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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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Construction on new Wheatland Insurance building to begin mid-May

Nancy Snider in the current 660 sq. ft. Wheatland Insurance office.

Construction of a new office space for Wheatland Insurance will begin mid-May at the old mini-mart site on Main Street in Heppner, said Wheatland Insurance owner/partner/Heppner branch manager Nancy Snider. The new offices should be open in Fall 2006.

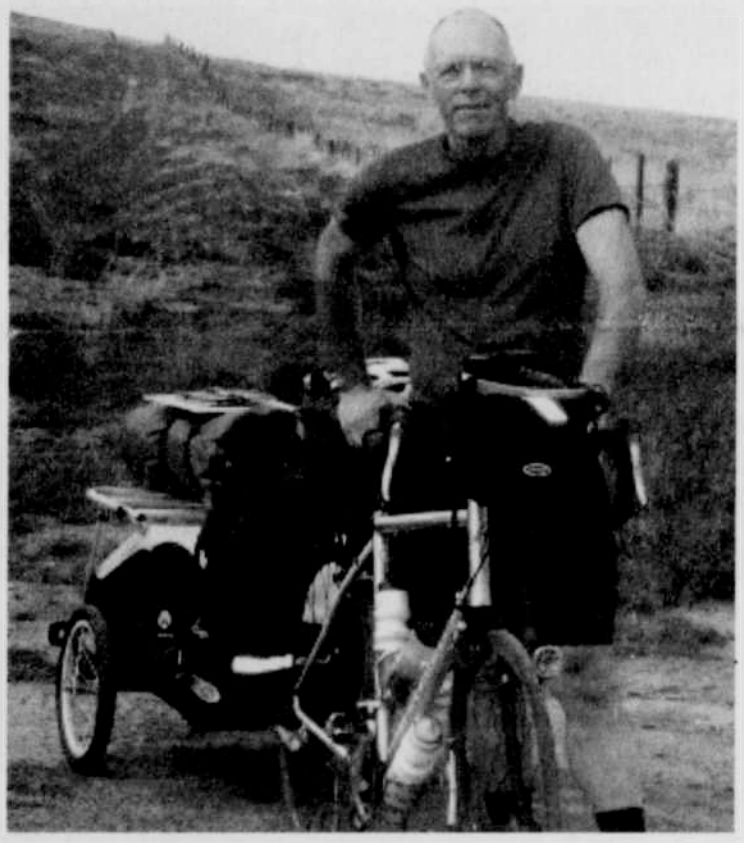
"We want our clients to have a better, more private place to do business," said Snider. Currently, the Wheatland Insurance offices are located on Main Street next to Peterson's Jewelers in a 660 square foot narrow space, with open-air cubicles that do not allow for much client privacy. The new building will be approximately 1800 square feet with separate offices.

Wheatland is also committed to Heppner, said Snider, another reason they want to build here. "We are making an investment in Heppner," expressed Snider. Wheatland Insurance, which has been in business since 1984, has been in Heppner since November 2000.

Wheatland had been looking at expanding to another area; however, remodeling costs were estimated to be quite high and they would not have ownership of the space. When the contractor who had bid on the remodeling project said he had a space where they could build a new building for a better value and have the option to buy the building Snider took up the offer. Snider will lease the building from the contractor with the option to buy it. She also explained that many of the Wheatland Insurance offices are owned by the partners and leased to the company.

The current location of Wheatland is owned by Snider and any inquires about the space may be directed to her.

Local man sets off on cross-country bicycle trip



Bill Wolfsen, with his bicycle and trailer.

Finally getting to live out his boyhood dream, Bill Wolfsen, 64, father of Yvonne Morter of Ione, set off from Ione on May 1 for a 4500-mile cross-country bike trip.

He will travel from Ione to Lincoln City, touch his bike tire into the Pacific Ocean and then head back eastward. His trip will take him along most of the old Bicentennial 76 bike route. He will be traveling east towards Missoula, MT, then heading south to Pueblo, CO and then returning eastward traveling through Kansas, Illinois, Kentucky and other states until he reaches Yorktown, VA where he will touch his tire into Chesapeake Bay, which is saltwater, he said, even though it is not quite the Atlantic Ocean. When he reaches Williamsburg, VA, his brother from Tennessee will join him and travel the final 25 miles to Yorktown with him.

Wolfsen plans to average about 70 miles per day, which will make his trip last about two and a half months. "I am retired, so if it takes a little longer there is no problem," said Wolfsen. He also plans to be self-contained, camping along the way.

He will be chronicling his journey and posting pictures on the internet. You can read a journal of his trip as he travels along at www.pocketmail.com/journal and search for "biker.bill." You can also see pictures of the trip at www.flickr.com/photos/biker_billw/sets.

While Wolfsen is on his cross-country trip, his

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Ione students celebrate Prom

A group of student enjoy the dance at the Ione Prom.

Local boy catches 'big one' in Willow Creek

Tyrel Walker, 10 ½, of Heppner, son of Tina Davidson, caught a 17-inch trout in Willow Creek behind City Park on Sunday, April 30.

Youth fishing event scheduled for Cutsforth Pond

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Morrow County Parks today announced a youth fishing event May 6 at Cutsforth Park Fishing Pond near Heppner.

ODFW will stock 650 trout in the pond for the event, including some trophy-sized fish as part of the Youth Angling Enhancement Program now in its third year.

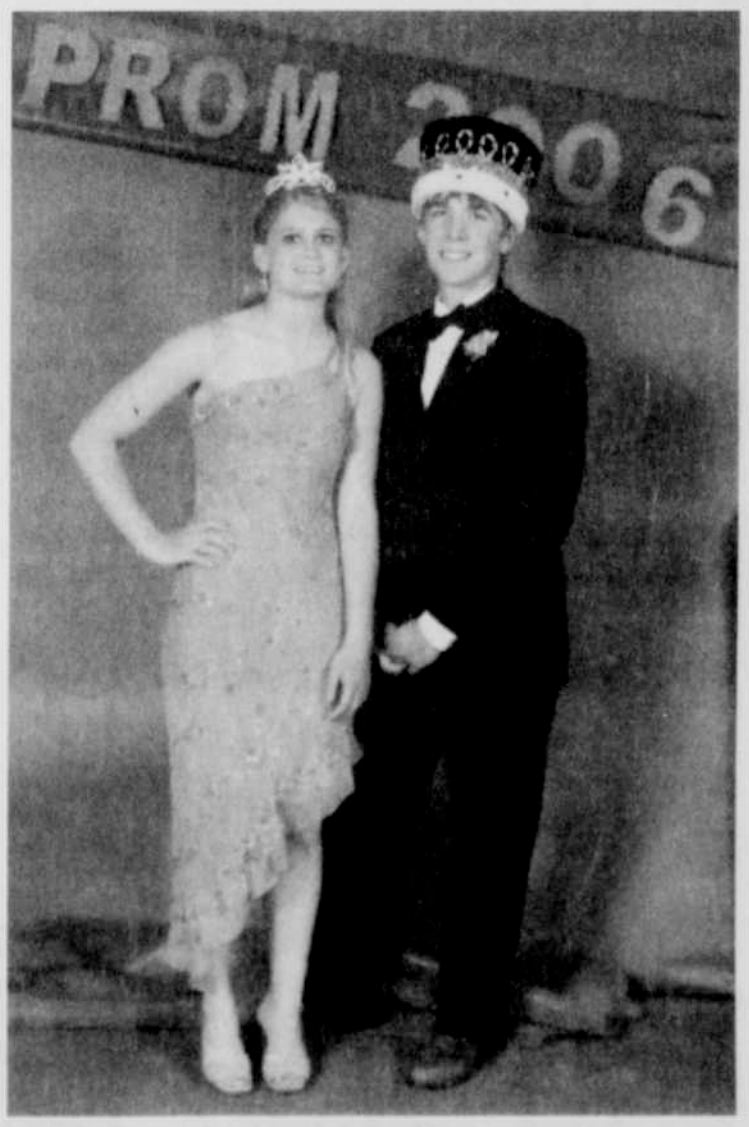
The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the angler catching the biggest fish in age groups six and under, 7 to 9, 10 to 12 and 13 to 14. Volunteers from the Elks Lodge of Heppner will be serving the kids hot dogs and hamburgers. ODFW will provide young anglers with loaner rods and reels, bait and tackle, and volunteers will be available to help the kids clean and care for their catch.

"This event is specifically for the kids," said ODFW District Fish Biologist Tim Bailey. "We want to encourage children as they learn to fish, and hope they enjoy an activity that can provide lifelong recreation."

Anglers 13 years of age and under can fish for free. A juvenile license is required for anglers 14-17 years of age. All state fishing regulations continue to apply.

The pond is located at Cutsforth County Park, 22 miles southeast of Heppner on Willow Creek Road (Blue Mountain Scenic By-Way).

For more information contact Betty Gray with Morrow County Public Works at 989-9500 or Bailey at ODFW's Pendleton office at (541) 276-2344.



Prom King John Walton and Queen Jenny Griffith were crowned on Saturday, April 29 during the Ione Prom.

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