

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Executive Director

Summer is a great time to meet new people. This week found visitors from California, Montana and southern Oregon in the Chamber office. One of the friendly, energetic couples was looking for a small town for their home and wanted real estate information. They liked the size, the look of it, and the idea that they could become involved in Heppner. We hope they decide to stay.

Mark my words, Heppner is going to grow. It's all about attitude and sharing the positives. We just need to encourage friends and family to move here and we need to spend our dollars here as often as possible. Shopping out of town when we don't have to is giving another community dollars for their schools, improvements, economic development, etc. When we spend money in other areas, those businesses are able to donate more to their children, events, and community projects and it's our money they're using. If Heppner is our home, and home is where our heart is, then we want to keep our hearts (and dollars) in the right place.

The Chamber received an animated e-mail last week showing two seagulls with only one beak flapping away. The puzzle was: "Which one is the female?" Of course, a male sent it. Ladies, can you think of a comeback?

An e-mail from Kelly Sager arrived this week. It's always good to hear of the Sager family's new experiences in Africa. They have just adopted Grayse Kellie, bringing their tribe's total to eight. He relates that they have been in Kigali four hundred plus days with one thousand, ninety-five to go. Some of their experiences have included a bout with malaria for three of the children, humorous misuse of the language, being chased by an elephant, and learning to cope with the drivers. Rather than taking flowers to someone in the hospital, one would take food and water to the patient. The Sagers would love to hear from Heppner.

Kelly's parents, Harley Sager (longtime Chamber member) and his wife Bertha will share their recent visit to Africa during the June 30 Chamber meeting at noon at John's Place. Attendees will have a greater appreciation of America and home after they experience the Sager trip.

Thought for the week: "If a man does his best, what else is there?" - Gen. Geo. Patton

Wheat Foundation awards scholarship

The Oregon Wheat Foundation awarded a \$500 scholarship to Shanna Rietmann, daughter of Mark and Tami Rietmann of Heppner. A 2005 graduate of Heppner High School, Rietmann intends to study biology at Pacific University and pursue a career in the medical field. She was a member of 4-H, International Club, and played three varsity sports. The Oregon Wheat Foundation sponsors

scholarships to high school seniors whose parents are members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League or whose parents OWGL members employ. Scholarship applicants are asked to submit an essay about the wheat industry in addition to their scholastic and activity resumes. Scholarship applications for high school seniors graduating in 2006 will be available online this fall at www.orgl.org.

2005 Road Projects map now available

Want to know where and when you may encounter orange cones and work zones as you travel around the state this summer? The Oregon Department of Transportation is distributing the summer 2005 Road Projects map so motorists can plan ahead and be prepared.

With 110 projects listed on the map, this is one of the busiest construction seasons in recent history. The increase is fueled in part by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act. The Oregon Legislature passed a series of funding packages that raise \$2.96 billion for highway and bridge construction work over the next several years. OTIA funding is contributing to 23 projects scheduled for this construction season.

More road projects also means you're more likely to encounter a work zone. When driving through a work zone, please remember to slow down, be alert for changes to traffic patterns, and be aware of workers and equipment.

The construction map is a helpful guide for general information about construction activity. For current road conditions, including construction activity, motorists can log on to www.TripCheck.com or call 511.

The summer 2005 Road Projects map is available at several locations around the state, including offices of Driver and Motor Vehicle Services, truck stops, welcome centers and ODOT offices.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church volunteers are hosts for the Wednesday, June 22 noon meal at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The menu of the day is Sloppy Joes on a bun, cornbread, applesauce, celery and carrots, and cookie.

The senior bus travels to Ukiah on Friday, June 17. The departure time is 10:15 a.m. from the main street entrance of the senior center. Ed Baker, Tom Wilson and Grace Drake will attend the regular quarterly meeting of the advisory committee for the Area Agency on Aging. Each quarter the group convenes at one of the senior centers of the region. The bus schedule allows for time for members to eat lunch at the host center.

Anyone who would like to eat at Ukiah's new center is welcome to ride the bus. It will return after the AAA meeting, about 2 p.m. Non-members will have a time to socialize or to see the sites of the town, or attend the meeting, if they wish.

Water project 'on budget and on schedule'



Soil from water project is being dumped at Hager park to be used for new lawn to be planted there.

continued from page one

Manager Jerry Breazeale said the water loss should go down even more once the city water system upgrade is completed.

Approves water and sewer for fairgrounds

The council discussed hooking up the fairgrounds planned new 4-H dormitory to city water and sewer.

There was discussion on the practice of providing water and sewer outside the city limits. "I think we should allow the fair to hook up sewer and water," councilmember George Koffler said. Koffler said the fair is a good community resource and the city has in the past provided the service. "I feel they are kind of grandfathered in," he said.

The city is presently providing the services to the fairgrounds.

Some members of the council were concerned that others outside the city limits would demand water and sewer, however, the council voted unanimously to allow the fairgrounds hookups. The fairboard has received grants and donations to construct a new dormitory building.

Bicycle rodeo well attended

Morrow County Sheriff's Deputies handed out over 600 bicycle helmets at bike rodeos held in Lone, Heppner, Boardman and Irriagon throughout the month of May.

The helmets were funded by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and other donations.

The Ride and Glide bicycle stunt team was on hand to perform and put on a stunt show emphasizing bicycle safety.

"This was the best turnout in the four years that the Morrow County Sheriff's Office has put on the event," commented Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy John Bowles, coordinator of the event. Bowles said the bicycle safety program has given away 10 bicycles to children throughout Morrow County this year.

Bowles was assisted by Deputy Kristen Pickles, Deputy Adam Bredfield, Deputy Colleen Neubert and Deputy Doug Foster. The program is backed by the M.C. Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Ken Matlack.

For helmets or other bicycle safety information, call Bowles at the M.C. Sheriff's Office.

Births

Natalie Jean Martin-a daughter, Natalie Jean, was born to Sandra and Doug Martin, Rufus, May 9, 2005, at The Dalles. She weighed 7 lbs, 8 oz. and measured 20-1/2 inches long. She joins a brother, Treve, five, at home.

Grandparents are Kenny and Jean Ann Turner, Heppner, and Tom and Connie Martin, The Dalles. Great-grandparents are Irene Swanson, Heppner, and Barbara Martin, Portland.



Deputy John Bowles with Lone bicycle winner



Fish Johnson of the Ride and Glide bicycle team performs a stunt at the Morrow County bicycle rodeo



Deputies Adam Bredfield and John Bowles with Heppner bicycle winners

Annual Elks Father's Day picnic Sunday

This Sunday, June 19, the Heppner Elks Lodge will again be hosting the annual Father's Day Picnic at Anson Wright Park for all current Elk members and their families. The festivities will begin at 11 a.m. with hot dogs and beverages provided by the Elks. Salads and desserts are pot-luck.

Games and fun for all ages will be held, including coins in the straw, egg toss, football accuracy competition, softball and the annual horseshoe pitching match are all on the schedule.

Members are invited to "Pack-up the kids and head to the mountains - enjoy a day with the family and have some outdoor fun," said Elks spokesperson.

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A gift suggestion
for Dad
on Father's Day



TOWN OF LEXINGTON YARD SALE

The Lexington Annual Yard Sale is scheduled to be held on Saturday, July 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Any community member can have a yard sale on this day. You are responsible for your own signage so people can find you.

People from all over are welcome to drive around Lexington and find that special something you have been looking for!