, Heppner, made it in the bull riding.

At the Oregon State High School Rodeo Finals, held June 15-17 at Redmond, Ryan Matteson, a senior at Heppner High School, took fifth place in the first go-round in steer wrestling and third in the second go-round. He placed third in the average in steer wrestling and took third in the state.

He and Blake Knowles took fourth in the team roping second go-round.

Knowles, also a senior at Heppner High School, won the first go, took second in the second go and won the average on three in steer wrestling. He ended up second in the state in steer wrestling. He was fourth in the first go in cow cutting, won the second go and took second in the short go.

Lacey Matteson, a 15-year-old sophomore at Heppner High School, won the state girls'

Rookie of the Year award. She placed third in the first go-round in breakaway roping and second in the second go-round. She ended up seventh in the state in breakaway. She placed eighth in the first go-round of barrel racing and ended up fifth in average in barrels. She will attend the national finals because another girl was unable to attend.

Health district contacts clinic billing service

As of June 1, 2000, the Morrow County Health District (MCHD) entered into a contract with Good Shepherd Medical Clinic to provide billing for the two MCHD medical clinics, Pioneer Memorial Clinic, located in Heppner, and the Irrigon Medical Clinic.

As part of the contract, Good Shepherd is providing one office staff person, Ida Vetter of Ione, to work in the Heppner clinic. Vetter is the primary receptionist and will be responsible for entering the clinic's charges into a sophisticated computer software system which transmits the information to a central billing department in Hermiston.

Patients are being asked to bring their insurance cards with them so appropriate billing can be assured on this new system. The statement patients receive following a clinic visit will indicate they were seen at Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

"It is becoming quite common for rural clinics to contract with larger offices for billing," said Pioneer Memorial Hospital CEO, Victor Vander Does. Vander Does went on to say the district expects to save about \$24,000 a year with this contract.

Advertising Deadline
12 noon Tuesday

Open house set for crops candidate

The Morrow County Extension and the Oregon State University Department of Crop and Soil Science invite everyone to a community open house on Tuesday, June 27, to meet a candidate for the dry land crops position in Morrow County.

The reception will be held at the Morrow County Family Service Center (Morrow County Extension office) conference room from 6-7:30 p.m.

"This is an opportunity to meet the candidate and make recommendations to the interview committee as to whom you think best fits the Morrow County dry land crops position," said William Broderick, OSU Morrow County Extension agent.

The candidate will make a short presentation and one-on-one and group discussion times are scheduled.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to let the interview committee members know whom you believe is the best qualified candidate, said Broderick.

Ione High School first in state in athletics, academics

Ione High School is a recipient of the Oregon State Athletic Association Cup. Ione was first place out of all 1A schools in the state.

Schools earn points based on their finish in all OSAA-U.S. Bank State Championships, presented by United Rentals, and for top 10 finishes in the OSAA Dairy Farmers of Oregon Academic All-State program. The OSAA Cup weights academics, activities and athletics equally.

For 1A schools, Ione was first with 1740 points; Crane High School, second, with 1019; Canyonville Christian Academy, third, with 979; St. Paul High

Training, equipment make lake a safer place



Local emergency personnel train at Willow Creek Lake in the use of water rescue gear and techniques. Here they use a sled with a rope attached to pull rescue swimmer and "victim" to shore.

Thanks to the efforts of local firefighters, the Morrow County Search & Rescue and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers John Day Project, the Willow Creek Lake is now a safer place for boaters, fishermen and swimmers.

Saturday, four representatives from the Corps spent the day training local firemen, rescue personnel and others in the techniques of water rescue. In all 14 local people were certified in water rescue.

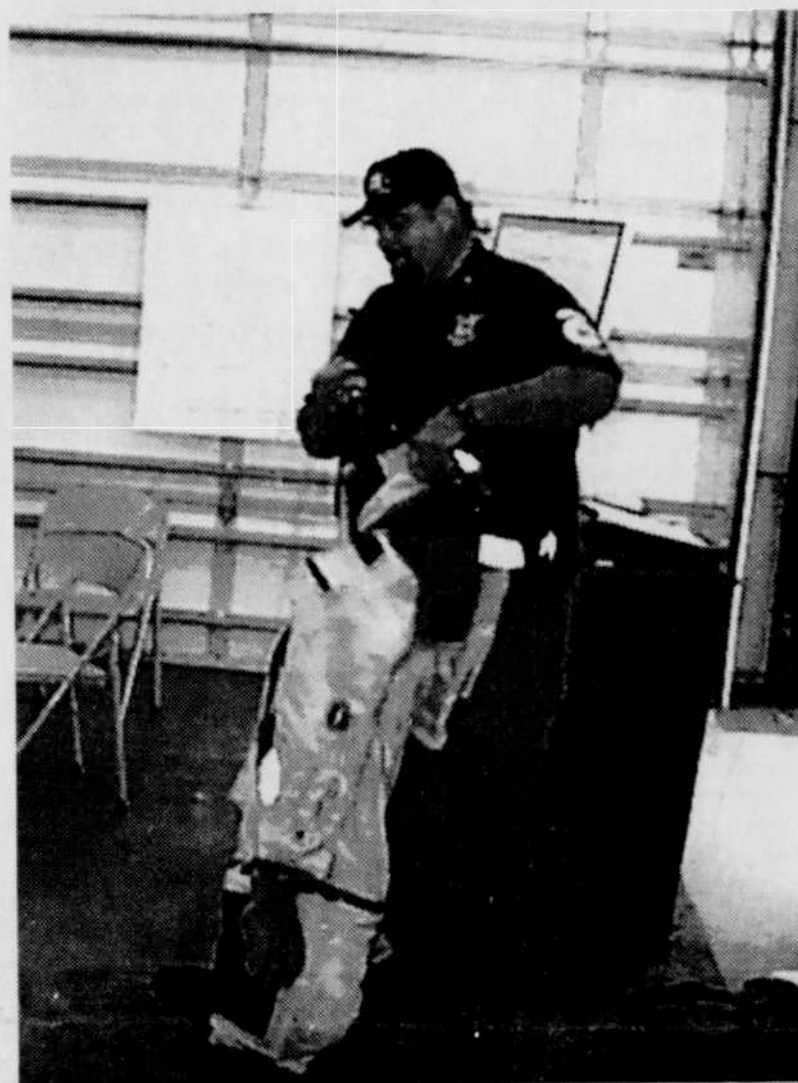
"We feel better prepared now in responding to emergencies at the lake," said Heppner fire chief Rusty Estes when the training was finished. "This is something we have badly needed here."

Estes couldn't say enough about the Corps of Engineers help in training and equipping local emergency personnel.

The Corps earlier had donated water rescue equipment to the local fire department; and this time they brought more, including a Zodiac boat with trailer and motor, rescue nets, throw rings and throw bags as well as other equipment, Estes said.

The day-long training session started with classroom instruction in water and ice rescue at the fire hall. The crew then moved to the Heppner swimming pool where they learned swimming and throwing techniques. Later everyone moved to the lake where they practiced actual water rescue techniques.

Training personnel from the Corps John Day section were: Mike Knopf, Mike Graves, Jerry Balcom and Chris Steinbaugh.



Mike Knopf of The Dalles Corps of Engineers instructs local emergency personnel in the use of a cold water rescue suit. Knopf has extensive experience with water rescue including 26 years in the U.S. Navy where he worked Navy rescue and salvage for eight years and has been a Navy rescue swimmer for 11 years. Knopf was part of a Corps of Engineers team that was in Heppner over the weekend training local people to handle water rescue primarily at Willow Creek Lake.

Ione's July 4th celebration: more blues, cruise and fireworks

This year's Ione Fourth of July Festival promises to be the best ever, with more fireworks, more classic cars in the parade, four blues bands and a 120-piece symphony.

The festivities start off Saturday, July 1, with a high school summer league basketball tournament from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Sunday, July 2, the Inland Northwest Musicians, "Patriotic Pops," featuring numerous local musicians, will be in concert at the Amphitheatre, starting at 3:15 p.m. Organizer Shelly Rietmann invites everyone to "hear some wonderful music and bring their picnic baskets with everything from fried chicken and lemonade to caviar and Chardonnay." Those planning to attend should also bring lawn chairs and blankets as there is no seating.

Monday, July 3, will get underway with the annual golf tourney beginning at 10 a.m. at the Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner. Food vendors and a beer garden will begin the celebration at the Ione Park at 6 p.m. that day and the local band, Final Warning, featuring David Bates, Jeff Currin, Travis Bellamy and Megan Bailey, will play, starting at 7 p.m.

The celebration will get off to

a bright and early start on July 4 with the Dawn's Early Light Fun Run, beginning at 7 a.m.

The horseshow tournament is planned at 9 a.m.; muffins and coffee in the park will be available starting at 10 a.m..

The Horses to Horsepower Parade, featuring grand marshals Dick and Annie Allen and the Blues Cruise Classic Car Show, will get underway at 11 a.m. Rietmann says the "most ever" classic car clubs have signed up for what promises to be a huge parade. Parade chairmen are Loyal Burns and Nancy Snider.

Beginning at noon on the Fourth, food vendors, pie and coffee, a frog jump contest, a straw money pile, dunk tank, go carts, kids' games and a beer garden will get underway.

At 2 p.m., the Ione swimming pool opens and music in the park, featuring four blues bands, will play from 2 p.m. until the fireworks begins at dusk.

Music this year includes returning special guest Paul deLay; the Strat Daddies with Randy Lilya, Robby Laws, Jimmy Lloyd Rea and Kenny Blue Ray, with Jim Mesi on guitar; Sweet Juice; John Koonts and the Gas Hogs; and The Power Band, featuring Sunny Hess and Megan James.

Paul deLay, known for his excellent harmonica playing, recorded his latest CD in Chicago. "It has been very well received," said Rietmann. "I think the people will really enjoy the Chicago influence."

The blues music is sponsored by the Morrow County Recreation District.

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