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Planning Commission approves deer composting facility

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Planning Commission last week approved an application from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), to locate a composting facility for the disposal of road kill deer carcasses one mile east of Lexington.

ODOT told the commission that it wants to compost the dead deer for several reasons, including the public's health and safety. Carcasses can also

attract animal scavengers like coyotes and can cause traffic hazards.

The facility will be located on ODOT owned property and will consist of a paved surface of asphalt or concrete with four composting bins constructed on top of the paved surface.

The bins will be 20 X 20 ft into which the carcasses will be placed. Bulking material such as woodchips, sawdust, straw or a combination of materials will be used to cover the bodies. The temperature will be moderated to make sure decomposition is tak-

ing place.

This is ODOT's first attempt at setting up a deer composting facility in the state of Oregon, and they assured the commission the facility would be carefully monitored. ODOT has also visited with other transportation departments to see how they operate their deer composting facilities and find out what composting methods work best. The department has also discussed its composting plans with Department of Environmental Quality and others who regulate composting operations and says it is

working with regulators to make sure the plans are safe and legal.

ODOT said if the composting is done properly there will be no odor and therefore no scavengers. A plan submitted to the planning commission and made part of the conditional use spells out what will be done if the facility causes problems.

In other business, before the meeting the planning commission was given a tour of the Port of Morrow facilities showing the tremendous growth there in the last several years.

HEPPNER

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Morrow County fairgrounds football field dedicated to Les Payne



Alumni players and current players honored Les Payne Friday night. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

The Heppner High School football field was dedicated to assistant HHS football coach Les Payne on Friday night, August 29, during the opening game for the 2008-2009 football season. This will be Payne's 33rd year as a coach for HHS.

Les played four years of college football, culminating in a national championship game for Eastern Washington University in 1967. In September of 2001, the 1967 Eastern Washington Savage football team was inducted into the Eastern Washington University Hall of Fame.

Upon graduating Les began his coaching career in Tonasket, WA where he coached for nine years before coming to Heppner. While in Heppner he has coached in nearly 400 varsity games, 260 JV games and nearly 2,500 practices. He has logged nearly 125,000 miles commuting to Heppner since moving to Uma-



Les Payne with his family. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

tilla in 1994.

"Les's dedication to Heppner football is immeasurable," said HHS football coach Greg Grant. "From lining to the field to putting helmet decals on straight, Les always goes the extra mile to make the football experience first class for our players." Payne and Grant have coached together for 19 years.

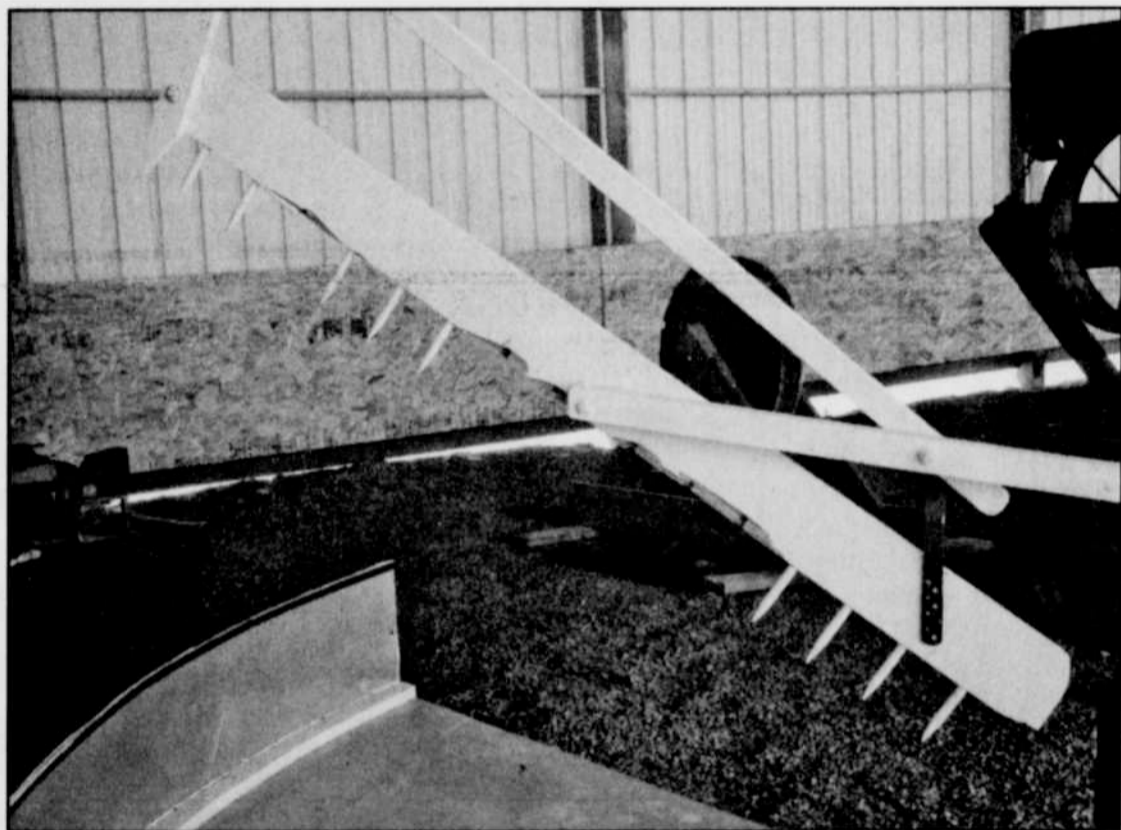
Coaches that attended on Friday night that have coached with Les were (** denotes coaches who also played for Les): John Sporseen- head coach from

1976-1981; Dale Conklin; Dave Gunderson; Jess Osmin **; Grant Wright; Shane Matheny **; Kevin Payne **; Greg Grant; Josh Coiner **; Dennis Peck **; Mike Doherty; Kelly Fox; Chad Doherty **; Robert Whalen **; John McCabe; David Norton **; and Steve Brownfield.

The sign for the field was constructed by Dave Fowler and the HS technology department. Signs will be posted at the north and south entrances to Les Payne Field.

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Equipment damaged at Agriculture Museum



Two pieces of antique farm equipment was found damaged last week at the Agriculture Museum in Heppner. "This is a loss to historical pieces of equipment," said Cliff Green.

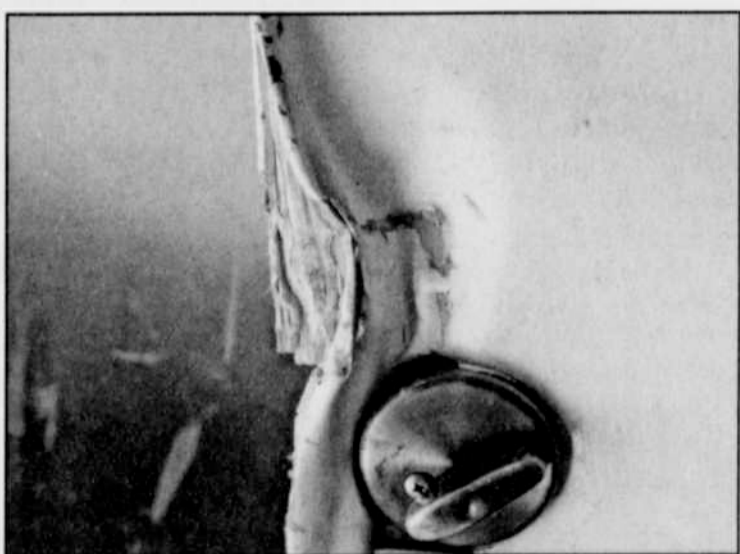
Items damaged include: 1890 Daisy Reaper which was the one of the first machines from International Harvester Company; and a Sterling Thresher Machine from International Harvester Company (Built in the late 1800's to early 1900's).

The building that housed the old equipment was built with one side open so that people could go in and examine at the equipment at will. The Agriculture Museum will now have to revisit the idea of fencing off the opening. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

Money stolen from Bucknum's

Thieves broke into Bucknum's in Heppner between the hours of 1 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. on Thursday morning and stole a large, undisclosed amount of money.

"The thieves knew what they were looking for," said owner Nancy-Gochnauer. "They did not take alcohol or cigarettes, they just took the money. They knew exactly where it was, they did not touch the cash registers." The thieves broke in through the back door which was locked with a deadbolt lock.



Thieves broke into Bucknum's through this door that was deadbolted. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

Along with cash, the thieves took a number of checks made out to Bucknum's from customers. If anyone is asked to cash a

check written to Bucknum's between August 22-27 they are asked to notify the police. Anyone that was in Bucknum's and wrote a check between these dates might want to contact their bank to stop payment.

2008-2009 school year off to a start



Students at Heppner Elementary School enjoy their recess time during their first day of school for the new year. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

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