

## Hope and Valby Lutheran donate monies to Fair Board

Hope and Valby Lutheran churches have donated \$1250 to the Morrow County Fair Board for their dorm project. The Fair Board is working to raise monies to match a grant from the Ford Family Foundation to build a dormitory on the fairgrounds in Heppner.

"These generous donations bring us one step closer to reaching our goal of \$36,700, and the Fair Board appreciates them," said Fair Board Chairman Kelwayne Haguewood.

For a donation of \$500 or more, the Fair Board will have the donor's name engraved on a wooden plaque that will be permanently displayed on the new building.

Donors that have given \$500 or more so far include: Barnyarder's 4-H Club; Snow-McElligott, Green, Newhouse and Johnson, LLC; Curtis and Kathy Cutsforth; Kelwayne and Mary Haguewood; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bryant; Wheatland Insurance; as well as the recent donations from Hope and Valby Lutheran churches.

Anyone wishing to donate to the project may contact Renee Yocom, Fair secretary, weekday mornings at 676-9474.

## Oregon Elks offer grants for vocational education

Fifty-seven Oregon Elks Lodges and the Oregon State Elks Association have announced the availability of significant grants to aid Oregon residents who wish to pursue a vocational/technical education. These grants are quite unique to Oregon and the Oregon Elks.

They are open to all Oregon US citizens, regardless of age or past education. Applicants need not even be high school graduates. The major requirement is simply that an applicant must be planning to attend a two year or less vocational/technical program culminating in an associate degree, diploma or certificate, but less than a baccalaureate program. Such programs are commonly offered at community colleges



Louis Carlson (left) with Valby Lutheran presented Kelwayne Haguewood, Chairman of the Morrow County Fair Board with a check for \$750 towards the dorm project.



Chris Rauch (left) with Hope Lutheran presented Haguewood with a check for \$500.

## Free tax assistance available in Heppner

As we move into February the tax season is

beginning to swing into high gear. The free tax preparation service being sponsored by AARP and IRS will again be available in the Heppner area.

Tax helpers will be at the OSU Extension office at 676-9642 and make an appointment. If you plan on using Schedule A to itemize expenses please notify the person making appointments of your intentions.

Tax helpers will be in Heppner on Thursdays, only if a prearranged appointment has been made. Appointments may be made by calling Leann Rea at 481-5922.

Individuals are asked to bring: photo identification; a copy of their 2003 tax return; all 2004 W-2s, all 2004 1099s; social security cards (or other proof of valid SS number) for all individuals to be shown on the return; S.S. or identification number and address for childcare providers; and any other tax related information that may be needed for your particular return.

If you have any questions call Leann Rea at 481-5922.

This free service is available to everyone, young and old alike. However, the volunteers do reserve the right to refuse service if your return is beyond the scope of their training.

## Farm Credit Services steps up again to support ranchers in lawsuit

"As a cooperative, we are keenly interested in legislative, regulatory and legal matters impacting our banking operations, but more importantly, those which negatively impact our customer-owners. We believe the Malheur Wild and Scenic Rivers case has that potential," said Thomas Tracy, Executive Vice President and General Counsel from Northwest Farm Credit Services. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and all public land permittees can thank the Farm Credit for their generous donation of \$5,000 to the Malheur Wild and Scenic Rivers law suit (see below).

The issues being decided in the US Forest Service cases on the Malheur National Forest (Oregon Natural Desert Association vs. Malheur National Forest) are critical to all public land ranchers in Oregon (and the west). Questions have been raised in the federal court about how the Forest Service interprets fish monitoring data (PACFISH/INFISH) and how they measure grazing utilization described in their forest management plans.

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) filed briefs stating the Malheur National Forest allotments are overgrazed and fish habitat has been degraded. ONDA claims livestock grazing is causing areas of the allotments to change from forest to desert through the continued grazing of plants and soil compaction from cattle hooves. There are claims that stream banks are sloughing and sedimentation is occurring everywhere livestock have access for crossing or watering. ONDA weaves a story about Forest Service making management decisions with little regard for the fragile environment and endangered fish.

Cattlemen have heard these accusations often enough and now the courts are listening with the Murderers Creek and Malheur River permittees caught in the middle. ONDA's claims have been countered by photos and hundreds of samples submitted on behalf of the grazers, which documents the facts about grazing riparian pastures while sustaining a balanced environment. The permittees are managing the livestock in ways that promotes vegetation vigor and protects the stream and fish. The Oregon Cattlemen's

Association has intervened with a very strong defense against the outrageous claims.

The final opinion will have significant repercussions for all public land ranchers who have federal grazing permits. ONDA's intent is to end public land grazing throughout Oregon using similar accusations across the landscape and agencies. ONDA has filed a similar case in the Freemont National Forest and has done an extensive request for information on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. The resolution of the Malheur River, North Fork Malheur River, and Murderers Creek cases will have a huge impact on ONDA's success in these other cases.

Livestock producers must defend their livelihood in counties that benefit from livestock grazing on public lands and they must consider the seriousness of future litigation that could take

place within their borders. The Oregon Cattlemen are compiling information for Forest Service and BLM permittees that may be useful in documenting practices used during the 2005 grazing season. Oral arguments for the Murderers Creek case has been scheduled for March 11th, 2005 at the US District Court in Portland, OR at 9:30 AM before Judge Ancer L. Haggerty.

If you would like to help protect the future of public lands grazing in Oregon, donations can be mailed to the "Oregon Cattlemen Stewardship Fund" 3415 Commercial St. SE, Ste. 217, Salem, OR 97302. The Oregon Cattlemen Stewardship Fund is a public Charitable Organization (IRS Section 501(c)3). Contributions may be tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes. Donations made to the above referenced cases are used for direct payment of legal fees without withholding any administration fee.

## Murray Drug featured at Chamber of Commerce



Murray Drugs was the featured business at a recent Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Anne and John Murray attended the meeting to speak about their business. John Murray said Murray Drugs was started by his parents Rod and Meg in 1959. John and Anne acquired the store from them in 1990. The store features a pharmacy, espresso bar, gifts, flowers and liquor. The business did have three other branches at one time, but now has one in Condon. "Our strength is in our employees," John told the chamber. The chamber has started a new program featuring different businesses each month.

## Mural Committee to raffle color TV

Tickets for a chance to win a 32-inch color TV are still available until Saturday, Feb. 5, at noon. Shortly after that time, the Mural Committee will hold the drawing for the lucky ticket at Heppner Hardware.

Cliff Green donated the TV set to the committee, which is working to raise funds to complete the mural on Riverside Drive. For a tax-deductible donation of \$1, a person receives one chance on the TV. Six chances come with a donation of \$5.

Tickets remain available at Heppner Hardware and the Bank of Eastern Oregon. On Thursday, Feb. 3, committee members will be outside Central Red Apple with tickets from 2-5 p.m.

All interested persons are invited to attend the drawing at noon on Saturday, but the owner of the winning ticket does not need to be present to win.

Some prints of the downtown portion of the mural are still available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon or through Larry and Betty Mills.

## St. Patrick's Senior Center news

St. Patrick's Catholic Parish volunteers are servers for the Feb. 9 noon meal at St. Patrick's Senior Center. An average of approximately 60 people have been served for the last few weeks, according to Barbara Struthers, volunteer hostess for the dining room.

Ed Baker has announced that the new bus arrived here on Friday, Jan. 28, polished and ready to go. He plans the first excursion to be to Ukiah on Feb. 11, for lunch at their newly opened senior center. There is room for 20 seated passengers; or two passengers with wheel chairs, plus 16 seated

passengers. There is a sign-up sheet in the office for those who plan to go. Gathering time for departure is between 10-10:15 a.m., at the Center's Main Street entrance. Baker will make further announcements at the Feb. 9 noon meal.

The Bingo game has provided funds for some new baking pans in the kitchen. The game time is every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m., in the dining room.

Word has been received that Marion Murchison's son has passed away. Those wishing to send her cards of sympathy and encouragement may do so at P.O. Box 982, Gardenville, NV 89410-0982.

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Heppner Gazette-Times 676-9228

**Real Estate**  
By DAVID SYKES  
REALTOR

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You can make a million mistakes trying to sell your own home. One of them is making the wrong improvements. Many times, an expensive addition or repair can be the kind of thing that can cost you far more than you get back.

True, the house should present a favorable appearance - mowed lawn, trimmed shrubs, and no obvious indication of neglect, but it's rare when a large financial undertaking will bring more than it cost in the final selling price.

There is always the financial risk of miscalculation, too. Home repair costs frequently end up a lot higher than originally anticipated. You may end up with a faster sale and less inconvenience if you lower the selling price an equivalent amount.

Instead of guessing as to how much, if any, repair work to undertake, visit our office. We can tell you what to do to make your home more salable - and what *not to do* so you won't lose money.

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JOHN'S PLACE  
VALENTINE'S SPECIAL  
Saturday, February 12th

Featuring  
PRIME RIB AU JUS  
GRILLED PORK TENDERLOIN  
STUFFED ROCK CORNISH GAME HEN  
POACHED SALMON with creamy dill sauce

All dinner include salad bar, sauteed fresh vegetables, twice baked potatoes, roll and dessert.

FOR RESERVATIONS, call 676-5017

JOHN'S PLACE  
MAIN STREET, HEPPNER