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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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David Sykes Publisher
Katie Wall Editor

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Walden announces emergency federal grant to assist laid-off Simplot workers

U.S. Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) recently announced the approval of a \$414,214 National Emergency Grant that will offer employment-related assistance to roughly 59 displaced Hermiston workers who were laid off jobs at the Simplot Potato Processing Plant. Walden wrote to the U.S. Department of Labor on May 17, 2004, in support of the grant application, which was submitted by The Oregon Consortium and Oregon Workforce Alliance (TOCOWA) along with the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO). The grant funding will be made available in approximately two weeks.

"This grant will provide much-needed relief for the hard-working people who have lost jobs following the severe downsizing of Simplot," said Walden. "With Oregon's extremely high unemployment rate, federal investments like this are extremely valuable in helping get Oregonians back to work. Events like the closure of the Simplot processing plant are devastating not only to the people who lose their jobs, but to the entire community. Timely federal assistance can make all the difference in finding good-paying jobs for those who need them. No issue is more important to me than helping to secure jobs for the people of Oregon, and I was proud to help them in this matter."

The National Emergency Grant will provide local workers with employment-related assistance such as assessment, individual counseling, career planning, basic and remedial education, classroom training, job training, job development, relocation assistance, out-of-area job search assistance, on-the-job training and supportive services.

In his May 2004 letter to the Department of Labor, Walden wrote, "The need for this grant cannot be overstated. Umatilla County, the community in which Simplot is located, already exhibits signs of distress with a 10.9 percent unemployment rate. An additional 125 dislocated workers in this rural county is devastating. TOCOWA has been able to respond to several critical situations within my district, and they have dealt with each circumstance with professionalism and dispatch. I am confident that they will achieve significant results when this grant application is approved."

Congressman Walden represents the Second Congressional District of Oregon, which includes 20 counties in southern, central and eastern Oregon. He is a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as the Committee on Resources.

Letters to the Editor

Martins extend appreciation for service

To the Editor: Jim, we have said this before, but it needs saying again- We appreciate your service. (s) Carl and Geri Martin Heppner

June Yard of the Month



June Yard of the Month, sponsored by Heppner Garden Club, was presented to Jim and Cam Wishart.

July Yard of the Month



July Yard of the Month, sponsored by Heppner Garden Club, was presented to Dick and Lynnea Sargent.

Citizens sought for Northeast Oregon RAC

The Forest Service is seeking people from the community or special interest groups, and locally elected officials as nominees for the Northeast Oregon Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Application forms are due in the Malheur National Forest office on Thursday, July 15 by 4:30 p.m.

The RAC consists of 15 members, and three alternates, representing a wide range of interests. The committee's duties include reviewing proposed land management projects on or adjacent to the Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman or Umatilla National Forests. The committee also recommends which projects to fund and is responsible for coordinating with land management agencies and county officials. Projects are located in Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Harney, Crook, Morrow and Union counties.

The three-year term begins Dec. 20, 2004. Committee members serve without compensation, but

may be reimbursed for travel expenses. Members must be Oregon residents, preferably living in one of the 10 counties served by the RAC. Meetings are held at least once and up to four times during the year within one of the 10 counties listed.

Each RAC consists of 15 members, split equally between the following three categories, with an alternate member in each category. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will make the appointments to the RAC based on the applications she receives, striving to appoint members who have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with others of different viewpoints.

Category One: Organized labor; Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle, commercial recreation; Energy and mineral development; Commercial timber industry; and Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area;

Category Two: Nationally recognized environmental organizations; Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations; Dispersed recreation; Archaeological and historical interests and Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups;

Category Three: State-elected office holders; County or local elected officials; American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas; School officials or teachers; and Citizens representing the affected public at large.

Jennifer Harris, the Forest Service official responsible for the Northeast Oregon Forests

RAC, is enthusiastic about the work of the committee currently in place, "This is an exciting group to be involved with," Harris commented. "Relationships between the counties and the forests and among members of these communities have been strengthened. Real work has been completed on the ground creating jobs, natural resource improvements, and improving public safety."

Each year, the Northeast Oregon Forests RAC decides which projects to recommend for funding with the \$2.7 million in Title II dollars available annually.

Citizens interested in applying for RAC membership are encouraged to retrieve an application online at http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments_to_states.nsf from any Forest Service office, or from the County Court of Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Harney, Crook, Morrow, or Union counties.

Applications must be received at the Malheur National Forest, ATTN: RAC, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845.

Obituaries

Elmer L. Palmer

Elmer L. Palmer, 94, of Condon, a longtime Morrow County resident, died Wednesday, June 30, 2004, at Summit Springs Village in Condon.

A graveside service was held July 6 at the Lexington Cemetery.

He was born Oct. 17, 1909, at Lexington, to Lawrence and Nellie Eskelson Palmer. He grew up at Lexington and attended school there, graduating from high school in 1927. He attended Pacific

University for a time and eventually returned to Morrow County and began a lifelong career as a farmer.

He began working for his father and in 1933 began farming on his own.

On Nov. 11, 1934, he married Muriel J. Patterson at Heppner. The couple farmed in the Eightmile area near Heppner.

Palmer was named Conservation Man of the Year for Morrow County in 1962.

The couple wintered at Mesa, AZ for 17 years and retired to Summit Village in Condon in 1998. Mrs. Palmer died in September 1998.

Palmer had been a member of the Grange, the Oregon Wheat Growers, and the United Methodist Church and had served as a director of the REA Board for 15 years, attending many state and national meetings.

He enjoyed golfing and had a hole-in-one at the Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner where he was a member.

Survivors include son, Roger Palmer and wife, Shirley, of Heppner; daughter, Sally Dyer and husband, Bill of Condon; 10 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Alice Harrison and brothers, Marion Palmer and Kenneth Palmer.

Memorial contributions may be made to Summit Springs Village, P.O. Box 687, Condon, OR 97823, or Pioneer Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Condon is in charge of arrangements.

Bruce Herschell

Bruce Herschell, 45, of Tecumseh, KS died Thursday, June 17, 2004, at Rossville Valley Manor.

Services were held at Newcomer Family Funeral Home. Burial was held at Clinton Cemetery in Clinton, KS.

He was born July 19, 1958, in Heppner, to Norbert "Swede" and Eleanor Blevins Herschell. He was a graduate of Shawnee Heights High School.

Herschell was employed by the City of Topeka Water Pollution Department at the time of an accident that left him a quadriplegic since 1979. Before his accident, Herschell enjoyed hunting, trapping and fishing. He also enjoyed watching and taping movies and TV shows.

Survivors include his father, Swede Herschell and two sisters, Verla and Dayle Herschell. He was preceded in death by his mother, Eleanor Herschell in 1987.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be shared with Herschell's family at www.funeralchoice.com.

Births

Angel Ann Califf- a daughter, Angel Ann, was born June 20, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Carmen L. Barnett and Spencer A. Califf of Irrigon.

Melany Raquel Gene Post Bombela- a daughter, Melany Raquel Gene, was born June 21, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Kiley Gwyn Post and Juan M. Bombela of Irrigon.

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