

from Belle Mead, NJ. Katherine already holds her own patent and helped her Science Bowl team from Montgomery High School perform well in the National Science Bowl competition in April. She plans to study aerospace engineering and hopes to work for NASA someday. I am proud to know that Katherine represents the future face of science.

I hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in extending our congratulations to the United States Physics Team and wish them well as they travel and compete in the International Physics Olympiad this summer.

On this day as we celebrate the scientific achievements of our students, I would like to direct the attention of my colleagues to a statement endorsed by national science, math, and education societies.

STATEMENT TO CONGRESS FROM THE UNDERSIGNED SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES REPRESENTING MORE THAN HALF A MILLION PEOPLE

This year, when Congress considers the future of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the undersigned societies wish to emphasize the following: science and engineering drive our economy, extend our lives, ensure our security, and preserve our environment. Congress can help secure our nation's future by investing today in tomorrow's scientists, engineering and mathematicians. A key component of this investment is the continued federal support of our nation's science and math educators. We urge Congress to continue to support program which benefit K-12 science and math education, particularly professional development programs for teachers.

The American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Institute of Physics, the American Astronomical Society, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Geological Institute, the American Chemical Society, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHEELER COUNTY, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of Wheeler County, Oregon. Wheeler County was formed by the Oregon Legislature in 1899 from parts of Grant, Gilliam, and Wasco Counties. Grant and Gilliam Counties had been carved earlier from the great Wasco County, which had a vast geographic range extending from the Cascades to the Rocky Mountains.

The Centennial Celebration, taking place over three weekends this year, honors the people and places of this very special county, one of the smallest in Oregon. Wheeler County was named for Henry H. Wheeler, who operated the first mail stage line from what is now The Dalles to the gold fields of Canyon City, Oregon. Wheeler survived gunshot by outlaws and his racing stagecoach endured experiences straight out of the Wild West. The new county consisted of 1,656 square miles and it is as uneven and rugged as any Oregon county.

Located 60 miles from the Columbia River, Wheeler County's land varies from high timbered mountains to deep river canyons. The county is sparsely populated with less than one person per square mile. Official state and federal designations by some agencies still list the county to this day as "frontier."

The John Day River winds through the entire county, taking in stretches of up to 70 miles between public roads. The John Day is the longest free-flowing river in the continental United States, and the only Pacific Northwest river to continue to have only indigenous salmon. The river winds past spectacular rock palisades, miles-long cattle ranches and a remote countryside largely untouched by time.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 100 years, Wheeler County's economic base has been and continues to be agriculture. At the turn of this century, great herds of sheep covered the hillsides. Their wool was shipped worldwide from Shaniko, a bustling railway shipping port earlier this century, located just 40 miles away. Over this century, sheep eventually gave way to cattle, and some of the West's most prestigious cattle ranches exist here, most notably those from secluded Twickenham Valley in the heart of the county.

Timber has also been a mainstay of the county over the past century. Towering ponderosa pines have provided livelihoods for all aspects of the timber industry, especially from the 1920s to the 1970s. The pungent scents of pine, spruce and juniper are the very essence of the county, bringing memories of home to those who are away.

Portions of the Umatilla and Ochoco National Forests lie within Wheeler County, and they along with Bureau of Land Management lands, encompass nearly one third of the county. Wheeler County, however, is best known for its remarkable depositories of prehistoric rock fossils—the largest such deposits on the North American continent and the only place on this planet where 53 million years of fossilized history is visible to the eye in layer upon layer of rock strata. Scientists come from all over the world to study these fossils, which include prehistoric creatures such as miniature horses, saber-toothed tigers and long extinct bear-dogs.

The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument has three units located in Wheeler County. The Clarno unit features rock palisades and hiking trails among its petrified mudslides. The main unit at Sheep Rock Mountain features a visitors center showing the many fossilized creatures and plants found in the region. The Painted Hills are a colorful badlands of softly sculpted mountains ringed in gold, red, pink, green and blue.

The picturesque town of Fossil is the county seat. Its courthouse is one of only two original courthouses in Oregon that is still operating. Its artifacts are intact and the juryroom is still home to a pot-bellied iron stove. Fossil has the only free fossil-digging beds in North America, and delicate ferns, leaves and seeds embedded in rock literally lay on the ground for picking up.

Mr. Speaker, no description of Wheeler County is complete without mention of the people. Crime is nearly non-existent in Wheeler County's small communities. Children walk to school safely and learn in classrooms

where less than a dozen students work one-on-one with teachers. This is the kind of place where everyone knows everyone, newcomers are made welcome, and the news of what you did on any day gets home before you do.

Many of the county's residents are direct descendants of homesteading families here and some of the original ranches are now operated by fourth generations. Some recall grandparents who came across the Oregon Trail. Hardworking ranchers, loggers, timber truck drivers and businesspersons, the people of Wheeler County attest to a century of steadfast determination and self-reliance in a rugged part of Oregon.

Today's local leaders look to tourism, light industry and telecommunications as the keys to a bright economic future. The people of Wheeler County have a past to be proud of, and a future that continues to unfold opportunities. The pull of the future is only as good as the past that empowers it, and in Wheeler County a fine and solid history lays a well-lit path for the future.

In closing Mr. Speaker, Wheeler County embodies the traditions and the character of the west as much as any county I represent and I am proud to be able to serve all the citizens of Wheeler County and the entire Second Congressional District in the House of Representatives. Happy 100th birthday Wheeler County.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings on issues relating to the High-Technology National Summit.

SH-216

JUNE 15

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To continue hearings on issues relating to the High-Technology National Summit.

SH-216