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HEPPNER Gazette Times

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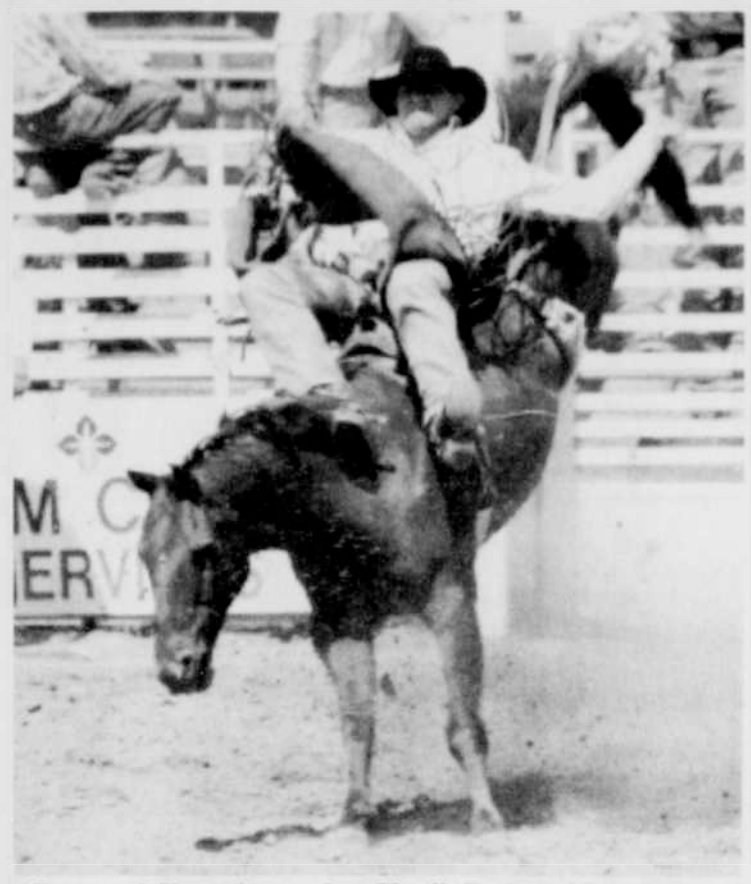
Winners announced for rodeo competitions

August 16-18 brought many participants for this year's Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo in Heppner. Secretary for the event was Joann Griffith. The timers were DeLene Durfey and Heather Buchanan. Rough stock judges were Pat Shannon and Jim Creer. Field flagger was Jim Crozier. Announcer was Curt Robinson. Bullfighter was Bill Hamilton. Pickup men were Norm Durfey and Dan Durfey. The clown/barrelman was Cody Sanford.

Results for the rodeo are as follows:

Bareback: First place was Sam Storts winning $798.95 on Dirt Research with a score of 80. Steven Peebles riding Crown Royal and Charlie Barker on Keystone tied for second place with a score of 77 to win $592.33 each. Nick Gutzwiler won $385.70 on Bar Fly with a score of 75 for third place. Fourth place was a tie between Caleb Bayes on Home Made and George Gillespie on Buckskin Billy with a score of 74, each winning $192.85.

Saddle Bronc: First place, winning $1,074.45 with a score of 76, was Mark Gage on King Pin. Ivan Tibbs came in second place on Miss Molly with a score of 72 and winning $889.20. Jerad McFarlane scored 71 points for third place on Cajun Moon for $703.95. Fourth place gave $518.70 to Mark Nonella with 70 points on Mighty Mouse. Fifth place was a tie between Levi Bunch on Easy Money and Brendon Fitzgerald on Dark Water with 69 points and winning $259.35 each.



All-Around Champion cowboy Charlie Barker of Terrebonne scores a 77 in bareback riding Saturday at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo. More photos of fair and rodeo events can be found on pages four and five. *–Photo by Sandy Matthews*

Bull Riding: Charlie Barked won $1,070.65 with 86 points on One Eyed Jack. Allen Helmuth came in second place winning $931 with 79 points on Scooter. Third place was Andy Crozier winning $791.35 on Night Light with 76 points. Kelly Erickson won fourth place with 73 points riding Rambo to win $651.70. Shane Ahrens took fifth place on Twenty X with a score of 71 points, winning $512.05. Logan Titus took home $372.40 with a sixth place finish of 66 points on K O.

Update on Eastern Oregon fires

The Irish Springs Fire southwest of the community of Ironside in northeast Oregon has burned 55,000 acres of brush, grass, and scattered juniper and timber. A Northwest Oregon Interagency Incident Management Team took over command of the fire from a local Vale BLM (Type 3) Initial Attack organization at 8 p.m. Sunday. ODF also sent 10 overhead (specially trained IMT members) to assist in protecting ODF lands. A small area of ODF-protected lands is located between Ironsides Mountain and Wallowa Whitman National Forest, and there are three branches to the fire with ODF staffing the north branch (Ironside Mountain and Willow Creek).

There are 638 personnel on the fire, which started August 17 and is 20 percent contained. 20 miles of line have been constructed, with 20 more left. 15 structures and 25 outbuildings are threatened. Some rainfall made it over to the fire Monday afternoon and evening. Air operations are focused on steep ground with timber near Ironside Mountain, where concern is that unburned fuels could contribute to torching and spotting when dry conditions return.

Four Hotshot crews are expected to arrive to help with that area tomorrow. Cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Ukiah Complex near the town of Ukiah has burned 4,764 acres and is 90 percent contained. Cooler temperatures and scattered showers on Monday aided in mop-up efforts. There are still burning stumps that could ignite unburned grass and pine needles as the warmer weather evaporates most of the moisture received during the last few days.

As of 6 a.m. Tuesday, the Umatilla National Forest turned over management of the Ukiah Complex Fire to the Maine Incident Management Team, who will work with the Umatilla National Forest and Oregon Department of Forestry to contain the fire on both public and private lands.

Estimated containment is August 22, but fire line rehabilitation efforts may take additional days.

The Otter Creek Fire located 10 miles east of Ukiah has burned 3,077

-Please see FIRES on page two

Ukiah Complex Fire 90% contained

As of 6 a.m. on Tuesday morning, August 21, the Umatilla National Forest turned over management of the Ukiah Complex Fire to the Maine Incident Management Team (IMT). The ORCA IMT, who has done a great job of managing the Ukiah Complex, is scheduled to leave the area Tuesday afternoon. The Maine IMT will work with the Umatilla National Forest and the Oregon Department of Forestry to contain the fire on both public and private lands.

The Ukiah Complex is now listed as 4764 acres and 90% contained. Cooler temperatures and scattered showers on Monday aided in mop-up efforts. There are still burning stumps that could ignite unburned grass and pine needles as the warmer weather evaporates most of the moisture received during the last few days. The estimated containment date for the Ukiah Complex is August 22, but fireline rehabilitation efforts may take additional days. Excess equipment and crews have been released to the Otter Creek Fire (currently listed as 3077 acres and 20% contained) or other fires within the region.

-Please see Ukiah Fires on page two

Stick Horse Race results announced

Emily Smith shows off her trophy she won in the three and under division for the Stick Horse Race. More photos can be found on pages four and five. *–Photo by Autumn Morgan*

The grandstands were full when the rain came, then the sun came out and it was a beautiful day for the Morrow County Rodeo and the Stick Horse Race.

25 competitors on every kind of horse imaginable were ready for Ken Bailey, OTPR Rodeo Chairman to drop his hat and start the race. When the dust cleared in the three and under age group, the fastest horse and riders were: first place Rachael Soggey; second place Blane Mahoney; and a tie for third place by Gracie Joe Orem and Emily Smith. In the 4 and 5 year old division, Gavin Hannah was the winner with Matt Orem a close second and Tresslyn McCurry coming in third. Hannah Flynn won the 6 and 7 year old division with Alex Lindsay finishing in second place and Lindsay Sogge coming in third.

Recia and Brittnay Herbison took entries and the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court gave out gold medals and treats to all of the contestants.

New blue-green algae bloom in Willow Creek Reservoir

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued an algae advisory due to high levels of blue-green algae found in Willow Creek Reservoir, near Heppner.

Water sampling confirmed the presence of blue-green algae in concentrations which can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. The Corps notified state and county health departments.

Swallowing or inhaling water droplets should be avoided, as well as skin contact with water by humans or animals. The toxins cannot be removed by boiling, filtering or treating water.

Exposure to toxins can produce symptoms of numbness, tingling and dizziness which can lead to difficulty breathing or heart problems and require immediate medical attention. Symptoms of skin irritation, weakness, diarrhea, nausea, cramps and fainting should also receive medical attention if they persist or worsen. Children and pets are particularly susceptible.

Blue-green algae plants occur naturally in lakes and are often associated with increased water temperatures and nutrients in lake water.

Algal blooms are rapid buildups of algae that are often found near the shore due to wind and waves, and are visible as masses of green, yellow or bluish-green slime.

Monitoring will continue in the reservoir until the levels of toxic algae decline enough to meet state guidelines. Check for updates on the

Corps' Portland District Web site at http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/.

With proper precautions to avoid water contact, people are encouraged to visit Willow Creek Reservoir and enjoy activities such as camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, catch-and-release fishing and bird watching.

Willow Creek Reservoir had a previous algae advisory in June, which was lifted Aug. 3.

For local information contact The Dalles, John Day, Willow Creek Project at (541) 506-7802. For health information, contact Ken Kauffman, DHS Environmental Health Specialist, at (971) 673-0435 or visit

http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml.

Hang on tight

Heppner Cowboy Tate Gentry, 11, won the All Around Title at the Morrow County Rodeo Sunday. More photos of the fair and rodeo can be found on pages four and five. *–Photo by Sandy Matthews*

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

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