

## Local artist works at capturing cowboy life

Artist/photographer Denise Smith's artwork may seem ordinary to some and extraordinary to others. As a cowboy's wife and partner in an authentic cowboy/buckaroo culture, which is still alive-and-well, on Eastern Oregon cattle ranches, this lifestyle provides an abundance of unique, but fleeting visual images best recorded with camera or poet's pen. From the east side of Steens Mountains in the state's southeastern corner, to a new ranch home in northeastern Oregon on Little Buttercreek, Smith's camera and keen eye continue to capture those images. Colors and seasons; moods and personalities; traditions and changes in contemporary cowboy living- the heart of Smith's work.

Denise Smith's original photo images are presented in an unusual format the artist calls "photopainting;" something she has mastered over a period of time. Drawing from experience as art teacher/painter, and incorporating digital enhancement techniques, Smith believes her new art form more creatively expresses the beauty of her subject choices and the respect and awe she feels for them.

Often Smith's work catches cowboys and cowgirls at their hardworking best. She has ridden countless miles a horseback with some of them, roped calves at brandings with others. Artistically recording those shared moments in time, she says, "Nothing compares to a good horse and the right rope, but the perfect image might come close." Smith's goal for her painterly body of work is to create a lasting, visual tribute to the people and places that color her far-from-ordinary life.

For a visit to the studio call (541) 676-5013. Or view some of her work at [www.denisesmithsandstudio.com](http://www.denisesmithsandstudio.com).

Smith has taken her passion of the country and used it to create art. "I love the rural landscape and all that lives on it. I find special pleasure in looking at

ordinary subjects in different ways. Design and color have the utmost considerations. I love the culture and all of the subtleties that often are missed by a quick glance. I want people to look and become involved with the work itself. I was a teacher for 15 years, teaching art in the public school system so I like to give something to the viewer that might have not been without the work. I have a passion for this lifestyle that comes across by the heightened sense of color. I thrive on freshness, but also see the beauty in the mundane.



Denise Smith

"I lived for 25 years in the high desert of Oregon on the east side of the Steens Mountains. The area was one of stark contrasts and rich culture. The dirt road held assurances that you could count on. You better have at least eight-ply tires and extra water. We always knew someone was coming before they got there. You knew where you were and where you had been. I had a good chunk of time spent a horseback with my family. We worked hard and enjoyed the country. My love of horses as well as the landscape was what brought me to the desert. I will always have horses. I find pleasure in working with them when they have a job, they become a partner. I love becoming their partner.

"The work is the best. Ranching can give you a sense of accomplishment in that you can see your progress or lack of it. You cannot be fainthearted. You have access to Mother Nature's cycle... how do you work with her? People think that Mother Nature can be minimized, but they are too full of themselves.

"For me taking pictures captures a moment for later. I use the artist's eye to call attention to what may be missed. I like to mull over those moments. Thinking that I may use the image as

a digital artwork or for some other medium I find the computer will many times create just the right sense of drama that I want. I like to layer my tools with the computer images. It takes time to get all the parts and pieces to do the right thing at the right time. Some people think you can just click the mouse and it is there. If it happened this way an artist would find a harder way to do it. I have had many conversations with people about the digital medium. I say this... the computer is your tool, the mouse a brush in your toolbox, the software is a vehicle of style for your brush. Information limits your brush or it can give it infinite direction. What can an ordinary person do with a paintbrush? Well, they can paint their room... give a brush to Salvador Dali and see what he comes up with. I have taught computer art to junior high students with limited software and technology... the result was expanding and stretching what we did have. So I am still expanding and stretching. I have had artists say to me, 'Let's create a movement.' I wonder how you do that?"

## A view from the hill

Willow Creek Terrace staff, residents, and their families bid a fond farewell to Manager Nancy Vander Does recently. They offered a hearty welcome to the new manager, George Nairns.

They have also bid a summer farewell to Shenanigans, the young musicians who practiced on Fridays at the Terrace, and will soon do the same to the Sentimentalists, the women's singing ensemble that practice on Thursdays. The residents will miss the melodies, many of which they enjoyed singing, but music will continue to be part of life at Willow Creek Terrace.

Music accompanies exercise sessions led by staff persons throughout the week. When weather permits, those sessions move to the patio. Judy Rickert brings a music video on Thursdays when she comes to read the local newspaper to interested residents.

A variety of activities keep the residents and guests busy each week, including the Tuesday-afternoon pinochle games. Some residents are "up" for a game most any time they feel a lull in the pace at Willow Creek Terrace.

Monday afternoons find several residents gathered for Bingo, as members of the Nazarene Church call the numbers. The Nazarene ladies host special events from time to

## IHS holds National Honor Society induction



NHS Inductees (L-R): Kasie Peterson, Jenny Griffith, Abby Key, Kyle Palmateer, Amy Jepsen and Ashly Grams. Photo by Jeri McElligott.

An induction ceremony for new National Honor Society members was held at the Ione High School cafeteria on Tuesday, May 25.

Parents and guests were welcomed by NHS

president Natalie McElligott. Emily Key, Billy Ross, Taylor McElligott and Barbara Holland read the attributes of a NHS member. The guest speaker was Ione School Boardman Chairman Joe McElligott. Amy Jepsen played a piece on the piano.

New inductees were Kasie Peterson, Jenny Griffith, Abby Key, Kyle Palmateer, Amy Jepsen and Ashly Grams.

The ceremony was organized by adviser Duane Neiffer, with the help of Cathy Halvorsen.

## Mustangs pound Gaston in quarterfinals

By Rick Paullus

The Heppner Mustangs pounded out 18 hits to beat the Gaston Greyhounds 20-4 in the

quarterfinals of the OSAA/US Bank/Les Schwab Class 2A State baseball playoffs on Friday, May 28 in Gaston. The win puts the Mustangs into the semifinals for the second straight year and where at home against the Bonanza Antlers on Tuesday, June 1. The win also improves the Mustangs record to 24-2-1 on the year.

The Mustangs jumped out on the Greyhounds with five runs after there were two out in the top of the first inning just as they finished their first round game with Warrenton. Chuy Elguezabal led off with a walk, Kory Paullus had a RBI single after two were out, Kiel Nairns was hit by a pitch, Luke Murray had a RBI single, Billy Gates was hit by a pitch, Kyler Lovgren scored two with a single and Nick Christman had a RBI double.

The Greyhounds came back with two runs in the bottom half and added another in the second to narrow the lead to 5-3, but the Mustangs came back with three in the third to regain their five-run lead. Murray and Gates singled, Lovgren drew a walk, Murray scored on a wild pitch and after Elguezabal had walked, Jode Coil scored two with a single.

The Mustangs added another run in the fourth when Nairns and Gates singled and Nairns scored when Christman reached on an error.

The Greyhounds answered in the fifth with a solo homerun, but the Mustangs added two more in the sixth when Nairns singled and Murray homered to centerfield to make it 11-4.

The sixteen residents of Willow Creek Terrace seem an enthusiastic group, eager to receive guests into their home. Anyone who wishes to bring something of interest to the Terrace should phone Manager Nairns at 676-0004.

They broke the game open in the seventh when Christman was hit by a pitch, Elguezabal doubled, Josh Gutierrez was hit by a pitch, Elguezabal scored on a passed ball and Paullus beat out an infield hit as two more runs scored. Then Nairns scored one on a ground out, Murray was hit by a pitch, Gates singled and Cody Walton came into run for him, Lovgren had a RBI single, Christman hit a three-run homerun, Elguezabal walked and Coil had a RBI double to make it 20-4.

Gutierrez went five innings to pick up the win, striking out seven while giving up six hits with Christman pitching two innings in relief, allowing no runs on two hits.

Murray went three for four with a home run, four runs scored and three RBI. Gates went three for four, scoring twice. Lovgren went two for three with three RBI and scored twice. Nairns went three for four and scored three runs. Christman went two for four with a double, homerun, five RBI and scored twice. Paullus went two for five with three RBI and scored twice. Coil went two for six with a double and three RBI. Elguezabal had a double and scored three runs.

Heppner 503 102 9-20 18 2  
Gaston 210 010 0-4 8 3

Josh Gutierrez, Nick Christman (6) and Jode Coil; James Hoodenpyl, Darren Reynolds (4) and Jayson Hieter. W- Gutierrez (5-1). L- Hoodenpyl. 2B- Chuy Elguezabal, Jode Coil, Christman (H); Reynolds, David Cox, Cody Fassold (G). 3B- none. HR- Luke Murray and Christman (H); Fassold (G).

## Wedding Tables

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Wedding - Friday, July 2nd



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