

Crops dying in Oregon

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP) — The Bureau of Reclamation has threatened to call in federal marshals to stop farmers from prying open government-controlled headgates that block the flow of water to their parched fields.

More than 240,000 acres of ranches and farms normally rely on water from a federal irrigation project in southern Oregon's Klamath Basin. But this year, faced with drought and concerns for endangered fish, the government cut the flow to the irrigation canals by about 90 percent.

The farmers and ranchers who had counted on the water say the reduction has forced them to sell off cattle and let pastures turn brown.

In the past week, angry groups have wrenched open the headgates three times. The Bureau of Reclamation closed them each time, citing the Endangered Species Act, which prohibits federal agencies from doing anything to jeopardize the survival of protected species.

"It's time to step up to the plate," said farmer and businessman Paul Arritola, who said he has lost \$200,000 because of dried-up pasture.

Arritola and 75 others crowded into a meeting of the Klamath

County Commission on Thursday seeking protection for those who engage in nonviolent civil disobedience against the federal government over the Klamath Project.

"We're saying our ranches are dying and we intend to do something about it. If we do end up in some civil disobedience, we expect you to be on our side," Arritola said.

The supporters brought a petition with 2,000 signatures, but the commission rejected the idea.

Commissioner Al Switzer said efforts elsewhere to assert county authority over the federal government have been struck down by federal courts.

"I know what you're going through," said Switzer, whose farm also depends on the Klamath Project. "We didn't get anyone hurt this time, but they vandalized government property. I don't think that is the message you want to send."

Commissioners said they were meeting with Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Gov. John Kitzhaber about how to alleviate the landowners' plight.

An attempt to sue in federal court to immediately restore the irrigation flow failed.

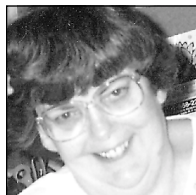
Pain from loss of friend is slowly easing

First off, I want to thank the sweet people who have sent thoughtful cards to Roger and me. We still miss those brown eyes, always looking for treats, but I haven't called Allie "Keturah" for several days. I will probably always call our granddaughter, Corinne, by Keturah's name, but she has gotten used to it — even her mother does it once in a while.

Judy Dunlap says her mother-in-law, Dale Dunlap of Clovis, N.M., had a great 80th birthday. Her three sons showed up and built her a fence, and she received 32 cards from this area. So, we are happy we were able to add to this nice lady's special day.

Harvest is in full swing, seems like almost overnight. Most yields are good, and when Inace and I went to Colby Wednesday afternoon, we couldn't help but notice how pretty the wheat is. The 4th of July should be on the tail end of this year's harvest. When harvest is over, it will be safe to say, "I sure hope it rains again."

On Wednesday the 27th, we had a very nice "potluck," and especially enjoyed having Sandy Parker of Oakley join us. She is Inace's daughter-in-law. On Thursday morning, Sandy called Inace and told her that her sister, Patsy Baalman of Colby, had a



sally michael

• brewster beacon

heart attack and died on Wednesday night.

Patsy and her husband Danny have run Golden Plains Garden Center for several years. We send condolences to Sandy and Merle and the rest of Patsy's family, especially Dan.

I've been helping Inace get out the notice of the Levant Reunion, which will be held Sunday, August 5 at the Ramada Inn in Colby from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. If you don't get a notice, and you should, mark your calendar. This gathering of Levant School Alumni is open to all those that have a connection to this school. It will be a good time to reminisce and catch up on old friends.

We have read where former Brewster graduate Brian Horney is one of Kansas' newest Highway Patrolmen. Word has it that he and his family may be moving to Brewster, and we hope his family will be made to feel welcome. Brian is the son of Dennis Horney and grandson of Irene Robison.

Went to the clinic today, as something has made my arm break out with an ugly rash. One of the suggestions was allergic to wheat dust, and we live about a block from the elevator. I hope that turns out to be the wrong diagnosis or else it might be long harvest. It's funny how our systems can change, and it probably doesn't happen as quickly as it seems.

We are hoping to spend a day or so in Hays this week so we will be able to visit the three kids and families we didn't get to see over Father's Day. The word about our youngest grandson sounds good. It doesn't look like he

will need heart surgery for a few years. Prayer has been answered, believe me!

George Luckert observed his 82nd birthday and is getting along very well after the knee replacement surgery he had earlier this month. Ruth Jones has been showing improvement with each day also, and I'm not sure which one will head back to have their second knee surgery. I don't think they will have a foot race to get it done, but I think they are both glad they had the first.

Hope all of you have had a safe and happy 4th of July.

See you all next time, and I hope you will bring your news items into the Center or call 694-2645. Don't forget the Levant Reunion on Aug 5 at the Ramada.



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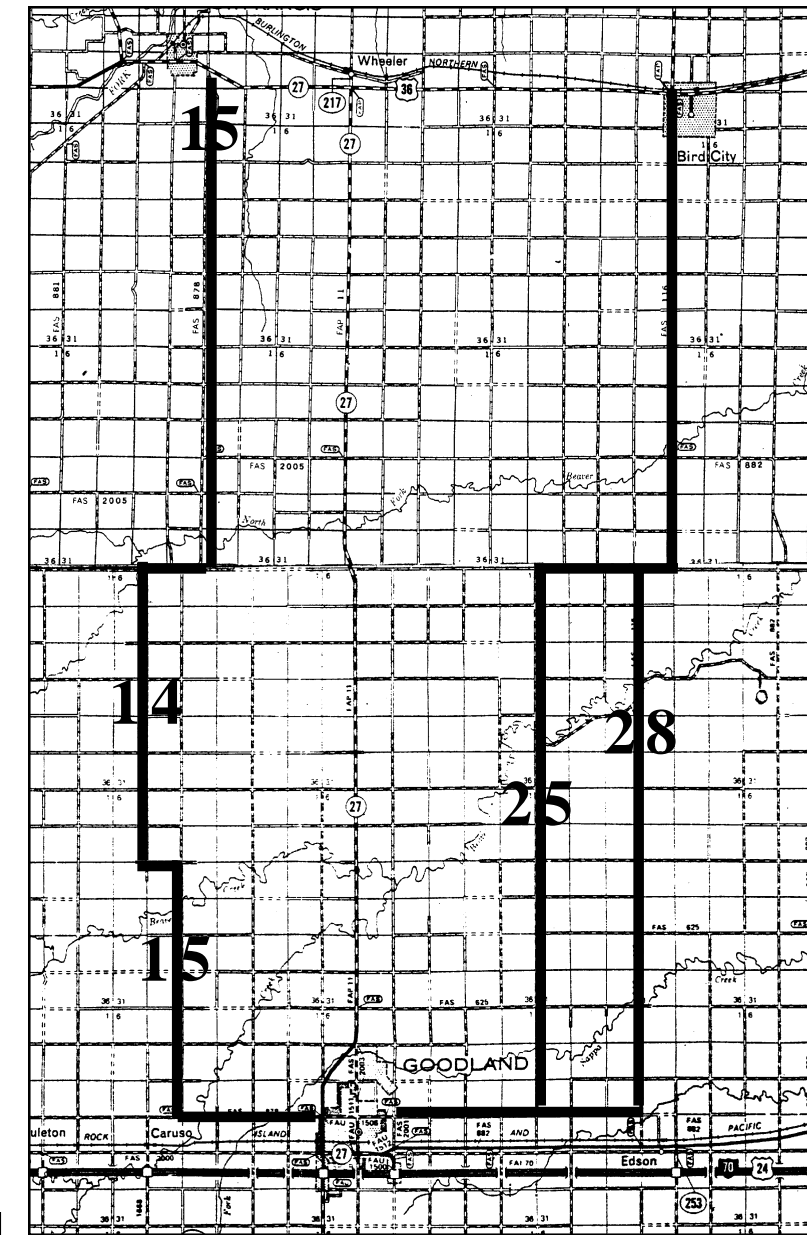
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