

Bunny Barn begins season with win



KT'S Bunny Barn starts the 2004 show season with a win. (L-R): Pam Renfro and Kathy Tellechea with Best of Breed KT'S Jorja, Senior Castor Mini Rex doe at the Frozen Friends Rabbit and Cavy show held in St. Helens Saturday, Jan. 31. There were over 1200 rabbits at the show with 245 Mini Rexes. The next show is in Victoria, B.C., Canada on Feb. 14-15.

Local wheat producer on national committee

Lexington area wheat producer Ken Grieb recently returned home from attending the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) Conference in Atlanta, GA. Grieb, immediate Past President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League and current Board member of NAWG, was elected to the Budget Committee of the national organization. In this position he will help develop a budget to be presented to the NAWG Board of Directors at their March meeting in Washington D.C.

Also at this conference, Grieb, who spent

the last year on the Membership Committee for NAWG, was appointed to chair a sub-committee to examine ways to change and improve future National Conferences. The committee will examine items from site selection to conference format and direction. Grieb will report the findings to the Membership Committee at their March meeting.

Grieb commented, "It feels good that my fellow Board members from across the country have shown their confidence in me to help shape the future of our industry."

Local Angus breeders listed in 2004 evaluation report

Kathryn Healy of Heppner and Dr. Zhivago Staff of Lexington each own one bull listed in the 2004 Spring Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association in St. Joseph, MO. Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on 5,428 sires, and is currently accessible at www.angussiresearch.com.

"The report provides both Angus breeders and commercial cattle producers using Angus genetics with accurate, predictable selection tools for improving their herd," says Bill Bowman, American Angus Association director of performance programs. Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) are generated from the performance database of the American Angus Association, which includes information submitted by nearly 8,300 Angus breeders this past year through the Angus Herd Improvement Records

(AHIR) program.

EPDs are available for 17 traits including birth weight, weaning weight, milk, yearling weight and height, mature daughter weight and height, and scrotal circumference. Carcass progeny measures generate EPDs on carcass weight, marbling, rib eye area, external fat thickness and percent retail product. Ultrasound body composition data also generates end product predictors for rib eye area, intramuscular fat percentage, fat thickness and percent retail product. This report includes the initial release of \$Value indexes (\$F, \$G, \$B), which incorporates EPDs and industry relevant components into feedlot performance and carcass merit values expressed in dollars per head. The semi-annual analysis for the sire evaluation report contains more than 11 million measures used to generate genetic predictions for the Angus breed.

Farm Foundation annual meeting set

The annual meeting of the Farm Foundation Board, which includes the Morrow County Museum and Ag Museum, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the museum. The meeting is open to the public.

Three board positions are opening. Anyone interested in serving on the Foundation Board is invited to attend, says director Robin Krebs. Krebs says that representatives from north Morrow County are especially encouraged to serve.

The museum is now open Tuesday through Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum is open February through November. The Ag Center will be open May through November, Friday through Sunday, and hopefully Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Krebs says that a new event this year sponsored by the Mural Committee will feature guests and local artists to raise money to fund the local murals. The semi-formal evening shows, displaying artists' work and perhaps including refreshments, will be held at the Katherine Bisbee Gallery at the museum. Local artist Sandra Haynes will be the first artist featured during the month of March, with events planned to begin around St. Patrick's Day.

The annual Dinner Theatre at the Cemetery, to commemorate the 1903 flood and to celebrate Heppner's history, will be held on June 12.

The museum encourages volunteers. To volunteer or for more information, contact Larry Mills, 676-5546, or Krebs at the museum, 676-5524.

Ione Site Council elects 2004 officers

The Ione Site Council met Wednesday, Jan. 21 at the school library. Officers elected were Dean Robinson-chairman, Melissa LaRue-vice chair and Jeri McElligott-secretary/reporter.

Members reviewed the minutes from the last meeting of 2003. Principal Dick Allen reported the attendance at school was good. The school-wide plan for 2003 was to improve test scores. Allen will bring test scores and attendance records to the next meeting for members to review. He will also bring examples of benchmark tests. Sarah Carlson stressed that test scores should be sent home to parents. Allen responded that scores would be reviewed with all parents at conferences. Ione Schools met "No School Left Behind" standards.

Parents will be notified of upcoming test. Snacks will be provided to students on test days.

Carlson suggested the school start a reading incentive program from middle school students. Allen suggested we look at reading test scores at that level first.

All senior transcripts have been checked by Allen to insure students have the credits needed to graduate. Debbie Radie reported the School Success Committee is meeting Jan. 31 at 10 a.m., at the school, to review graduation requirements. Community input is welcome.

Jeri McElligott expressed concern that the high school has lost several clubs with the transfer of teachers out of the district. She suggested parents be asked to help with clubs if teachers are not interested. It was also suggested someone from the ESD may be able to help with OSSOM. Current club leaders are encouraged to make sure the clubs are active throughout the year.

Club by-laws were reviewed. The following amendments were made: 1) Wording under Article I changed from Morrow County School District to Ione School District; 2) Wording under Article V changed from meeting the second Wednesday to the third Monday of every month; 3) Wording in Article V changed from meeting in Room 1 to meeting in the staff room; and 4) Wording in Article V changed from Morrow County school administrators to Ione school administrators and school advisory council was deleted.

Individuals recognized were Meghan McCabe for being a Wendy Heisman finalist, Paul Neiffer for making the 2004 Shrine Team, Rhonda Power and Melissa LaRue for being named Outstanding Line Judges for Big Sky volleyball and Del LaRue for being a National Coach of the Year nominee.

The next meeting of the Ione Site Council will be Monday, Feb. 16 at 5 p.m., at the school staff room.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

The twinkling Main Street lights are gradually coming off the trees. Do you know the history of these lights and trees? A few years prior to the Main Street renovation, the Heppner Chamber, desiring a tree-lined street, invited people to "purchase" a tree and a brick. Local folks and people who had moved away came forward to make the project a reality. When the sidewalks and street were completed, the community turned out to assist in planting the trees, made possible by their personal donations and a grant. Immediately it was suggested that the trees needed lights for the holidays and the "adopt-a-tree" project came into being. Most local folks agreed to light their tree, while others agreed to adopt a tree belonging to absentee owners. Suzanne Jepsen and then Pat Edmundson contacted all "owners" with a reminder to "light up Heppner". This year Meredith Walters graciously volunteered to do the reminding.

Bottom line, it's many volunteers who make Heppner twinkle, with an assist from the City and Heppner T.V. Now the time has come to remove the lights and store them for another year before spring buds get hooked in the cords.

And speaking of spring, how about those beautiful flower baskets that graced our Main Street. They were purchased by people around town and by business owners. Thirty are needed. If you'd like to have one filled, please give the Chamber a call. Planting time is just around the corner and orders will be placed with Green Feed.

See you at Chamber, Tuesdays at noon, at John's Place. Come check out the mix-it-up meetings, an opportunity to visit with a variety of personalities and share thoughts and ideas to enhance our community. Keep those dues coming in.

Thought for the week: "The successful man will profit from his mistakes and try again in a different way." ... Dale Carnegie

The Homestead Honker

By L.D. Saari of the News-Times

[Editor's Note: Chris Christenson is a former Heppner resident. His sister still lives in town. This story was taken from the Forest Grove News-Times]

Every fall, Chris and Jeanette Christenson can hear the gun blasts from hunters across the field from their Homestead Community property in Forest Grovc.

"They're allowed to shoot ducks and geese from there," says Chris, as he points across the flooded field populated with flora and fauna to a duck blind.

"Sometimes you look up and the sky is just covered with ducks and geese," said Jeanette. "They're noisy and messy."

But last year the Christenson's and others at Homestead perceived a different notion about their feathered friends.

In the fall of 2002, a wounded Canadian goose appeared in the Christenson's back yard. Apparently, he'd been shot by a hunter and, somehow, made it across the field.

"His left wing was damaged," said Chris. "We called one of those bird places, like the Audubon Society. They said they'd take him but only if we could catch him."

Well, nobody could. The Homestead Honker was feisty and wanted to be left alone. So they did.

But he couldn't fly, what with his left wing like the "special fin" on Nemo.

"He sometimes tries to fly, flapping his wings and running," says Jeanette. "But he just can't get off the ground."

It was evident to the Christenson's and others that human intervention was needed.

The Homestead community bought a 50-pound bag of cracked corn, preferable to feeding the goose bread crumbs. "That gets really messy," says Jeanette. The Christenson's live next to the Homestead community center and that's where the goose now calls home.

Chris opens his patio blinds every morning at 7:30 a.m., gazing out on his many bird feeders and the wetlands behind. And every morning, the goose is there, waiting for breakfast from Chris.

"I've now got him feeding right out of a can I hold with the corn in it," said Chris.

Morrow County included in PGE grant giving

Oregon 4-H Foundation of Morrow County received between \$5000-\$8000 through a grant from the PGE Foundation-the corporate foundation of Portland General Electric.

The PGE Foundation distributed \$761,919 to 82 nonprofit organizations throughout Oregon. In that effort-its impact heightened by the stagnant economy-the Foundation made it a priority to give where the need is greatest, particularly helping boost programs that deliver

education and promote healthy families.

"In 2003, the continuing tough economy underscored the significant needs of vital nonprofit organizations across the state," said Gwyneth Gamble Booth, Foundation chair. "Working within that context, in 2003 and continuing in 2004, the Foundation remains focused on providing broad support of statewide programs, with particular emphasis on sustaining education and basic human services."


UI announces Fall 2003 Dean's List

University of Idaho announced the names of 2410 students who made the Dean's List for fall semester, August through December 2003. To make the Dean's List, undergraduate students must earn a term grade point average of 3.3 or better on 14 or more graded credits and law students at least a 3.0 GPA

on a minimum of 10 graded credits.


Students from the area who were on UI's Dean's List, and their colleges, included: Daniel Jepsen, Heppner, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Jeremy Tullis, Ione, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences; and Stacie Miller, Irrigon, College of Education.

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