

## Candidate Forum to be held at BMCC

American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a candidate forum on Thursday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m., at the Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) Theater in Pendleton. Present will be candidates for state legislature, Bob Jensen and Ben Talley; for judge, Annette Spicer and Chris

Brauer; and for county commissioner, Larry Givens and Bob Reese. Mary Alice Ridgway will be the moderator for the Forum. After introductory remarks, candidates will be asked questions of local, county and statewide interest and be given two minutes to respond. The forum is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

## Flu shots to be given at St. Pat's

Morrow County Health Department will be holding a flu shot clinic at the St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner on Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. MCHD will also be holding a clinic in Boardman on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Boardman Senior Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and in Irrigon on Monday, Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Rebekah card parties resume

This Saturday, Oct. 7 is the first Saturday of the month and that means it's time to play pinochle. That's right. Holly Rebekah Lodge is starting their monthly card parties at the lodge hall in Lexington. Turn west at the restaurant. Play will start at 7 p.m. and the evening will be filled with fun, food and friendship, all for only \$5 per person. Keep the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 15 open. Bunko starts then.

## Justice Court Report

The Morrow County Justice Court reports handling the following business:  
 Bruce A. Bailey, Jr., 33, Hermiston, Failure to Use Seatbelt, fine \$76.  
 Mikel Britt, 18, Heppner, Minor in Possession, fine \$166.  
 David Bradner Hubbard, 51, Astoria, Violation of the Basic Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$113.  
 Micah David Southworth, 24, Heppner, Violation of the Basic Rule, 78 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$244.  
 Shane D. Stottlemire, 18, Heppner, No Operator's License, fine \$244.  
 Frances Ina Bowman, 73, Echo, Violation of the Speed Limit, 49 mph in a 33 mph zone, fine \$113.

## Old Farmer's Almanac holds essay contest

Every year, The Old Farmer's Almanac holds an essay contest. For this year's edition, readers were asked to submit "funny, touching or wacky" stories about the way they or their spouse proposed marriage. Here are a few of the (very entertaining) entries, which appear in The 2007 Old Farmer's Almanac.

"I was doing housework while my Romeo watched TV. During a commercial break, he asked me to 'fetch him another cold one.' When I returned with his beer, he looked into my eyes and said, 'How would ya like to do this full-time?'"

"I never asked your mother to marry me. I merely wanted to know if she could marry a man like me. I didn't have the heart to tell her that she had

misinterpreted my question, so I thought it best to go along with her."

"We met on a blind date. We talked for hours, through a cruise on Boston Harbor and dinner. That evening he said, 'Someone is going to marry you and it might as well be me.'"

"He looked at me very seriously and asked if I wanted to get married. If I did, I could get an engagement ring; if not, he was going to get a new gun."

The Old Farmer's Almanac is now taking submissions for its 2007 Essay Contest: The Best Thing I Ever Bought at a Yard Sale. Entries should be no longer than 200 words and submitted to essaycontest@yankeepub.com by Friday, Jan. 26, 2007. Winners will be announced in The 2008 Old Farmer's Almanac.

## Hunting season puts Oregon livestock at potential risk

Ranchers, sheriffs deputies, and officials with the Oregon Department of Agriculture are hoping to keep livestock out of the cross-hairs this fall as hunting season arrives. Whether it is accidental or intentional, cattle have been shot either by hunters or opportunistic poachers this time of year. Raised awareness of the problem and planned patrols in rural Oregon over the next several weeks could take a bite out of crime when it comes to livestock killings.

"This is a time of year to be a bit more concerned simply because there are more people out there," says Rodger Huffman, ODA's Brand Inspection Program Manager. "The opportunities to shoot livestock are greater because the cattle are out on open range and farther away from ranches and houses. The ability to discharge a firearm without much notice this time of year is much easier."

A rancher hearing a gunshot in the spring or summer may become suspicious. But during hunting season, the sound is not uncommon. Hunting activity provides a good cover for those who would kill livestock. The bonafide hunter is not the problem. Those who take advantage of the situation are.

"It's a misnomer that hunters cause problems with livestock shootings when, in fact, these killings are done by people out there who are basically criminals," says ODA livestock investigator Roy Hyder, who is based in Central Oregon. "With all that goes on during hunting season, there is a good atmosphere for criminal activity. Nobody is alarmed during the deer season when shots are fired. The upside for us and the downside for the bad guys is there are a lot of legitimate hunters out there who make good witnesses if livestock animals are shot."

Hyder points out that livestock killings are a year around problem. In Central Oregon, three cattle were shot and killed earlier this summer while grazing on the Crooked River National Grasslands. He says it was a case of vandalism, plain and simple. Meat was taken from one of the animals.

"It seems every couple of years in Crook County, north of Prineville, we have a calf shot," says Hyder. "Cattle have been killed by bow and arrow and meat from the animals has been taken."

In fact, a Jefferson County sheriffs deputy pulled over a drunk driver a couple of years ago and happened to find meat inside the vehicle. That discovery was tied back to a reported case of poaching. In some cases, cattle that have been shot wander off and die from their wounds, undiscovered for weeks.

In 1998, during archery season, the U.S. Forest Service received a report from a hunter in Crook County's Allen Creek area of a cow walking around with an arrow sticking out. Local ranchers claim some archery hunters will use cattle as target practice with arrows that are blunted, a practice known as "thumping." What goes unreported is much larger, say officials.

"Sometimes ranchers are missing a cow or two when cattle are brought in from the open range in late fall, and they don't know what happened," says Wallowa County Sheriff Fred Steen. "It could be attributed to a lot of things. From time to time, we find cows that are butchered in open range."

"There has been no sign of the carcasses being utilized, so it's not a poaching issue, it's a case of criminal mischief. We are still sorting out whether the suspects are hunters."

In rare cases, frustrated hunters who can't seem to find game animals take it out on livestock. There is even a reported case in the North Powder area of Union County of a 12-year-old Portland boy, on his first ever hunting trip, shooting a black angus bull mistakenly thinking it was a bull elk. But when livestock are shot this time of year, it is more likely to be someone committing a pre-meditated crime.

Depending on whether the district attorney prosecutes for a Class C Felony or a misdemeanor, the sentence for deliberately killing livestock could involve imprisonment of up to five years, a fine of up to \$100,000, restitution to the victim, loss of hunting privileges, and forfeiture of vehicles, firearms, or archery equipment. An act that some might consider vandalism or just a malicious stunt is actually a very serious crime.

A rural version of a neighborhood watch program has been in effect in several areas of Eastern Oregon. Ranchers are looking out for fellow ranchers. Law enforcement officials encourage local residents to keep their eyes and ears open. If they see a vehicle on the back roads that doesn't seem to belong, there is nothing wrong with writing down a description and license plate. Chances are the vehicle owner is an innocent, bonafide hunter and there will be no case of livestock shootings. But should an animal be shot and killed, the information may come in handy later on during the investigation.

Various counties have organized patrols through their sheriffs office and with some help from ODA. Patrols are planned for Crook, Lake, Klamath, Harney, Union, and Wheeler counties. The preventative patrols will hopefully act as a deterrent to illegal activity.

Some ranchers have pointed out that honest hunters are often their best friends when it comes to preventing or reporting unlawful activity in range land areas. One thing is certain- it will take more than just the law enforcement patrols to keep intentional livestock shootings from happening.

"During the hunting season, we do get a lot more people to Eastern Oregon from other parts of the state, some who show up and do things they should not be doing," says Sheriff Steen. "Sometimes they shoot at signs, they shoot at fences, and occasionally they shoot at livestock. This is a critical time for all of us to be on the lookout for that kind of activity."

For more info, contact Huffman at (541) 562-9169.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

**Sept. 19:** MCSO arrested Josh Lee Munkers, 29, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving while Suspended. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail on \$6000 bail.

-MCSO cited Lester Ray Martin Jr., 36, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO cited Christopher Dean Anderson, 46, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 34 mph in a 20 mph school zone.

-MCSO cited Lauren Brooke Barnard, 24, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO cited Michael C. Dipo, 29, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Boardman that a driver of a semi with a full load of cars was going 70 mph.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that someone was burning near the courthouse and the smoke was coming into the caller's house and she would like to make a formal complaint. The caller also wanted a deputy to make contact with the person burning and tell them to stop. A deputy made contact with the person burning and the fire was legal so there was nothing the sheriff's office could do.

-MCSO received a report from Hermiston PD that William R. Gibson, 38, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving while Suspended. He was cited and released to appear.

-MCSO cited Kenneth Marion Stookey, 43, for Driving Uninsured.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her husband was missing. She stated that no one had seen him since he was released from Umatilla County Jail. The caller also advised that she had a no contact order against the subject. An attempt to locate was sent out to all of Oregon and SE Washington to locate the subject.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her neighbor has animals that are deceased and mange ridden. She believed it was a health hazard.

-Boardman PD cited Gerardo Perez Serrato, 29, for No Operator's License and No Insurance.

-Boardman PD arrested Michael Jerry Moore, 57, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/DUII. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-Boardman PD cited Jesus Sanchez Morales, 23, for No Operator's License and Driving Uninsured. The vehicle was impounded.

**Sept. 20:** MCSO cited Larry Ray Mattin, 70, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 34 mph in a 20 mph school zone.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that a subject had a mobile home trailer parked to far out into the road. The caller advises that the bus drivers had to go into oncoming traffic to avoid hitting the mobile home.

-MCSO cited Zachary Steagall, 29, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO cited Rebecca Lynn Cervantes, 30, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 72 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Chaunesy Lynn Allan, 35, for Driving while Suspended-violation.

-MCSO cited Donna Joan Grant, 73, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her housekeeper stole a check from her residence. The check was for \$188.60 and the caller just found it with the bank statement and also had a copy of the cancelled check.

-MCSO cited Abraham Vargas Arriaga, 25, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO arrested Chrystal L. Montes, 20, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while Suspended. She was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO was trying to conduct a field interview of two subjects that were hiding in the bushes in Irrigon. The subjects were determined to be juveniles and were warned not to trespass on the property again and to not hide from the police.

-MCSO cited Guillermo Castillo, 27, for Failure to Use Seatbelt.

-MCSO found a subject in Irrigon that had been reported missing earlier.

-MCSO cited Alicia Marie Storey, 23, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that the neighbors throw garbage into the driveway between the houses. There were at least four to six bags of trash. The caller wanted a deputy to contact the subject.

-Heppner ambulance received a report that a 76-year-old female was conscious and breathing, but complaining of severe stomach pains. The subject was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

-Boardman PD received a report that every morning the driver of a vehicle honks his horn and wakes up the caller and his wife. The caller wanted the subject to be given a warning.

-Boardman PD received a report of four members of an outlaw motorcycle gang being in the area.

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