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HEPPNER Gazette Times

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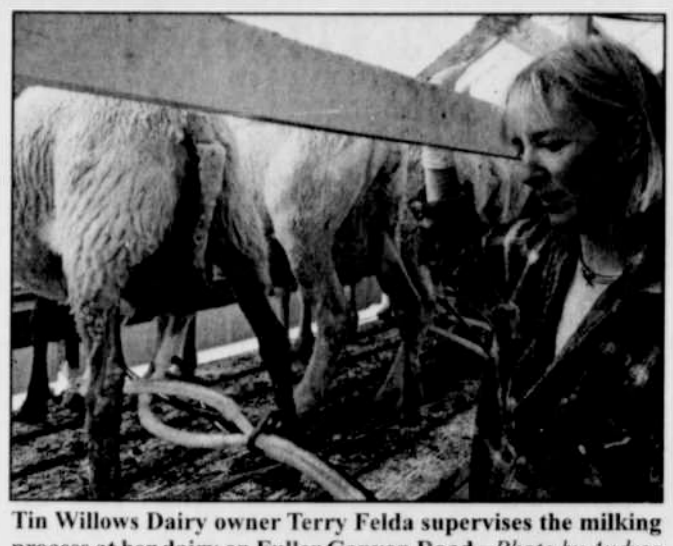
VOL. 130 NO. 17 8 Pages Wednesday, May 4, 2011 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Local dairy provides main ingredient in award-winning cheese

By Andrea Di Salvo

Move over, Vermont and Wisconsin. South Morrow has a woolly new contender in the dairy contest.

That challenger is Terry Felda, owner and operator of local sheep dairy Tin Willows. On April 5, Saveur Magazine included Tin Willows Tomme from Black Sheep Creamery in Adna, WA as one of the eight best cheeses on the west coast. As the name implies, Tin Willows Tomme is made exclusively from the sheep Felda milks right here in Morrow County.



Tin Willows Dairy owner Terry Felda supervises the milking process at her dairy on Fuller Canyon Road. *-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Born and raised in Oshkosh, WI, Felda didn't begin life intending to herd sheep in eastern Oregon. Instead, the 48-year-old obtained a master's degree in government from the University of Pennsylvania. She then spent several years living and working in Philadelphia. It was there that she formed the idea of starting her own dairy.

"When I was back in Pennsylvania, I became more interested in agriculture," says Felda. "I was surrounded by farmland being taken over for development, watching the demise of thousands of acres of agricultural land.

"I read about the American farmer going extinct. I decided I could either send a check to FarmAid or become a farmer. In retrospect, it would have been cheaper to send a check," she jokes.

Felda moved to Montana, intending to start a sheep dairy there. Instead, she came to the Ione area with Pachy Burns in 2006, intending to help out with Burns' sheep operation for a while. It was here, along Willow Creek, that the pieces started coming together for her.

"I found sheep for sale in the Capital Press. Next I found a place to keep my sheep, and then the opportunity to buy a house," says Felda. "Everything just fell into place."

She also found a community that was open to what she was trying to do.

"What I found here

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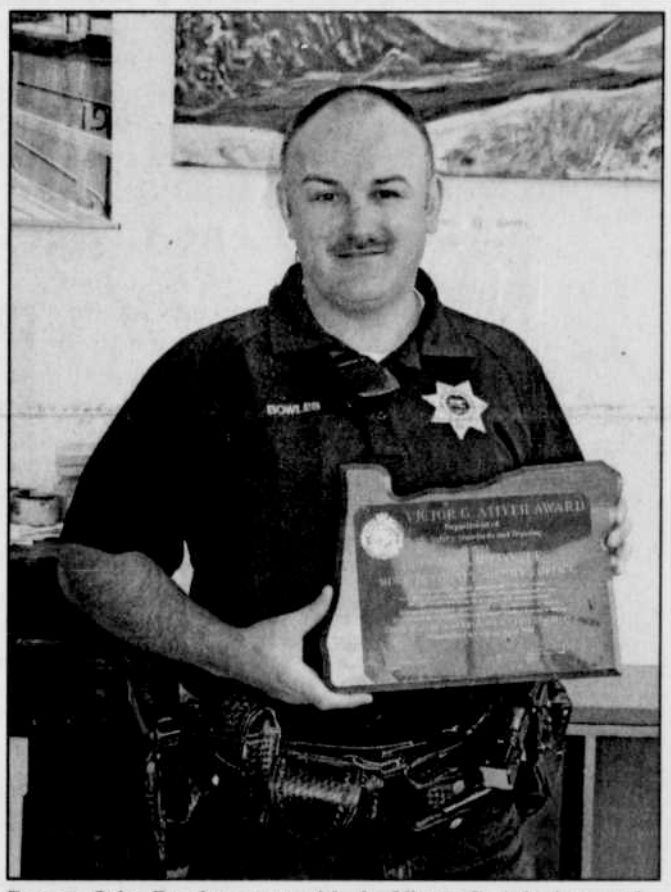
Morrow County deputy receives award

John Bowles, a Morrow County Sheriff's deputy, received the prestigious Victor G. Atiyeh Award at a recent training in Salem. The award from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training is the highest given in the academy, and is based on academics and leadership skills. This is the first time an officer from Morrow County has received the award.

"To bring it back to Morrow County was pretty cool," said 38-year-old Bowles.

Bowles was raised in Banks, OR and moved to Beaverton after high school. He worked there for a construction company before he and his family moved to Morrow County in 2001. Bowles started with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office in February of 2002, and Sheriff Ken Matlack now calls him a "seasoned officer." Bowles has 1400 hours of law enforcement training, including 160 hours of special parole and probation training.

Bowles' wife, Kristen, works as a dispatcher for the sheriff's office. The couple has three children, two of whom attend Heppner High School and one HHS graduate who now lives in Arizona.



Deputy John Bowles poses with the Victor G. Atiyeh award, which he received during a recent parole and probation training in Salem. *-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Bowles received the Atiyeh award during a five-week training to become a Morrow County parole and probations officer. His completion of the training makes Bowles one of the few officers in the state dual-certified as both a deputy and a parole and probations officer.

Bowles' certification also enabled Morrow County to begin its own parole and probations program in September of 2010. The program was previously handled by Umatilla County, which meant that

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Heppner civics club makes memories in Salem

Twenty-four students in the Heppner High School civics club took a memorable trip to the State Capitol recently. The purpose of the trip, which was led by teacher John Flaherty, was to better understand the government and take a closer look at how the legislative and judicial systems work together.

Attending the trip were Heppner students Joe Armato, Donald Matthews, Jordan Wright, Jacob Moore, Bryce Fowler, Earl Propheter, Alex Smith, Conner Pappas, Justin Bailey, Haley Struckmeier, Lacey Davidson, Kelsi Putnam, Hanna Koekler, Gabby Sanchez and Daisy Victorio. Also on the trip were exchange students Joakim Moen, Axel Lofgren, Simen Rostad, Louise Torell, Marie Broeckling, Frida Larsson, Bente Christen, Karoline Sundklakk and Anne Gokesch. Flaherty and Tracy Bunch chaperoned.

The students and their chaperones started out with a trip to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on April 20, which the kids said was "just for fun." The real business of the trip started on April 21 when the club members met up with Rep. Greg Smith at the Capitol Building in Salem

Smith joined the kids in the House Chamber and explained the process that occurs during floor sessions. He then took them on a tour of the State Supreme Court, where they met Chief Justice Paul De Muniz. They also had a chance to meet co-speakers of the House, Hanna and Roblan, and Attorney General John Kroger. They then went back to the House Chamber to attend a floor session. The day was capped off with a tour of the Capitol and a brief meeting with Senator David Nelson before heading back to Heppner.

HHS student Haley Struckmeier, who is interested in a career in political science, said her favorite part was talking with Chief Justice Muniz, though the whole experience was inspiring.

Jordan Wright said he was impressed when he watched Representative Smith present a bill dealing with self defense against wolves. The bill, like most of the other bills on the floor during that session, passed.

Other highlights included their visit with Attorney General Kroger, who talked about presenting a case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Though they didn't get to visit with the governor, the kids did say they caught a glimpse of Kitzhaber in cowboy boots and jeans.

The nine foreign exchange students were all interested in seeing American politics in action.

"It was really interesting to see how your government works," said exchange student Louise Torell, who is from Sweden.

Though not all of the civics club members want to go into politics, they all share a desire to know more about government processes. They agreed that the experience in Salem was both informative and fun, thanks to Rep. Smith. They were also unanimous that it gave them a much better grasp of their state government.

"It was a really good experience to get kids to better understand the government," said Struckmeier.

The 24 members of the HHS civics club wave from in front of the Capitol Building in Salem. *-Contributed photo*

Rebecca Jepsen crowned outstanding teen

Seventeen-year-old Rebecca Jepsen, a junior at Ione High School, was crowned as the new Miss Three Rivers Outstanding Teen in Oregon City on Saturday, April 16. The Outstanding Teen Competition, for girls ages 13-17, is the "little sister" of the Miss Oregon/Miss America Competition. The Three Rivers contest is an open competition for girls who don't have a pageant in their own city or county.

The teens were scored based on their talent (35%), interview skills (30%), evening gown/on stage question (20%), a fitness routine (10%) and scholastic achievement (5%). Rebecca played harp for her talent, performing her own pop/classical arrangement of "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" and "Piece Symphonique." Her community service platform is "4-H – Empowering Youth to Reach Their Full Potential."

Rebecca will now advance to the state level of competition, which will culminate in a Miss Oregon Outstanding Teen being selected on July 1 at the Seaside Convention Center. She earned $750 in funding/scholarships from the Three Rivers

Rebecca Jepsen *-Contributed photo*

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Fulleton selected as 2011 Grand Marshal

Roice R. Fulleton of Heppner has been chosen as the Grand Marshal for the 2011 Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo.

Fulleton and his wife, Betty, moved to Heppner in 1952, when they bought the Chevrolet dealership from Gene Ferguson. They later bought a ranch south of Heppner, where they raised their three daughters, registered quarter horses and wheat.

Fulleton was a member and officer of the Wrangler's Riding Club for many years. He participated in calf roping and team roping in Heppner and the surrounding area, and won the Morrow County Calf Roping saddle in 1959. He also spent countless hours helping with the Morrow

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Roice Fulleton *-Contributed photo*

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