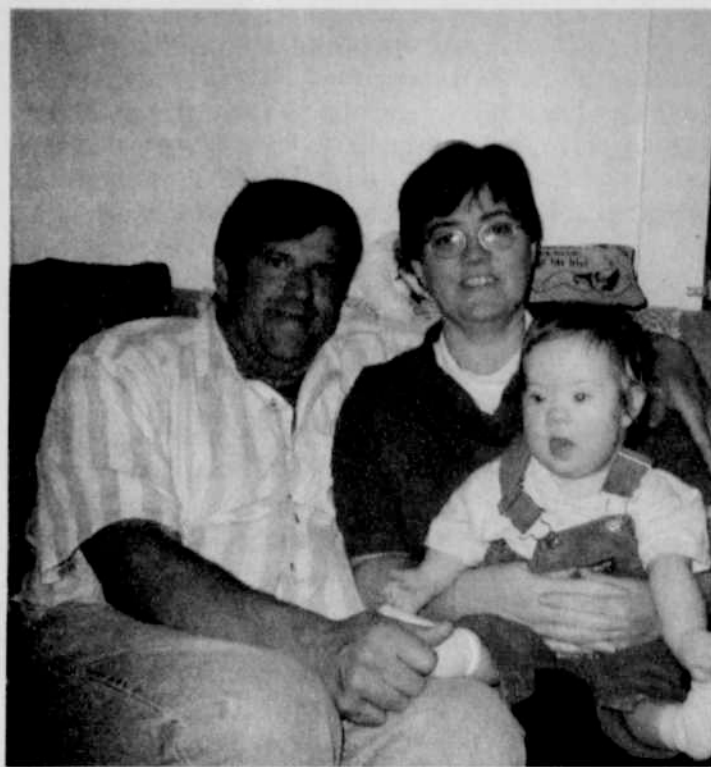


Local restaurant gets new name and owners



John and Kathy Marick, with daughter Abbie.

John Marick, 47, a 42-year resident of Ione, moved last year to the big city of Heppner with his wife, Kathy, 42, and their daughter, Abbie, 11 months. They are now the new owners of the R&W Drive In, which is being renamed Willow Creek Diner and Bakery.

They both love to cook and enjoy working with the public so thought a great way to give back to their community would be by running a restaurant. With their down-to-earth personalities, the Maricks wish to create a relaxed family atmosphere. The grand opening will be May 12.

The Maricks invite everyone to come in and see how they've redecorated to make the diner a great place to eat and visit. "We are decorating in a fishing theme, because John thought he would get to retire and go fishing next year. However, he is beginning to see that won't be happening like he thought," commented Kathy.

They will be adding a bakery and stated they needed to be closed to add some new ovens and remodel the kitchen. With limited space, Kathy said they are going to become quite creative and efficient to make best use of the kitchen area.

Joining the Maricks is friend, Mary Ella Johnson, who will be working full time in the bakery area. Johnson is well known for her bread rolls and cinnamon rolls. The Maricks stated they felt very blessed to have Johnson come on board to help develop the bakery. Kathy said she and Johnson have been working on recipes and have come up with some pretty exciting pastries. She also informed they will be making all their own hamburger buns, breads, etc. for the diner. They have been fortunate to have many

volunteer taste testers, with John standing in line first.

Hours for the diner will be Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The diner will be closed on Sunday to give the employees a chance to be with their families. Another change is that the diner is going from counter to full service. "Customer will be top priority in the diner along with delicious food," added Kathy. They say they have the philosophy that it is a privilege to serve.

The diner will also continue to do "to go" ordering and the crew is working on some new ideas to help make the lunch hour for businesses in town to run more smoothly.

During their grand opening there will be a drawing for a 13-inch Panasonic TV/VCR combo. They will also have some other fun activities to say thank you for coming to see their new changes. Everyone is encouraged to come in and sign up for the drawing and enjoy some free samples of their bakery items. There will also be opportunity to purchase some baked goods to take home and enjoy.

Many of their recipes that they are working on for pastries are baked and not fried with the goal of making healthier. Each week they will be working on some new recipes so feel free to drop in and check out their display case filled with goodies. The bakery will also take orders in advance and also help you with your holiday baking. Kathy invites you to give the bakery a call and they will see what they can do to help.

Health Dept. Clinic closed

The Morrow County Health Department Clinic will be closed on Thursday, May 1.

Heppner Schools announce Qtr 3 honor roll

Heppner High School and Heppner Middle School announce their Quarter 3 honor roll and honorable mention students.

Grade 7 Honor Roll students: Whitney Matthews (4.0), Kelsey Wolff (4.0), Aftan Betsinger, Sarah Johnson, Kate Kendrick, Benjamin McCarl and Sean Murray.

Grade 8 Honor Roll students: Aaron Allstott, Mahaley Huddleston, Brendan McElligott, Regina Seitz and Cody Zum.

Grade 9 Honor Roll students: Laurie Murray (4.0), Matthew VanCleave (4.0), Daniel Basile, Chelsey Betsinger, Amanda Davis, Brianne Jones, Rory Kilkenny, Krystal Nairns, Roy Proctor, Heather Rill, Brenda Victorio and Heather Yocom.

Grade 10 Honor Roll students: Madison Bailey (4.0), Kyle Huddleston (4.0), Shanna Rietmann (4.0), Jessica Wainwright (4.0), Kylee Disque, Blair Keithley, Cara Kennedy, Josh Lankford and Liz Orwick.

Grade 11 Honor Roll students: Sarah Barrow (4.0), Luke Murray (4.0), Brooke Rust (4.0), Blake Allstott, Justin Botefuhr, Brian Haguewood, Judd Lemmon, Chantea Macaulay, Kiel Nairns, Courtney Nelson, Sheena Shank, Cody Walton, Adam Wight and Matt Young.

Grade 12 Honor Roll students: Maggie Beam (4.0), Marcy Miller (4.0), Darren VanCleave (4.0), Donald Adams, Dawn DeBoer, Aleshia Geer, Genia Grant, C. Tyler Henderson, Cody High, Daniel Jepsen, Lacy Matteson, Doug Orwick, Ashley Ward and Nicole Wilson.

Grade 7 Honorable Mention students: Lane Bailey, Luke Basile, Jenna Bowman, Cyde Coil, Jessica Connor, Kelsie Fox, Tayler Hodges, Baillie Keithley, Taylor Kempas, Katie Kilkenny, Patricia Little, Megan Orr and Andre Rauch.

Grade 8 Honorable Mention students: Brandon Davis, Colton Hanson, Nathan Kennedy, Ches Little, Mechele Nieman, Quinn Peck and Kylie Tasker.

Grade 9 Honorable Mention students: Lynan Bingham, Mikel Britt, Krista Hendricks, Charlene Houweling, Matthew Kenny, Amanda Miles, Sean Richards, Gordon Wegwerth, Riley Wight and Veronica Wilhelm.

Grade 10 Honorable Mention students: Emily Bergstrom, Tyler Boyer, Chelsea Britt, Ryan Campbell, Jode Coil, Josey Grant, Linsey Mitchell, Terra Wilson and Joslynn Zum.

Grade 11 Honorable Mention students: Tanner Britt, Linsey Clough, Juan Elguezabal, John Franzwa, Stefanie Hanson, Danielle Loosie, Tyler Lovgren, Aaron Lueck, Tiffany Piper, Brian Smith and Jessie Woodward.

Grade 12 Honorable Mention students: Brad Adams, Tracy Baker, Lacey Davis, Crystal Dennis, Rachel Howard, Jesse Kempas, Ben Turrell and Josh Winters.

Air Life membership drive begins

After 18 years of flying at the speed of life, Air Life of Oregon is still going strong and its commitment to the communities it serves is greater than ever.

"We are privileged to work with the people in Heppner by offering our membership program, hosting community events and supporting various emergency medical personnel and programs," says Air Life's founder and executive director, Vern Bartley. "It's a gift to see the Air Life Membership Program help so many, while also keeping us flying for those who need us."

A \$45 annual Air Life membership protects individuals, families and business members against out-of-pocket expenses in the event of an emergency medical transport. With flight costs ranging between \$6,000 and \$12,000, the savings can be significant. Furthermore, Air Life is the only accredited air ambulance in Oregon, having met exacting technical standards while employing a compassionate, experienced staff of specially trained flight nurses, pilots and respiratory therapists.

"Part of the beauty of living in rural Oregon is the wide-open spaces, but those spaces create a challenge when people are injured or seriously ill," Bartley continues. "We are grateful to work with our community members and emergency personnel and live our creed of 'people helping people.' Our membership program is just one part of that."

The choice is clear; when seconds count, count on Air Life. Memberships are a great way to show your friends and family you care. To join today, call 1-800-353-0497 or visit www.airlife.org.

Hardman Center makes summer plans

The Hardman Community Center held a potluck and meeting on Sunday, April 27.

"There was a large amount of the best cooking in the county enjoyed by all," stated a meeting attendee.

Plans for the improvement of the Hardman Cemetery were approved, with work to begin soon.

Members also took time to enjoy early 1900s pictures donated by Creth Harris, Patty Harshman, Bob Stevens and Doris Graves. Bob Allen made the small frames from wood salvaged from cemetery buildings. Bob DeSpain made the large frames from wood donated by Wilber Jackson. The plexiglass for the pictures was donated by Hermiston Glass. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Flags will be purchased to place on the veteran's graves for Memorial Day.

The Hardman Community Yard Sale has been set for June 28.

Umatilla National Forest firewood permits now available

Personal-use firewood permits will be available May 1, for woodcutting on the Umatilla National Forest, according to Jeff Blackwood, Forest Supervisor. Firewood cutting areas on the North Fork John Day, Heppner, Walla Walla and Pomeroy Districts will open May 1, though many areas at higher elevations or on northern exposures may not be accessible until later this spring.

Woodcutters need to plan ahead when buying firewood permits this year due to a nation-wide increase in the minimum charge for forest product permits. Effective Jan. 1, 2003, the minimum charge for a firewood permit increased to \$20. This increase, the first in over 20 years, is nation-wide and reflects the increased costs to support, administer, and prepare these small sales for all forest products such as firewood, mushrooms, and posts and poles.

"The cost per cord has not changed and it remains at \$5, however, the minimum price for a firewood permit has increased to \$20. This equates to a minimum permit of four cords for \$20," said Blackwood. In the past, woodcutters could purchase multiple permits throughout the season until they met the 10-cord-per-household maximum. This new minimum fee does not allow for that kind of flexibility.

Also this year, local vendors who sell Umatilla National Forest firewood permits will only be able to sell 4-cord permits for \$20. "Woodcutters will be able to purchase two 4-cord permits through the local vendor, but if they plan on cutting more than eight cords, they'll need to come into the Forest Service office to purchase their permits," said Blackwood.

"You can still purchase a 2-cord permit, but only at a Forest Service office and, it will cost the minimum \$20. If you expect to purchase more than one permit during the season, it will be helpful to plan ahead," recommends Blackwood. "Purchasing the right combination of permits will save you time and money."

"We're also encouraging people to cut their firewood early to avoid possible late-summer closures," said Blackwood. Over the last few years, parts of July, August and September were closed to woodcutting due to severe fire danger. "With drought conditions in the forecast we could be looking at similar firewood cutting closures this year."

Permits are available at all Umatilla National Forest Offices. Four-cord permits are also available at several local businesses in your area though some vendor's may not be set up to sell permits until mid-May.

Locally, permits are available at the Heppner Chevron, in Heppner. For additional information contact local Forest Service offices or the Forest web sites at www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/ and www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/.

OIT announces local president's list honoree

Oregon Institute of Technology named Emily Unruh, Heppner, a pre-nursing student, to its 2003 winter term president's list.

Inclusion on the list requires a 3.70 gpa and above; and students must be full-time

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report from a caller in Irrigon that a vehicle with several juveniles was speeding and ran a stop sign.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that his daughter had her purse stolen at the Shamrock Lanes bowling alley.

MCSO deputy cited David Paul Jason Williamson, 18, for Failure to Signal.

Feb. 17: MCSO deputy cited James Michael Gunderson, 20, for Possession of a Controlled Substance, Less than One Oz. Marijuana.

-MCSO received a report of an alarm sounding in an area in Irrigon. Deputies were unable to locate the alarm.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon the two male subjects attempted to steal her son's bicycle. Michael Lee Smith, 24, was cited for Attempted Theft II/Criminal Trespass II.

-MCSO received a report of a dog at large in Heppner. Phillip E. Greif, 44, was cited for Dog at Large.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her neighbor's cows were on her property again and eating her hay.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a motor vehicle accident in Boardman. Officers were unable to locate the accident. The fire dept. and ambulance calls were cancelled.

-MCSO deputy cited Jamey Lee Wilkerson, 29, for Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 89 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her children heard a loud noise and saw the back window of an SUV shatter. The repairman advised there was no rock in the vehicle; the broken window may have been caused by a bb.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy contact in Irrigon regarding a theft that occurred in December.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report from a caller in Biggs of a young male subject who was driving a new Jaguar and begging for money. Another caller reported the subject was being detained for shoplifting candy. The subject was taken into custody. It was determined the vehicle had been stolen off a showroom floor.

-MCSO deputy stopped a juvenile driving a 4-wheeler on the road and warned the driver not to drive on the road or she would be cited.

-MCSO received a report from Hermiston Police Dept. of a stolen vehicle that had not been reported stolen. The vehicle had been towed

JOHN'S PLACE MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL
SUNDAY, MAY 11TH FROM 12 NOON - 8 P.M.

Get your Mom out of the kitchen on her special day!

Join us for a fabulous buffet featuring
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If you liked our Easter Buffet, you'll LOVE this!

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