

Chamber names citizens of the year

Kevin Erich was named man of the year and Merlyn Robinson, woman of the year, at the annual Chamber of Commerce Town and Country banquet held Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Heppner Elks club. Greg Grant was selected educator of the year and the Horseshoe Hereford Ranch, Inc., Ned and Kathy Clark and Don and Pat Anderson, business of the year, during the evening's festivities.

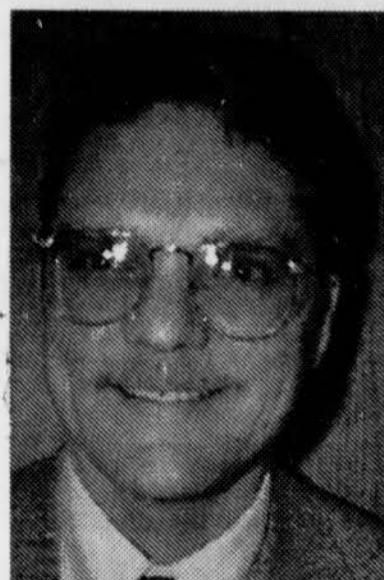
Board from 1979 to 1991. She now serves as co-chairman of the community booths and helps with the floral department.

Robinson has been honorary chapter farmer of the local FFA Chapter, member of the Livestock Grower's Association and recipient, along with her husband, of the Livestock Grower of the Year award and the Century Farm Plaque, member of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, the Heppner Wranglers Club, the CowBelles and Cattlewomen's Association, the Oregon Polled Hereford Association, the Columbia Empire Polled Association and the National American Hereford Association. She also belongs to the Hope Lutheran Church, the Heppner Garden Club and is a past noble grand of the Heppner Rebekahs.

Robinson rides almost daily to help with the cattle on the ranch and rides for fun with a group called the "Over the Hill Gang", which has ridden over much of the Blue Mountain range.

Robinson is a weekly columnist for the Gazette-Times newspaper and has written many articles, covering board meetings, bond levies and other political and human interest stories for the Gazette, the East Oregonian newspaper and the Agri-Times Journal. She also writes for the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. In addition, she is an accomplished seamstress and enjoys oil painting.

Robinson and her husband Don have three grown children, Kirk and Kyle, both Heppner, and Kyrnn Parham, Fresno, CA, and four grandchildren.



Kevin Erich

As a boy, Kevin Erich lived in Korea where his father was a physician at a mission hospital. Korean was his first language and, as a young boy, translated for his parents. He has traveled back and forth between the Far East and the U.S. many times.

Erich received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Pacific Union College in California and went on to receive a master's degree in business administration from Andrew's University in Michigan. On August 5, 1984, he not only graduated from Andrew's, but got married that evening.

Erich and his family moved to Heppner five years ago. He is employed as the Morrow County Health District and Pioneer Memorial Hospital administrator. "He has dealt with our county's 'changing of the guard' from a county medical board to a Morrow county Health District, and through it all has kept his cool," said outgoing Chamber of Commerce President John Edmundson. "He and his family are a real blessing to our community."

"Kevin gives freely of his time for community service," added

Edmundson. "From large jobs to small tasks, he is a willing and capable volunteer." Erich has served as Chamber of Commerce president. He is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has his own pilot's license and enjoys flying, snow skiing, water sports and music.

Erich and his wife, Sharla, and their two sons live in Heppner.



Greg Grant

Educator of the Year Greg Grant was born in LaGrande and grew up in Eastern Oregon. He graduated in Dec. of 1984 from Eastern Oregon State College and then began his teaching career in January of 1985 in Umatilla. He then taught at Alsea from 1985 to 1990 when he came to the Morrow County School District as a teacher and coach at Heppner High School and Junior High.

Grant has been involved in the newly-created Morrow County Unified Recreation District, which continued to provide co-curricular activities for all students in Morrow County when funding of those activities was cut from the Morrow County School District budget because of financial shortfalls. When pay-to-play was initiated for students involved in athletics, Grant searched out jobs for the students. Grant organized and accompanied students in rick-picking, rock picking and crick-cleaning crews as fund raisers.

This year Grant initiated the schools to career program, which matches students with employers in careers the students may be interested in after graduation. He also started the local Colt Football program for fifth and sixth graders and generated funds for equipment and uniforms.

In 1992, Grant coached the Heppner High School Mustangs to a state Football championship over Vale.

In the summers Grant works for the Forest Service on the fire crew. "His energy and enthusiasm can't help but be contagious to all who come in contact with him," said award presenter and colleague, Dave Gunderson.

Grant and his wife, Erika, live in Heppner.

Business of the year, the Horseshoe Hereford Ranch, Inc., Ned and Kathy Clark and Don and Patricia Anderson were selected because of their "cooperation with the rest of the community," said award presenter and Morrow County Extension agent Bill Broderick.

The Clarks and the Andersons are involved in 4-H, Chamber of Commerce, local bank board of directors and support youth and area schools. They are leaders in the livestock industry and were very involved in the defeat of Measure 38, said Broderick. In cooperation with the Forest Service, they have developed a "very positive and progressive" Allotment Management Plan. The Clarks and Andersons share an allotment. "Extremely good

cooperation has made it possible to achieve the riparian management goals of the permittees and the Forest Service," said Ned Clark. Tami Rietmann, who is the Anderson's daughter, and her husband, Mark, were selected by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for the first annual Environmental Stewardship Award.

Both the Clark and Anderson ranches are Century Farms, both have had allotments since the inception of the Forest Service and both families are descendants of Anson Wright. Pat Anderson's father was Raymond Wright, and Ned Clark's mother, Beth Clark, was the daughter of Walter Wright. Raymond and Walter were Anson's sons.

Don and Patricia Anderson are the owners of their family ranch, Mark Rietmann is the livestock manager and the Anderson's son, Brad, is the wheat farm manager. The Anderson's daughter Tami and her husband Mark were selected by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for the first annual Environmental Stewardship Award.

Ned and Kathy Clark's sons, Matt and James, are also involved in the operation.

Legion, Auxiliary plan potluck

The Heppner Area Legion and Auxiliary will start 1997 with a potluck dinner Monday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church basement.

State gift shop chairperson Elaine Stevens congratulated the unit on the "lovely" gifts sent to the Veterans Hospital Christmas gift shop.

Plans will be discussed for a food sale with proceeds to go to the veterans' home that is being constructed at The Dalles.

All veterans and their families are invited to attend the meeting.

Fair board plans hearings

The Morrow County Fair Board invites everyone to a series of public hearings on the proposed multi-purpose building to be constructed on the fairgrounds. The Fair Board has received permission and funding from the county budget committee to build a 100'x140' clearspan, open sided steel building. This would satisfy phase one of a two-phased project that would lead to a 100'x 220' sided building with a bleacher extension on one side, according to the board.

The building committee's first priority for this project is to replace and expand the existing livestock facilities which are badly in need of repair, said the board. There is much interest in providing a multipurpose building that could be used not only during fair, but throughout the year. The fair board would like to build not only to meet the present need, but plan for future needs also, they added.

Input from the community is desired by the board. Everyone is invited to participate in the development of the fairgrounds.

The hearing dates are as follows: lone Fire Hall-Tuesday, January 28, at 7 p.m.; Heppner Extension Office-Wednesday, January 29, at 7 p.m.; and Irrigon Annex-Thursday, January 30, at 7 p.m.

lone Booster Club plans fund raiser

The lone Booster Club met Thursday, January 9. Virgil Morgan, club president, reported on several upcoming money-makers. A gourmet food basket, donated by Bill Rietmann, was to be raffled. Members chose to raffle a shopping cart of groceries donated by Shop-n-Kart of Hermiston at the Wheeler home game.

The Booster Club will sponsor a steak feed Friday, January 31, which is the Condon game. The dinner will be from 4:30 p.m. and will include steak, a baked potato, salad and a roll. The salad and dressing will be prepared and donated by Betty Gray, owner of Beecher's Cafe. Cost for the dinner is \$6. Anyone available to help with the dinner may contact Laurel Cannon or Jeri McElligott.

Joe McElligott reported the redwood for the state championship sign is in and will be delivered to Harold Rietmann so he can begin the lettering.

The next Booster Club meeting will be a week earlier than usual because of the district tournament. The meeting will be Thursday, February 6, at 8 p.m. at Beecher's Cafe.

HEPPNER



Marks new Chamber president



Doris Brosnan (L) and Pam Wunderlich with Hats Off

A new Heppner Chamber of Commerce Board was installed during the annual Chamber Town and Country Luncheon held Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Heppner Elks Club.

Gary Marks, Heppner City administrator, was installed as chamber president. "I am convinced that most of the old-time families and the more recent newcomers all share a common thread," said Marks. "We are a tenacious people who are determined--in an ongoing sense--to make this community a better place to live."

Mike McGuire, Heppner Postmaster, was installed as first vice president. Second vice presidents are Bob Kahl, owner of Van Marter and Kahl Insurance in Heppner, Kevin Erich, Morrow County Health District and Pioneer Memorial Hospital administrator; Steve Yaw, owner of Yaw's Restaurant and Lounge; Cara Osmin, Heppner Elementary School teacher; Delanne Ferguson, Forest Service, Heppner District ranger, and Dan Brosnan, rancher and owner of Twice Upon a Time bookstore in Heppner. Mike Armato, district manager with Alliance Mortgage, was elected treasurer, and Sharon Harrison, Wells Fargo, secretary. Executive directors are Claudia Hughes, chamber manager and owner of Hughes Ranches, and Traci Dickenson and Josie Proctor, student representatives.

Outgoing president John Edmundson welcomed the group and Father Gerry Condon gave the

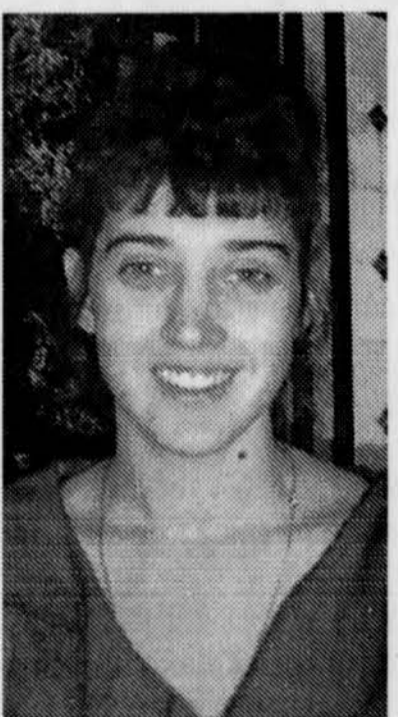
invocation. Chamber installation was by Rollie Marshall and Ron Daniels. Blue Mountain Community College president, gave the keynote address. Edmundson presented a lifetime



Gary Marks

achievement award to Daniels and Hughes presented the Hats Off award to Pam Wunderlich and Doris Brosnan. Hughes said that Wunderlich was honored for her "tireless work convincing Oregon to vote no on 38" and Brosnan for her "innovation in a new retail business (Twice Upon a Time bookstore), chairing the St. Patrick's auction and coming up with great off-the-wall promotional ideas that keep all of us jumping."

Floor covering store changes hands



Brandi Kroske

M&R Floor Covering in Heppner has a new operator. Brandi Kroske has leased the store from long-time owner Matt Hughes, effective Jan. 1.

Brandi, 23, from Redmond, has experience working at a floor covering store. Her husband,

Mickey, 26, has been a floor installer for around six years and has established MBK Floor and Tile Installation in Heppner. He installs carpet, vinyl and tile.

M&R has carpet, vinyl, tile and laminate and carpet cleaner available for sale at the store, which is located at 422 Linden Way in Heppner, next to Pettyjohns. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but their answering machine is always on at 676-9418. To reach them in the evening call 676-5434, which is also his work phone.

The couple are newcomers to the area, moving here in May, but his sister, Sandi Day, and his grandmother, Betty Green, both live in Heppner and his father lives in Irrigon.

The Kroskes were both born in Redmond and graduated from Redmond High School. They have a one-year-old daughter, Jeannie. Mickey has a six-year-old son, Kayleb, who lives in Redmond.

NEWS DEADLINE

Monday.....5 p.m.

All Insulated
WINTERWEAR 15% off

Subject to stock on hand. Sale ends Jan. 25

Morrow County Grain Growers

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