

HEPPNER

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### Ione youth group sponsors 'souper bowl of caring



Tracy Griffith and Amellia Peck dish up food in the kitchen at Blanchet House.



Jeff Hunt and Johnny Collin serve lunch at Blanchet House on a recent service trip.

By Jeri McElligott

For the third year Ione Youth Group is involving area churches in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" on Super Bowl Sunday. "The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national effort to glorify God and care for 'the least of these our brothers and sisters' by encouraging people to give at least one dollar as they leave worship on Sunday, Feb. 3," said a spokesperson. The money collected is then given to a charity.

Ione Youth Group chose to give collected money to the Blanchet House soup kitchen in Portland. Blanchet House, located on the corner of NW Glisan and 4th Avenue, houses 32 men in recovery or homeless, plus serves breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday and brunch every Sunday. All meals are free. Youth group members have been serving

lunch at Blanchet House on service trips since 1991.

To support those in need closer to home, the youth group is also collecting cans of soup (or dry soup mixes) on that Sunday. The food collected will be delivered to the Heppner Neighborhood Center for the needy of South Morrow County.

The youth group is wrapping up its collection of hygiene products for the Macdonald Center in Portland. Anyone with donations may leave them at area churches or at Ione High School.

"Ione Youth Group appreciates the generosity of the local communities in supporting these projects," said a group spokesperson.

**NEWS DEADLINE  
Monday, 5 p.m.**

### Benefit dinner, auction planned for Matheny

A benefit for the David Matheny family will be held on Saturday, February 16, at the Hermiston Community Center. Matheny, a local farmer, was injured Sept. 9 in a horseback riding accident.

A prime rib dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. with a social hour preceding the dinner at 5:30 p.m. The evening will include entertainment by Lindy Gravelle, a Heppner native who spent many years in Nashville as a singer and songwriter, now residing in Bend.

The auction will get underway at 7:30 p.m. with a silent auction and a bidding auction with Ford Bonney as auctioneer. Auction items include pheasant hunting packages; deer hunting packages; a vacation package to Steamboat Springs, Colorado; weekend golf packages and lodging; vacation packages, a limited edition Browning 7mm collector's rifle; Farm City Pro-Rodeo box seats; Pendleton Round-Up tickets; PBR tickets, furniture; a 100x black Stetson hat; and a Rich Boyer hand-tooled saddle.

Dinner tickets are available at \$25 each at Gardner's in Heppner, Morrow County Grain Growers in Heppner, RoeMark's and Wilcox Furniture in Hermiston and Milarky's and Loftus Jewelers in Pendleton.

Checks should be made payable to BPOE #358 Special Charitable Fund. Donations may be mailed to: Friends Helping Friends, P.O. Box 381, Lexington, OR 97839. All donations and proceeds from this event will help with the many projects underway to help bring Dave home.

For more information, contact Judy or Sonja at 1-800-452-7396 or 541-989-8221.

### Tree lights to come down

Heppner downtown tree lights may now be removed. The city left the lights on through the Town and Country festivities but the lights have now been turned off for economical reasons.

Volunteers are reminded that an extender hook is available for loan at the chamber office to assist in removal.

## First citizens honored at Town & Country Banquet

Steve Rhea of Heppner was selected the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year and June Crowell, Ione, was chosen woman of the year at the annual Town and Country Banquet held Thursday night at the Heppner Elks Club. Miller Manufacturing of Heppner, owned by Kevin and Candy Chick, was honored as Business of the Year. Heppner High School science teacher Steve Brownfield received the Educator of the Year award, John Edmondson, Heppner, the Lifetime Achievement award, and Julie Proctor, Heppner High School senior, the Student of the Year award.

Man of the Year Rhea was honored for his many contributions to the Heppner community. He has been a member of the Heppner Volunteer Fire Department since 1987 and has been instrumental in many fire and rescue operations. He is an active member of the Heppner United Methodist Church, serving as a trustee and singing in the choir. He has coached Little League, both Major League Baseball and Senior Softball, and Colt basketball. He has umpired numerous Little League games and has refereed many youth and alumni basketball games. He has also spent many hours working on the George Waterland Little League field.

Rhea has served in every office of the Heppner Lions and has coordinated and worked on the creek cleanup for many years. He is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and has gone through all the club's chairs over the years. He has been on the Heppner Ducks Unlimited committee since its inception 15 years ago and has been chairman of the DU banquet and fund-raiser for the past 13 years.

He has also worked in various capacities during the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo and Heppner St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Rhea was born and raised in Morrow County, graduating from Heppner High School in 1972. He attended OSU and received an associate's degree in liberal arts from Blue Mountain Community College. He is employed with VanMarter and Kahl Insurance in Heppner. He and his wife, Molly, have two children, Macy, who is attending college, and Trevor, who is a junior at Heppner High School.

Woman of the Year June Crowell was born and raised in the Heppner area. She married Howard Crowell and has lived ever since in the Ione area.

Crowell has worked in the banking field most of her life. "She became more than a manager at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, but became a friend to all," said presenter Dick Allen. "If any bank thought that they needed a training film on how employees should treat customers, June would be the star teacher."

Since retiring, Crowell has made over 100 quilts which have been given to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner, Walla Walla Veterans Hospital, The Dalles Veterans Hospital, the Domestic Violence Center in Pendleton and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. "June wanted to make sure that a beautiful quilt was given to any child who was removed from the home by Children's Service or the sheriff's office," said Allen. "If a fund raiser is happening, June is there to help, usually being the first to arrive and the last to leave," he added.

Crowell is a member of the Ione American Legion Auxiliary Unit 95, the Willows Grange, the Ione Topic Club, 4-H sewing and the Good Neighbors Committee. She is a lay reader, has been a Sunday school teacher and currently serves as the secretary-treasurer of the Altar Society at St. Williams Church in Ione.

Crowell has also been known to provide transportation to those in need of rides to the doctor or pharmacy.

Crowell and her husband have three children.

Business of the Year recipients, Kevin and Candy Chick of Miller Manufacturing, Heppner, purchased their business from Joe and BonnaRae Miller. According to presenter Bill Kuhn, the Millers took the Chicks "under their wing and taught them the business." "The two parties grew very close, with the old

owners mentoring the new," said Kuhn.

Miller Manufacturing now has five full-time employees occupying a site at the South Morrow Industrial Park at the former Kinzua Mill site. The business fabricates high quality bale forks and agricultural attachments, selling its products to sites as far away as Syracuse, New York and Lubbock Texas. It makes over 150 bale forks and 200 agricultural attachments a year and advertises with its own web site. "It has a reputation for quality work that is unexcelled," said Kuhn. "This business shows how local ideas from local residents can be started from scratch, bloom into successful business and then successfully undergo an ownership and generational change that allows the business to expand. This business is a local and unqualified success."

The Chick family also includes children Autum, Emily, Quinn and Eric.

John Edmondson, named winner of the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award, has been instrumental in numerous community service projects in the area.

Each year Edmondson "spruces up" the three "Welcome to Heppner" signs, sanding, repainting and varnishing, redoes the Volkswalk shamrocks painted on Heppner sidewalks as well as repainting the large green Shamrock in the intersection of Willow and Main. He is involved in hanging banners throughout the Main Street area, helps hanging the downtown tree lights during the Christmas season and helps decorate parade floats for the Chamber of Commerce of which he is past president. He also works with students and young people who have been assigned community service through the juvenile court system.

Edmondson is a past chair of the Morrow County Tourism Committee, a member of the Scenic Byway Coalition and the Heppner Coordinating Council. He spearheaded the Jail 'n Bail project during the Celebrate Heppner festivities to raise funds for the chamber. He even volunteered to act as "pooper scooper" doing "wheelbarrow and shovel drills and formations" in the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Parade. He is active in the Senior Center and his church.

"Both he and I have a mutual distaste," said presenter Cara Osmin. "That is seeing litter on our sidewalks, streets and roads. He has spurred people into adopting stretches of highway in and out of Heppner as well as Lexington, and I believe beyond."

"He has a terrific sense of finding balance and gaining understanding in situations that arise in our community," continued Osmin. "He is fair, sensitive and caring of our citizens and the community. When some people look at something that is needing to be done, fixed, sanded, hammered or what have you in the community and just complain, he always seems to look at those same situations as opportunities to volunteer his time and make Heppner a better place to live."

Citizen Educator of the Year Steve Brownfield has taught science at Heppner High School for almost 31 years. "His calm demeanor is so contagious that even the junior high students are quiet and calm in his classes."

Continued page 2



Steve Rhea



June Crowell



John Edmondson



Steve Brownfield



Julie Proctor



Kevin and Candy Chick

**10% OFF CALKINS PARTS and  
15% OFF ALL FLEETGUARD FILTERS**

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