

## Engagements



### Hall — Brown

David E. and Nancy E. Hall of State College, PA, announce the engagement of their daughter, Jodi Lynn, to George Robert Brown, son of George A. and F. Colleen Brown of Dauphin, PA. Jodi is the granddaughter of Gene and Harriet Hall of Heppner.

The bride-elect is a 1991 graduate of State College Area High School and is currently a junior in agricultural education at Penn State. She works as the student supervisor in the College of Agricultural Sciences computer laboratory.

Brown is a 1991 graduate of Central Dauphin East High School and is a junior in administration of justice at Penn State. He works as a supervisor of records with the student auxiliary of the Penn State Police Services.

A June 11, wedding is planned.

## Off the Wall By Merlyn Robinson

Efforts to keep Kinzua operating are on the wrong track. Front page headlines should read "Mill Closure Threatens Owl Habitat". As creatures seem to be more important than humans these days, it's time to get the "animal rights" people involved.

It doesn't matter that it was a horned owl that caused head wounds to a security guard at the mill. It should be no problem to get one more bird on the endangered species listing, even one minus spots. If this owl prefers his timber domain neatly stacked, let's keep those logs rolling in. It's about time that an owl aided timber workers.

This story isn't a figment of my imagination. This man was taken to the emergency room of the hospital to staunch the flow of blood from talon wounds. Probably he at first thought he was being attacked by an unidentified flying object while keeping the darkened log yard under surveillance. Afterward I can imagine that his friends are having a heyday razzing him about being a meathead.

Seriously the mill situation is a precarious time for workers involved and the subsequent impact on the area. But blown out of proportion is the idea that south Morrow County towns will no longer exist if the mill is shut down. It's time to give some positive vibes about these small towns that have been in existence before the turn of the century.

Before there was a rail line, modern roads and transportation, there were grocery and hardware stores, doctors, schools, churches and other amenities. Society is more mobile now and grain and cattle are mostly trucked from this area. But think of having to run to Herndon or Pendleton for a few nails, a vehicle part, a haircut or a jug of milk. People here need these services. Dollars spent elsewhere for things that can be bought locally undercut the local economy.

However Willow Creek towns have survived catastrophic fires and floods. Fortunately we don't have earthquakes or tornadoes and enjoy a moderate climate. Years ago when the mill's plywood plant closed it took away many jobs. Merchants were also affected when the Conservation Reserve Program ended some farm labor jobs about 10 years ago. And property values dropped when publicity about the Willow Creek Dam's safety was exaggerated.

Bad news is reported and sensationalized over and over as rumors and innuendos persist. Good news is quietly noted and forgotten, it seems. Closing the mill would be difficult for many families. But some workers may choose to commute to new jobs. One aspect is that some retired people are choosing to move to less stressful rural areas.

Job losses in an area also affect taxation, health services and schools that are stretching limited operating dollars. Increasing state and federal mandates put expensive operating costs on land users making it more difficult for farmers and ranchers to survive. However people here usually find a way to cope and we don't see homeless people living in cardboard boxes.

Perhaps we need to turn some ranch homes into guest houses for those that want to turn the west into a playground. Former loggers could become tour guides to view the deer and owls that flutter about. And idle land could become government property to escape taxation. Realistically, our way of life means we've got to hang in there and hopefully pull together.

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No gifts please

## Melissa Cutsforth sets new record



Melissa Cutsforth set a new school record in the discus

The Heppner Ponies held their first track meet of the season at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton on Friday, April 8. This was an all-league meet.

Melissa Cutsforth set a new school record in the discus for first place with a toss of 73'4". The old record was 72'7" set by Lori Moeller last year. Cutsforth placed second in the shot at 26'9".

Other finishers were: Andy Sykes, third in the shot 35'2", fourth in the softball 179'9" and sixth in the discus 85'7".

Jill Barber placed second in the 200 dash 30.25; sixth in the 100m 14.59; fourth in the long jump 13'4" and first in the medley relay 3:28.

Annie Hisler took a first in the 100m hurdles 19.0 and the medley relay, and second in the 400m.

Mindy Binschus placed third in the discus 66'2", fourth in the

shot 24' and fifth in the 4x100 relay 1:03.

Janelle Healy placed fifth in the softball 130'8".

Katie Nichols placed fifth in the 4x100 relay, and first in the medley relay.

Julie Watkins placed sixth in the 400m dash, 1:16.

Brooke Boyer took fifth in the 1500m and first in the medley relay.

Jessica VanWinkle and Jaclynn Hughes were both a part of the fifth place 4x100 relay.

Tyson Palmateer placed third in the high jump and softball throw, fourth in the 100m and sixth in the 100m hurdles.

Brian Knowles placed sixth in the 4x100 relay and fifth in the 100m hurdles.

Tim Dickenson finished first in the 1500m and fifth in the 800m. Casey Evans and Danny Coiner were the rest of the 4x100 relay sixth place.

## Gilmans to celebrate 50th



A reception honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Mary Eleanor and Dean Gilman will be held Saturday, April 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church parish hall in Heppner.

The Gilmans were married April 10, 1944 in Lewiston, ID. Both the Gilmans grew up in the area and graduated from Heppner High School. Mary Eleanor worked 42 years at First Interstate Bank and was bank manager before her retirement. Dean Gilman was in law enforcement for 37 years serving as Heppner's police chief for 32 years. He also spent two years in the Marines during World War II.

After a lifetime of serving the public, they now spend their retirement years by traveling during the winter months. This couple also enjoys golf and attending to their yard and home at Fairview Way during summers.

A special person at the reception will be Mary Eleanor's mother, Beulah Florence, 86. Florence and her husband Norman, now deceased, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1965.

Mary Eleanor grew up on her parents' upper Willow Creek farm that remained in the Florence family for 110 years. Dean Gilman is also the son of a pioneering family, Walter and Viola Gilman.

The reception is hosted by relatives and close friends. The couple requests no gifts.

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## Burnside wins essay contest

Heppner High School language arts teacher Linda Dutcher has announced that Ethan Burnside has been selected as the first place regional winner in the Blazers/AVIA "Write-On" essay competition.

Dutcher said that over 48 thousand students participated in the contest.

Ethan submitted an essay on his future career as a computer programmer. He will receive a certificate and an AVIA bag.

Ethan, a junior at Heppner High School, is the son of Laura Burnside-McElligott and Tom McElligott, Heppner.



Ethan Burnside

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We at Les Schwab would greatly like to extend our thanks to the following people for their help in our recent in-store remodeling and would like to invite everyone to come take a look: Lankford/Eckman Construction; Roger Schoonover Electric; Tim Hedman, floor covering; O'Brien Const. countertop; Dave Allstott, counter; Roger Scharen, paint sprayer; Pettyjohn Building Supplies.

Thanks to all  
Jon, Jeff, Don, Jason and Marcy  
Your Sudden Service Team

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