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HEPPNER Gazette Times

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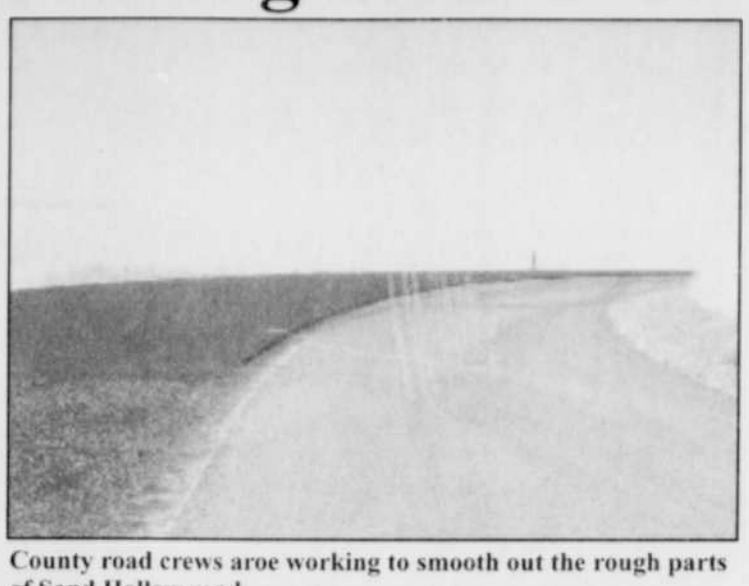
VOL. 126 NO. 36 8 Pages Wednesday, September 5, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Sand Hollow road receiving make over

Sand Hollow road is famous for its numerous potholes but that will be changed soon as crews from Morrow County work to get the road in better condition.

County road crews have been working over the past few weeks to patch sections of the road between potholes to make Sand Hollow smoother for travelers. For the past 20 years the road has been patched about every two years. The county plans to be finished next week.

The county is using existing mile money to patch Sand Hollow and will use this money to fix the other roads mentioned in the levy. According to Public Works Director Burke O'Brien since the levy did not pass, existing mile money is having to be used to patch these roads instead of on the maintenance preservation programs. He also stated that it would take a minimum of four to five years to catch up the roadwork on the remaining roads. The roadwork will consist of mainly pothole patching.



County road crews aroe working to smooth out the rough parts of Sand Hollow road.

Morrow County currently maintains 600.5 miles of gravel roads, 340 miles of paved roads, and 49 bridges.

A look back at Sand Hollow road

This story ran in the July 17, 1980 edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

The county supplied the hot asphalt, the farmers supplied the muscle, and Sand Hollow road got a patching job last week.

The badly deteriorated road was so full of potholes, farmers said it had to be fixed before they could haul wheat from the upcoming harvest over it.

So by pitching in with a grader and lot of hard work they were able to fix the road in about six days.

Because of adverse weather, a shortage of funds, and broken down equipment, county crews are unable to keep up with the backlog of roads needing repair.

Local farmers work to patch Sand Hollow road. *-Photo by David Sykes*

"We wanted to have most of the pot holes filled by July1." said Bob Jepsen of the County Road Committee. "But weather and breakdowns slowed us down."

Jepsen says part of the problem is that the roads aren't being resealed as often as they should be, which causes frost heaves and subsequently pot holes in the roads.

The county maintains 357 miles of paved roads and 1,057 miles of roads in all.

It's back to school time

New kindergarten students have fun on their first day at Heppner Elementary School.

BMCC to start fall term

Blue Mountain Community College goes back to school in September. Fall term classes kick off at all campuses on Monday, September 24 but there is still plenty of time to register for classes before that date. All residents should have received a Fall Term schedule of classes in the mail. If yours is misplaced, please contact Anne Morter, BMCC Coordinator, for a copy. Classes start on Monday, September 24 and students may register right up until that date. However, students wishing the best selection of classes should register as soon as possible.

Any degree-seeking BMCC student should be aware that academic advising is now mandatory. Anne Morter, BMCC Coordinator for Morrow County, can assist in that department. She can be reached at 422-7040.

Besides getting registered, students may also need to take the required placement tests before classes start at the end of the month. Placement tests are available, at no charge for the first attempt, at the Boardman Center of BMCC. Tests may be scheduled on Wednesday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. or other times by appointment. Placement tests may also be taken at the Hermiston Center (call 567-1800 for information) or at the Pendleton Testing Center (call 278-5931).

New students seeking a degree at BMCC are now required to attend an orientation session entitled Timberwolves Introduction. Live sessions are offered in Pendleton and Hermiston in addition to an online session that may be completed at the student's convenience between September 1 and September 22. Students may examine their class choices at www.bluecc.edu under the Interactive Online Schedule. (Type in "Tim" under course title to bring up choices.)

For further information or assistance, contact Anne Morter at 422-7040.

Wheat Marketing Education to resume September 13

The BMCC Farm Business Management Program, Oregon Wheat Growers League and OSU Umatilla County Extension will resume the wheat marketing education for the entire state of Oregon via Interactive Television (IT) in cooperation with OSU Extension offices and local ESDs beginning Thursday, September 13, at 7 a.m. PDT (8 a.m. Mountain).

The same schedule that was ended with in the spring will be tentatively followed every second Thursday of the month.

-Learn commodity marketing fundamentals.

-Learn commodity marketing techniques.

-Identify current marketing trends and opportunities.

-Learn application of marketing techniques.

-Analyze commodity marketing strategies.

Participating sites include: Mid Columbia Producers Inc. - Conference Room 2003 First Street, Moro; OSU/Umatilla County Extension Service Conference Room 100 A - Umatilla Hall, BMCC Campus, Pendleton; OSU/Morrow County Extension Service Conference Room - 54173 Hwy 74, Heppner; OSU/Gilliam County Extension Service Conference Room - 333 South Main Street, Condon; OSU/Wasco County Extension Service - 400 E. Scenic Drive, Suite 2.278, The Dalles; OSU/Klamath County Extension Office - 3328 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls; OSU/Union County Extension Service - Agricultural Service Center - 10507 N. McAlister Road, Room 9, La Grande; OSU/Malheur County Extension Service – 710 SW 5th Ave., Ontario; and OSU/Wallowa County Extension Service – 668 NW 1st, Enterprise.

Agenda items and materials will be followed up as time gets closer.

For questions or comments call or email the OWGL office at 541-276-7330 schrist@owgl.org. Contact your extension office for details prior to the meeting.

Downloadable library books now available

The Oregon Trail Library District announces that library patrons now have full access to Library2Go, a service provided by the Oregon Digital Library Consortium.

Library2Go provides downloadable audio books for library patron's personal computers and MP3 players.

Six eastern Oregon libraries recently pooled resources to join the Oregon Digital Library, Harney County Library, Hermiston Public Library, La Grande Public Library, and the Pendleton Public Library.

Best-selling titles are available 24/7 from the website and are playable on a patron's PC or MP3 player at home, in the office or from anywhere in the world. Some titles may be burned to CD. These computer files expire after 10 days so there is no need to return items and no late fees. Library2Go is free for all Oregon Trail Library District cardholders.

To use these audio books a patron needs a valid library card, access to the Internet, Sage System PIN, and free digital book software (available on the Library2Go website). Library2Go Audio Books are playable on any device with Windows Media Player software. Patrons interested in using Library2Go need to ensure that they have a valid library barcode number and PIN before they use this free service. After updating or creating a PIN the system requires 24 hours before it is valid with Library2Go.k

Visit the Oregon Trail Library District website to learn more about Library2Go at www.oregontrail.plinkit.org.

The Oregon Trail Library District also has MP3 players available for checkout. For more information contact library staff in Boardman at 481-2665 or Heppner at 676-9964.

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