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HEPPNER 50¢ Gazette Times

VOL. 127 NO. 44 12 Pages Wednesday, October 29, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Chamber tours new Boardman sawmill

By David Sykes

The first thing you notices as you enter the brand new sawmill getting ready for production near Boardman is "it ain't your daddy's sawmill".

From its 150 cameras, to its multitude of computers, curve cutting saws and environmental certification, all the way down to the 'no tobacco on premises' rule, this is a mill for the future.

Gearing up to start full scale production, the Collins Companies mill was recently constructed near Boardman in the middle of one of the growing plots on a tree plantation that will feed the mill enough 12 year old fast growing Pacific Albus Popular to produce 40 million board feet of lumber each year. That requires six to eight acres of trees cut per day from the 25,000 acres near Boardman, and the 8,200 acres the company owns elsewhere.

The mill will employee 50 people when fully staffed, and management says it is still looking for qualified mill workers. There are now only 29 on the job. "We need electricians, a saw filer and a certified grader, as well as general labor," the head of human resources said. A complete list of jobs is available on their web site at: www.collinsco.com/Careers/.

The mill is highly automated and although it can take up to a 30 inch log, the ones from the plantation are smaller. In order to get the most out of the log they are computer scanned multiple times while being sawed, trimmed and cut. "The computers determine the best way to cut the logs," says Lee Jimerson, manager of manufacturing at the mill. He said there is a single pass head rig before the boards go on to re-saw, and the edger can do 60 boards per minute. As the plantation logs all seem to have a curve in them the large saw actually cuts in a curve to get the most out of the wood.

L-R Lee Jimerson, Manager of Manufacturing Accounts for The Collins Companies, shows Larry Nicholson, Claudia Hughes, Nancy Snider, Jeff Bailey, Sheryl Bates and Kricket Nicholson the cut Pacific Albus boards from the new sawmill in Boardman. *-Photo by David Sykes*

Once the boards are cut and trimmed they are shipped to the dry kiln, which is located on Port of Morrow Industrial property in Boardman. It is operated with surplus steam from the nearby gas powered electrical cogeneration plant, the boards are sold and used for a variety of products including: landscape timbers, pallets, boxes, crating, recreational vehicle parts, veneer, venetian blinds, furniture, picture frames and ceilings. None of the tree is wasted as usually one half the tree goes to lumber and the rest to chips.

Although the Pacific Albus is considered a hardwood, it is also a good alternative to many softwood applications.

The Collins Company, which is a 153-year-old privately held company, runs the sawmill, The Greenwood Company runs the tree

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Britt bull going to PBR World Finals

By David Sykes

A bull from the Roger and Rita Britt Ranch on Upper Rhea Creek is going to the Professional Bull Riders World Finals in Las Vegas, NV, October 31 through November 9.

Devils Door Way is a seven year-old-rodeo bull with a 100 percent buck off rate, and, according to Roger Britt, has bucked off some of the best riders on the circuit including McKennon Winberly, J.B. Mauney, Kolt Donaldson and Harve Steward.

Devils Door Way has been on the circuit four years and is handled by PBR bull contractor Big Bend Flying 5 Rodeo Co. out of Ritzville, WA.

Devils Door Way from the Britt Ranch on Upper Rhea Creek will be in Las Vegas at World Finals. *–Contributed Photo*

"This is the first one we've had that has gotten to this level," says Britt, who, along with wife Rita, raises 10-11 bulls a year for rodeos.

The couple also uses a unique way to help out their grandchildren. "We are in the Born to Buck program where each of our three grandchildren has a bucking stock cow and they get the proceeds from the bulls the cows produce for their college fund," Britt says.

Devils Door Way statistics from PBR web site are as follows:

	07-08 Season	Career
Times Ridden	0 out of 4 times	0 out of 4 times
Percent Ridden	0.0%	0.0%
Buckoff Percent	100.0%	100.0%
Average Buckoff Time	3.63 seconds	3.63 seconds
Average Ride Score	0.00	0.00
Average Bull Score	43.19	43.19
Bull Rating*	21.58	21.58

M. C. Health District has donated over $883 thousand to Boardman health care facilities since 1999

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, in the process of fine-tuning a contract with Columbia River Community Health in Boardman, has indicated that they may not be able to make the previous annual $70,000 subsidy to the Boardman clinic if MCHD's 39-cent levy pass does not pass on November 4.

According to MCHD Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney, since 1999, the health district has paid $883,734, to Boardman health care clinics, first to the Boardman clinic, a private clinic operated by Dr. Robert Boss and then, starting in 2004-05 to Columbia River Community Health, which is staffed by Dr. Boss. According to the health district records, MCHD paid $105,019 to Dr. Boss' clinic in 1999-2000; $108,466 in 2000-01; $126,450 in 2001-02; $121,558 in 2002-03; $140,000 in 2003-04; and $72,240 in 2004-05. MCHD also paid $70,000 to Columbia River Community Health in 2004-05 and then paid $70,000 to them in 05-06 and $70,000 in 06-07.

The board has stated that the CHCH 07-08 payment and subsequent payments may depend on the passage of the levy.

The MCHD Board has voiced several concerns, first, they have learned that an unidentified individual has begun placing signs in Boardman opposing the MCHD levy; and second, the Boardman community is being told misleading information concerning the district's support of the Boardman health care community. MCHD Board member Leann Rea told the board Monday night that one CRHC board member told her that he did not believe MCHD has contributed financially to CRHC. The MCHD Board has earlier expressed frustration that they haven't been able to communicate to the Boardman community the amount of monetary support they provide for health care services to the area.

In addition to the $883,734 paid to the clinics, MCHD also operates the Boardman and Irrigon ambulance services, pays salaries for two paramedics stationed in Boardman and one stationed in Irrigon, pays for standby and call back for EMT volunteers, has donated half the monies required to purchase a defibrillator for Riverside High School, provides CPR training for the schools, provides two standby ambulances for sporting events, recently purchased a $110,00 ambulance for the Boardman community, provides Home Health and Hospice services for Boardman area residents and a operates a foot clinic in Boardman, currently staffed by Home Health nurse Cheryl Tallman of Boardman. Vander Does said that the health district provides these services for each community in the district.

Unlike Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner and the Irrigon Clinic, however, which all bring in monies for the district, subsidies to Boardman clinics bring in no receipts for the district.

MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does told the board that while some of the monies from operating the north end ambulances are recouped, the problem has been that while an ambulance responds to a patient, if

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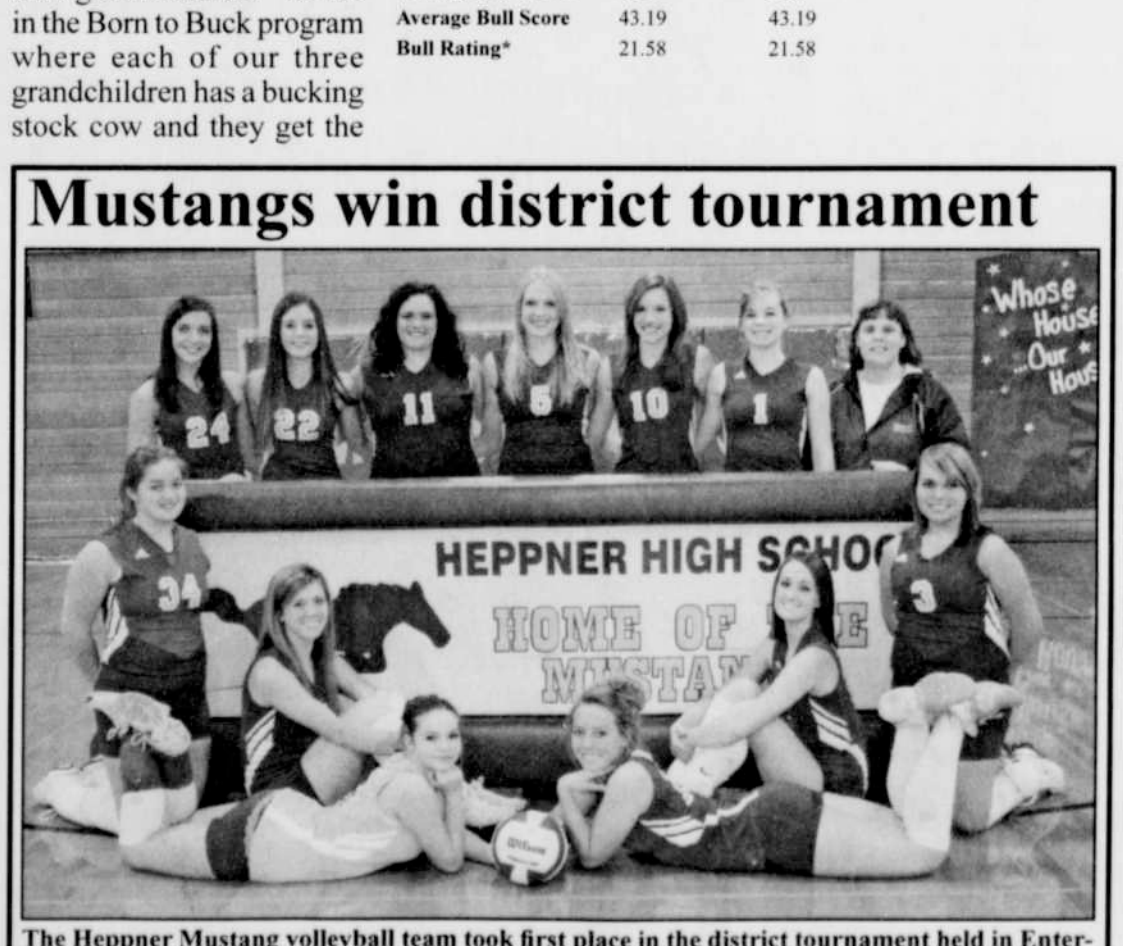
Mustangs win district tournament



The Heppner Mustang volleyball team took first place in the district tournament held in Enterprise this past weekend. They Mustangs will host a play-off game at home on Saturday, November 1, at 4 p.m. against Lakeview. *-Photo by Sandy Matthews*

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

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Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.

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