

Free brunch at Walk MS

Walkers are invited to a free brunch to be served at Walk MS planned in Heppner on Saturday, April 20. Walk MS participants will be served a delicious breakfast consisting of breakfast egg casseroles, french toast casseroles, muffins, rolls, fruit, juice, milk, coffee and tea following the walk," said brunch organizer April Sykes.

Registration for the walk may be done on line or the morning of the walk

starting at 9 a.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Heppner, 460 N. Gale St. The walk begins at 10 a.m. Following the walk, everyone is invited back to the church for the free breakfast.

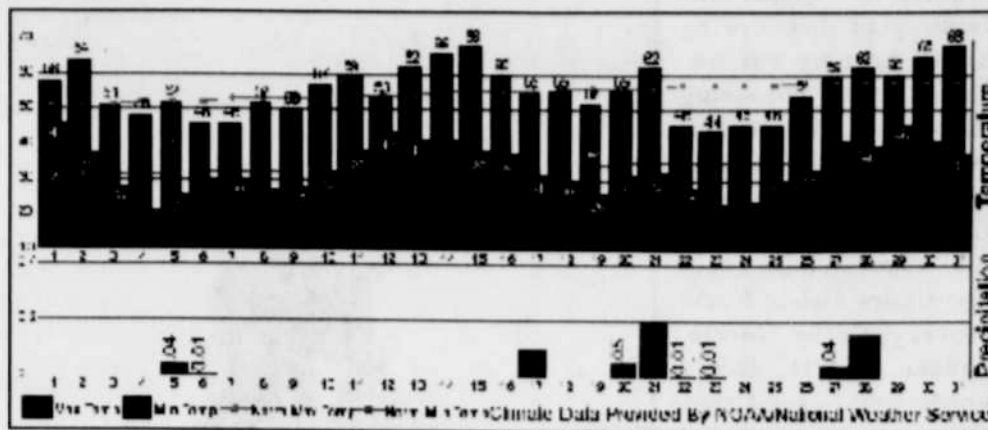
Breakfast casseroles are still needed, so anyone who would like to make a casserole or donate breakfast items for the walk would be very much appreciated, said Sykes. To donate a casserole or other items,

call her at 541-980-4643, or email her at hiltsonsykes@hotmail.com.

Because of health department regulations, casseroles must be made on site at the church the evening prior to the walk. The church will be open from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, April 19, for that purpose.

For more information about the walk, contact co-chairs Merilee McDowell, 541-571-5853m or Barb Orwick, 541-256-0455.

Near normal temps reported for March



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton Oregon, temperatures at Heppner averaged near normal during the month of March.

The average temperature was 44.5 degrees which was 0.3 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 55.5 degrees, which was 0.6 degrees above normal. The highest was 68 degrees on the 15th. Low temperatures averaged 33.4 degrees, which was 0.1 degrees below normal. The lowest was 21 degrees, on the 4th.

There were 15 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.62 inches during March, which was 0.90 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 9 days with the heaviest, 0.20 inches reported on the 21st.

Precipitation this year has reached 0.84 inches, which is 3.27 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 4.91 inches, which is 3.26 inches below normal.

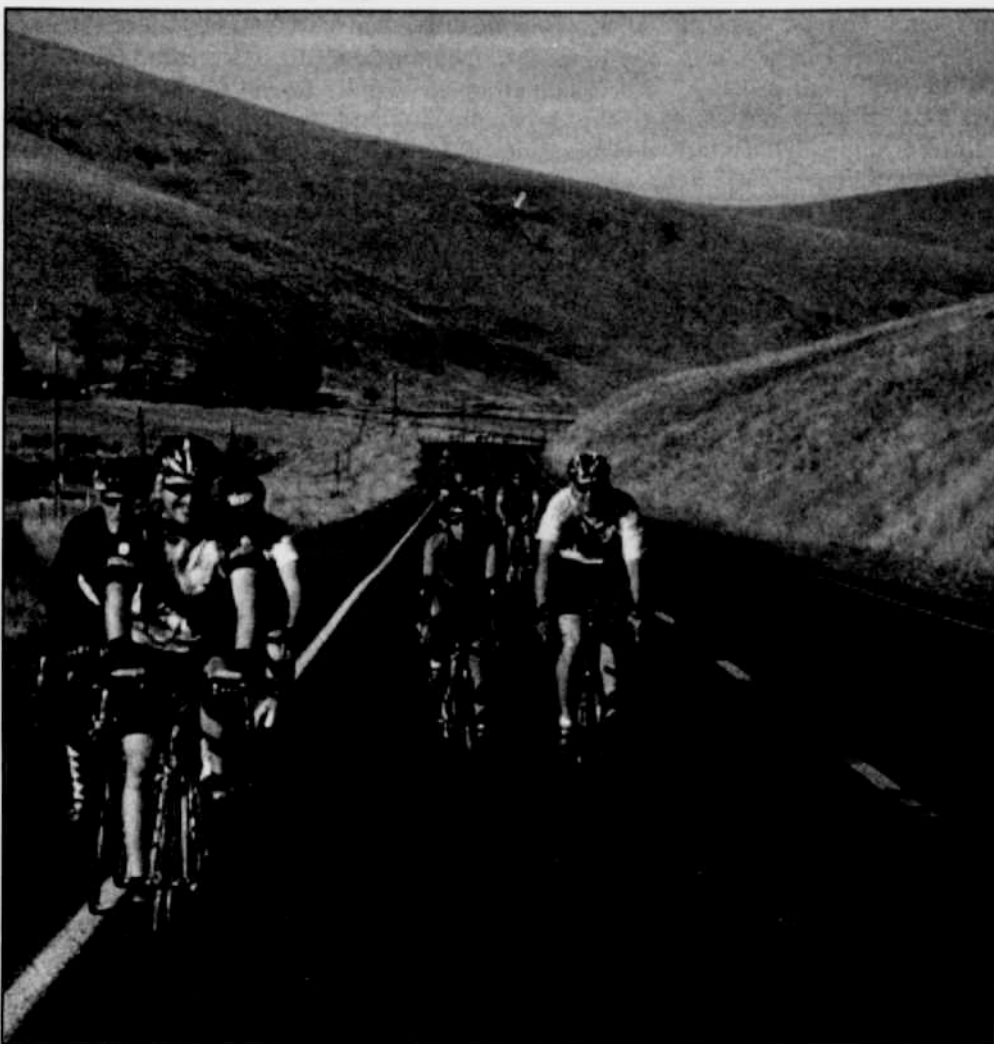
The highest wind gust was 40 mph which occurred

on the 20th.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 59.0 degrees at the start of April to 64.0 degrees at the end of April. Normal lows rise from 36.0 degrees to 40.0 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.51 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

TREO bike tours will help boost local economy



Riding just outside the tiny town of Heppner. (Photo © J. Maus/BikePortland)

A 300 acre ranch located near a ghost town about 190 miles east of Portland is the latest sign that bicycle tourism is poised to deliver a jolt to Oregon's rural economies.

Phil and Kathy Carlson founded Treo Ranches as a bird hunting destination in 1987. Since then they've built a strong business, but now they've realized there's another market worth shooting for: city slickers on bikes. A press release about Treo Bike Tours' new, all-inclusive group cycling retreat packages states that the ranch, "is reinventing itself as a vacation destination for urban cyclists who want to experience the Old West by

bicycle — and maybe even shoot few rounds while they're at it."

The packages start at \$225 per person per night and the price includes everything: Treo will feed you three meals a day, put you up in their 3,200 square foot guest house (which boasts a hot tub, beer on tap, a pool table, and more), and even offer full ride support when you're out on the roads (including a mid-ride picnic lunch!). Speaking of roads, the riding around Heppner (pop. 1,291) is fantastic and relatively auto-free. Treo also has bike route maps and suggested itineraries at the ready. The Carlsons are taking reservations now for the first dates in May. Check

out TreoBikeTours.com for more info.

Treo Bike Tours is an exciting development for bicycle tourism in Oregon. Since the first Oregon Bicycle Tourism Summit (now known as the Oregon Active Transportation Summit) back in April 2006 to its prominent role at the National Bike Summit, bicycle tourism in Oregon has gone from an idea pushed by activists to a full-fledged industry with government backing in a relatively short time. Collaboration between Travel Oregon, grassroots advocates, the State of Oregon, and jurisdictions throughout the state have created a socio-political infrastructure that holds vast potential.

Story courtesy of Bike Portland.org

Meeting set

Willow Creek Park District will hold a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday April 9 at 6 p.m. Heritage Land Co. office, at 278 N Main Street, Heppner.

Last call for Oregon farmers to support local school districts through second annual America's Farmers Grow Rural Education

The deadline is fast approaching for local school districts to compete for a grant of up to \$25,000 through America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The more farmers who nominate a school district, the more it demonstrates community support and strengthens the school district's application. Oregon schools will be eligible to receive up to \$45,000 in funding this year, and nominations will be accepted until April 15. School administrators have until April 30 to submit their applications. This year, the program expands to 26 new counties, for a total of 1,271 eligible counties across 39 states.

"We are dedicated to improving education in our farming communities," said Deborah Patterson, Monsanto Fund president. "Working together with farmers and rural school districts, we are providing resources necessary to accelerate math and science learning — inspiring the students of today to become the leaders and innovators of tomorrow."

Grow Rural Education grants will be awarded based on merit, need and community support. The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Advisory Council, a group of 30 agricultural leaders from across the country, will review and select the winning grant ap-

plications. Advisory Council members were selected based on their passion for farming and education, as well as experience in rural school districts.

Eligible farmers can nominate their favorite public school district by visiting www.GrowRuralEducation.com and following the "Nominate Now" link on the top, left-hand corner of the page. Farmers may also nominate a school district by calling 1-877-267-3332. School administrators are encouraged to use the website as well, which is equipped with tools to answer specific questions about the program, assists with the application writing process and offers personalized assistance.

In 2012, Vale School District received \$10,000 to expand its science laboratory.

"We were extremely excited about Grow Rural Education from the start," said Karen Nunn, Vale School District business manager. "Our chemistry courses are very popular, but the room is aging and too small to accommodate large class sizes. Now, we can bring everything up to date with safety standards and make the whole area more usable for students."

The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program is part of a broad commitment by the Monsanto Fund to partner with farmers to strengthen rural

communities. Following a successful pilot in Minnesota and Illinois, America's Farmers Grow Rural Education debuted nationally last year, awarding \$2.3 million to school districts coast to coast. Another program that is part of this effort is America's Farmers Grow Communities, which gives winning farmers the opportunity to direct a \$2,500 donation to a community nonprofit organization in their county.

For more information about the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program and to view the official rules, visit www.GrowRuralEducation.com. A list of eligible states, counties and CRD's can also be found on the site.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

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-Heppner Fire Department responded to a call of a woman who was disoriented in Heppner. She was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

-Ione Fire Department received a report of a controlled burn that had caught a tree on fire. The caller said his hose could not reach it.

March 22: MCSO received a report of silver Kia SUV all over the road and across both lines. Reported driver can't keep a steady speed. Three subjects in vehicle. The call was referred to another agency.

-MCSO received a report of suspicious circumstances in Lexington. Caller witnessed two males jump over the fence from his property and hide near where the neighbor keeps his donkey. Subjects were wearing dark clothes. Caller reported they had left and contact was no longer needed.

-Boardman Ambulance received report of a 20-year-old woman who was 26 weeks pregnant who had tripped over her cat. She reported that she was having chest pains, shortness of breath and stomach pains. She was transported.

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IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT PROM FLOWERS!

Prom Dates:
Ione - April 13
Heppner - April 20

DON'T FORGET..... ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY IS APRIL 24TH

DRINK SPECIALS
VANILLA MOCHA \$3.50
VANILLA ITALIAN SODA \$2.25

CHECK OUT OUR DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS
THURSDAY (4th)- Sweet & Sour Meatballs w/rice
FRIDAY(5th)- Clam Chowder w/ Bread Bowl
MONDAY (8th)- Navy Bean Soup w/ 1/2 Ham Sandwich
TUESDAY (9th)- Polish Dog & Sauerkraut
WEDNESDAY (10th)- Lasagna w/ Garlic Bread
THURSDAY (11th)- Beefy Steak Noodle Soup
FRIDAY(12th)- Grilled Pastrami Garden Sandwich on Rye

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