

Local Elks Lodge members recognized



Exalter Ruler Marty Brannon (right) presents trustee, Ralph Walker with Elk of the Year certificate.

Ralph Walker of Heppner was named by the Grand Lodge of the Elks as Elk of the Year. Walker, who has been a trustee for 12 years was nominated for this award by Marty Brannon.

Walker has put many hours into helping the Elks accomplish numerous projects; most notably, helping bring about the installation of the new Elks elevator. Walker has also been a part of the

scholarship board. In 1997, Walker was recognized as Officer of the Year.

Also recognized from the local lodge, were Brannon as Officer of the Year; and Roger Mortimore and Tony Clement, for their Outstanding Service.

Each member recognized has put in many years of dedication and service to the Elks and all were instrumental with the elevator project.

Heppner Elks perform well in district competition

Colin Anderson, local Elks Lodge Esquire, brought home the first place plaque from the Oregon Elks N.E. District annual Ritual Contest held recently in Baker City.

"There are 10 lodges in the N.E. District and Heppner Officers performed very well," a local spokesman said. Local officers placing included Tom Wolff, Exalted

Ruler- fourth; Burke O'Brien, Leading Knight- fourth; Lindsay Kincaid, Lecturing Knight- fourth; and Craig Canham, Inner Guard- fourth.

The Ritual Contest, held each spring, requires strict memorization of the various Officer's scripts. Winning teams continue on through State and National competitions.

Local bunny breeders win awards at Yakima show



Kathy Tellechea (left) and Pam Renfro (right) pictured with American Rabbit Breeders Association judge Don Mathews (center) at Yakima, Washington on April 12.

Kathy Tellechea and Pam Renfro of KT's Bunny Barn in Lexington won Best of Breed with a Broken Blue Mini Rex doe and Best Opposite of Breed with a Blue Mini Rex buck. These rabbits were born and raised at KT'S Bunny Barn.

There were 125 Mini Rexes and over 800 rabbits at the Yakima Valley Rabbit Breeder Show. The next show they will attend will be in Monroe, WA, May 10.

Heppner Jr/Sr High School track renovation update

By Wade A. Smith, Principal

As many parents and community members are aware, we have been working hard over the last couple of months securing grant monies and in-kind support necessary to upgrade our track facility at the high school. Our plans include the complete renovation of our existing facility to include a professionally surfaced six-lane track, event approaches, site upgrades and a spectator viewing area. Not only will this new facility grant us the opportunity to host our own track meets, it will be a worthwhile addition for community and public use.

Over a month ago we mailed out an informational flyer and donor sheet asking willing individuals and businesses to pledge in-kind support. At best, we were hoping to come up with \$50,000 worth of in-kind assistance. Much to our excitement, we have received over \$80,000 in support. From 500 gallons of donated diesel from Lee Padberg, to a Mexican dinner provided for our laborers from Mary Anne Elguezabal, I appreciate everyone's generosity.

The grants we are applying for are matching grants that will provide us with the liquid assets necessary to pay for the asphaltting and surfacing of our new facility. Although we will not learn of our grant writing success until late June, we are confident that at least one of our attempts will turn out successful. Let's keep our fingers crossed until then.

If you haven't done so and would like to pledge your support to this project, please contact the high school at 676-9138.

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to the over one hundred families, individuals, and businesses that have helped bring us one step closer to our new facility.

Site council discusses reading and math

The Ione Site Council meet April 9 to discuss the completion of the SOS reading program training, high school math benchmarks, along with numerous other topics.

The final SOS Reading Program training session was held Friday, April 4, with Jennifer Pambrun and Judy Chesnut and all the material covered is available online. The website, created by Darlene Marquardt is current accessible at www.geocities.com/morrowcoteacher. The site was selected by the state S.O.S. Trainers to be the official S.O.S. webpage and the files will eventually be relocated to the Southern Oregon ESD web server.

Council members also discussed high school level math benchmarks. It was discussed that those students who are not meeting the benchmarks after the 10th grade should be encouraged to attend math classes in their junior and or senior year. Currently the school district requires two years of math, however, council members would like to see math classes encouraged to continue past this requirement for all students. Members felt that this should be discussed with parents at school conferences. It was also agreed upon by the council that on all future letters to parents regarding conference scheduling a hand written note to parents regarding their child's math benchmark status should be included.

Members of the council received copies of the Morrow County School District and Ione report cards. On Ione's card a box was available for adding "any local information you would like to see on the back". Debbie

Radie suggested that the OSAA Cup and the Dairy Farmers awards should be mentioned in that box, as well as, Ione School being the home of Wendy Heisman winners, geography bee participants, Elks scholarship recipients, athletes of the year, math contest winners, etc. Most of the marks were explained and discussed and it was recognized that attendance, as well as many other areas, continues to be above the state averages.

It was announced that a retirement party is planned for Marlene Pointer and Betty Rietmann in conjunction with the elementary program on the April 30. Members encouraged everyone to send cards and letters of appreciation to both teachers.

Billy Ross and Missy Baker were recognized for taking first and second respectively in the American Legion essay contest. Tiana Camarillo and Kayleen Vosberg received first place in the OLCC poster contest and Ashley Roberts received third place in the essay contest. The Cardinal boys and girls took first place in Cherry Festival at Wahtonka.

It was also noted at the meeting that Christina Powell was named to the Dean's Honor List at Eastern Oregon University. Duane Neiffer was named as most influential teacher in her high school career and received a letter from the President of the University.

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Chessmates hold final meeting of the year



Jordan Shepherd holds chessboard cake his mother, Joyce made for the party.



Parents and students enjoy cake after a year of hard work.

This years' Chessmates group concluded with a potluck party on April 14. The group spent the year sharpening their Chess skills, becoming better sportsmen, competing in regional competitions, learning from others, and making new friends.

Studies show that playing chess sharpens critical-thinking skills and problem-solving skills, said one of the group's leaders.

Many volunteers donated their time and expertise to help the group. Those volunteers include: Mike Armato, Joy Krein, Wayne Seitz, Adam Doherty, Lindsay Harle, James

Pappas, Larry Palmer, Dave Kendrick and the Rollis family.

We also really appreciate the donations from the local organizations and individuals so that the children could have a healthy snack before they begin using their brains, stated a group leader. Chessmates had a total of 102 members. Jannie Allen, Sherry Matteson and Mary Ann Elguezabal, the advisors, hope that the members will learn some new moves over the summer and look forward to starting up the club again next year.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes,
Executive Director

Open your eyes and pause a minute. Think about people who put lights on the trees, make the reminder calls, lead 4-H clubs, welcome people to town with baskets, serve coffee after church, pull off the St. Pat's weekend, fair and rodeo, parades, coach Little League, keep the flowers looking good, clean up the highways, maintain welcome signs, cook the dinners at the Elks or churches or the Senior Center, sit on Boards, repair graves at the cemetery, help out at the hospital or nursing home, work at the golf course, volunteer at the Chamber, put in dirt bike parks for kids, made the Assisted Living a reality, put on auctions and do numerous fund raisers, help children learn to read, keep the museum open, maintain grounds... the list goes on and on and on. It could easily fill an entire page of this newspaper.

Who are these people? Some are members of Heppner's many organizations; while others are quietly working behind the scenes, but they all have one thing in common. They are the mighty volunteers who cause positive things to happen, make a difference, and keep

Heppner from becoming a stagnant, selfish, boring place to live. They are the engines, the energy, the laughter, the can-do folks who haven't learned to say "No". They care, they hope, they make a difference. They are you.

National Volunteer Week is April 27 to May 3. Chamber members are asked to invite one community volunteer to lunch on Tuesday, April 29. (Please call 676-5536 to reserve a spot.) Many will be missed because there is no facility in Heppner large enough to hold one and all. Therefore, we ask each of you readers to say thanks to a volunteer that week. You too can invite them to lunch anytime all week, or just a verbal "thank you" can make someone's day. Remember, the childhood game where you whispered a message in someone's ear and said "Pass It On". Spend the week passing it on... "Thank you for volunteering, you make a difference."

Remember to attend the School Board Candidates Forum on Tuesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria. Come meet the 15 candidates and learn how they feel about the issues. Schools are the backbone of the community.



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