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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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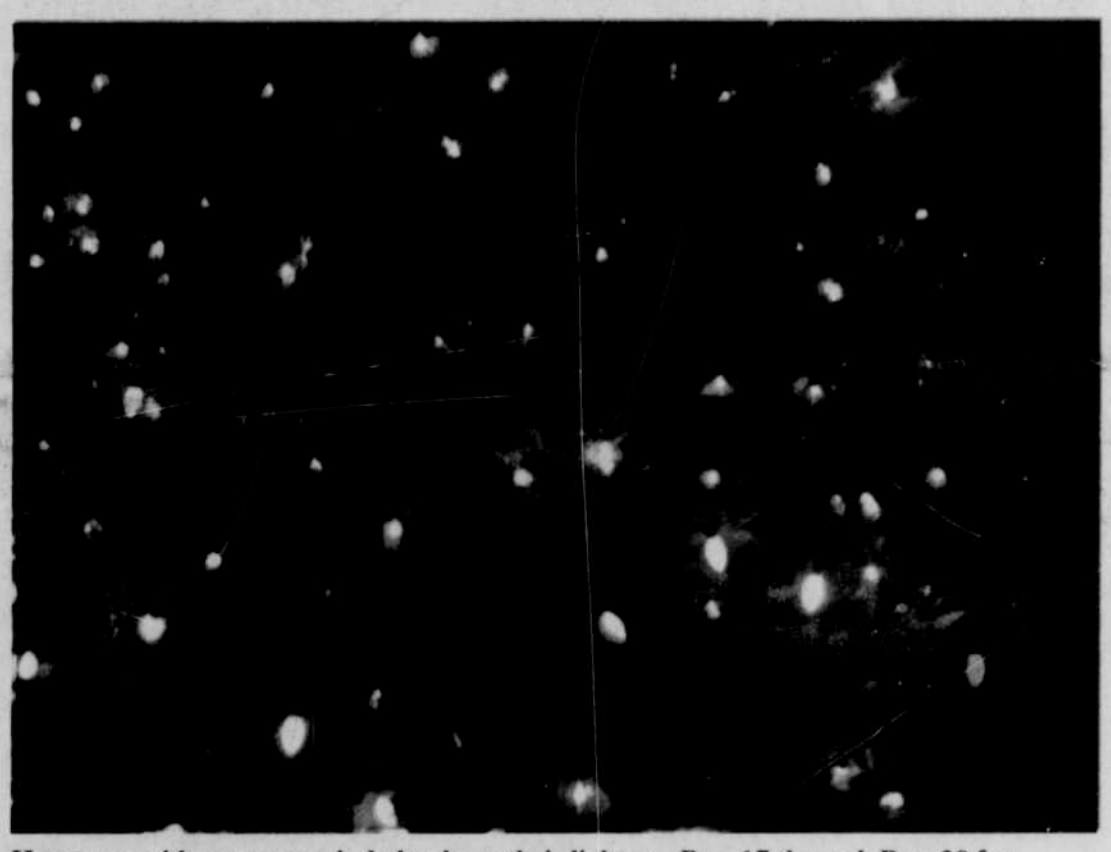


Heppner residents are reminded to have their lights on Dec. 17 through Dec. 20 for judging in the annual Chamber of Commerce lighting contest. Six $25 awards will be given with three going to the commercial district and three to the residential district. Categories are Buest use of lighting, most original set and judges favorite. This lighted tree is located on Fairview in Heppner.

Ten care packages sent to troops in Iraq

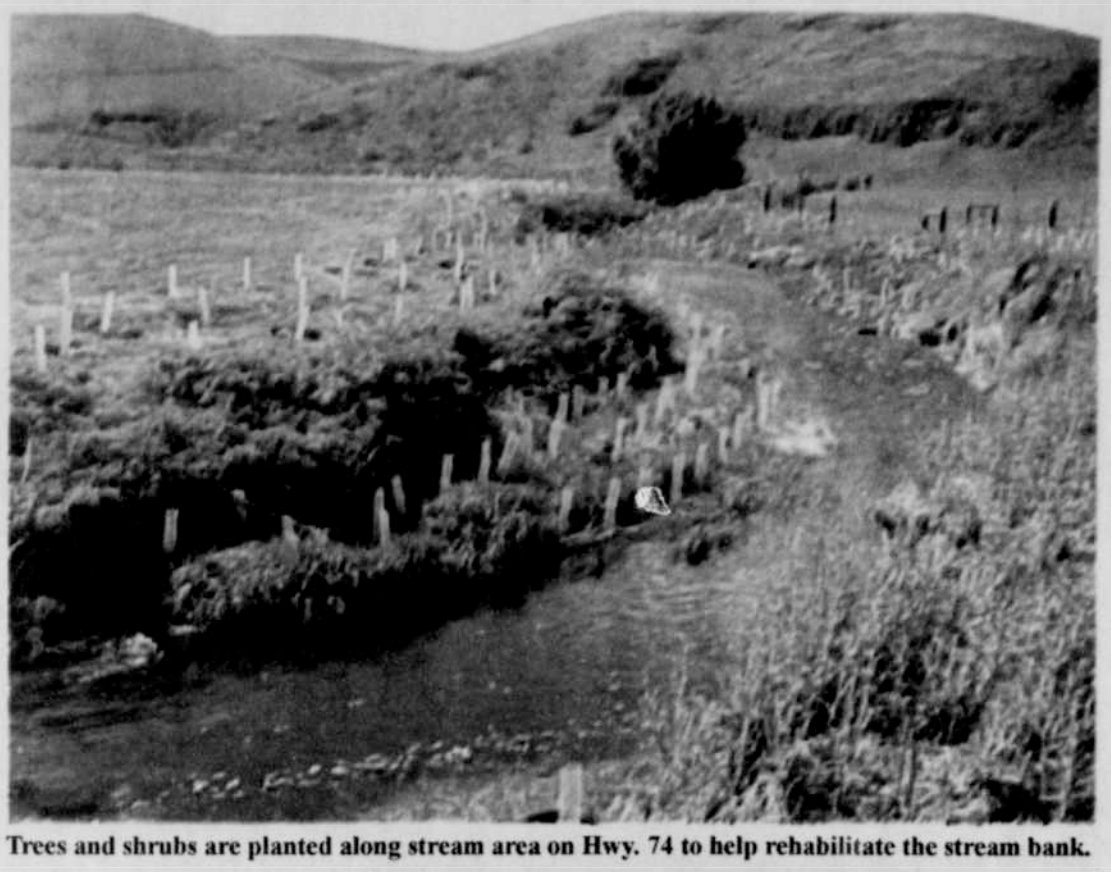
Carol Taylor (left), of Ione, and her sister-in-law, Karen Pining, help in filling care packages for local soldiers in Iraq.

Between 10-15 people gathered on Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Heppner Methodist Church to fill care packages for 10 soldiers currently serving in Iraq. Care packages were filled with items including toiletries, snacks, office supplies and clothing. The project was hosted by the Support our Troops support group.

For more information on how to help with future projects, or about the Support our Troops support group, you can contact Evelyn Sweek at 676-9483.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Buffer program seen along Hwy. 74



Trees and shrubs are planted along stream area on Hwy. 74 to help rehabilitate the stream bank.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, which works to rehabilitate streams and wetland areas by planting trees and scrubs, has been recently planting along Hwy. 74 towards Pilot Rock.

The root systems of the trees and shrubs create a buffer along the streams, which is used to hold the soil in place, as well as improve water quality and quantity. The trees and shrubs themselves, once grown, also rebuild habitat areas for deer, birds and other animals. The water quality is improved by the fact that the trees help filter out contaminants before they reach the water. The quantity of water is increased because the roots hold water in the area longer, which helps to increase the water table.

Farmers and land owners, who are part of the "buffer" program, by allowing their lands to be planted on, also benefit. Through the program, when an owner wants to build a fence along the area, or create a trough to water animals, part of the project is funded by the CCRP.

Plantings in the area were first put down around March of 2003. More were added this past spring as the contractors brought in the product. Trees and scrubs are tailored to the area, whether it is a wet climate or dry. In our area, trees such as Willow, Cottonwood, Dogwood, Alder and Pine were used and scrubs including, rose bush, service berry and blue elderberry were added.

A black permeable mulch mat is laid down to help kill any weeds, as well as provide a concentrated water source for the plants. The plant is also surrounded by deer protectors, to help keep roots stable when the rest of the plant is grazed on.

Shop building proposed for Irrigon High School

The Morrow County School Board Monday night heard a presentation concerning a proposed computer industrial/agri-science program at Irrigon High School, along with a proposal for a $600,000-$800,000 shop for the new school.

The board viewed a preliminary architectural plan for the addition to the school, which would include a shop, classroom, multipurpose room, and a covered commons area. The project could be implemented in phases, starting with the shop building and concluding with the covered commons area adjoining the facility with the present school building, and would be funded through the general fund.

M C S D Superintendent Mark Burrows said that the district had received two sizeable grants—one $500,000 grant from the state to equip new schools and another $500,000 as a one-time payment in lieu of taxes from Coyote Springs—which could be used for construction.

Cost for the agri-science program would vary depending on what curriculum and software are purchased by way of a cafeteria-type plan through Northwest Tech, Inc. A basic curriculum and software could include instruction in animal science, food science, plant science, soil science, forestry and natural resources, global positioning systems, meteorology and biotechnology or genetics, for example, for varying costs, ranging from $900 for the soil science curriculum to $3,900 for the biotechnology and genetics curriculum. An intermediate curriculum and software could include instruction in agri-science orientation, agri-science and FFA, agri-business, computer aided design, computer applications, construction, four stroke small engines, horticulture, landscape design, mechanical systems, plant science, plumbing, pneumatic systems and wiring, ranging from $1,200 for the agri-science orientation class pack and the agri-science and FFA class pack to $7,200 for the pneumatic system. Classroom management packages, tools, additional kits, accessories, computer work stations, furniture, installation and training are available for additional costs.

Proponents of the agri-science program say that the system is highly adaptable and the hands-on portion could be easily transported from Irrigon High School to Heppner High School or Riverside High School on a rotating basis.

Also at the meeting, Heppner Schools Principal Wade Smith told the board that the initial drug testing at Heppner High School was "quite successful," with every one of the 55-60 students tested coming up clean. Smith said the tests were quick and efficient, taking between two-three hours in its entirety, and commented that few problems arose. However, in the future he asked the testing company, and they agreed, to send a male and a female technician, rather than two males, to make the testing process more amenable to female students. He said some questions arose with regard to

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