

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

May. How could that possibly be? There's a website that lets you know how many days until Christmas and St. Patrick's Day. I won't be visiting it; time would go even faster and I might hyperventilate in the process.

It's beautiful in the Willow Creek Valley and everywhere in Oregon's Rugged Country with wild flowers popping up, streams running, green budding out and the return of warm sunshine. Visitors have begun to take spring drives. They come through the Chamber door praising our town, wanting to return, some want to move here from Elgin, Prineville, Vancouver, WA and Pasco, WA. If we could just get them to open a business.

Change is happening and we need to have some Town Hall meetings to think creatively about opportunities for Heppner and what we can do to keep it vital and alive. Where there's a will, there's a way. Share your thoughts with us on this. Are you flexible, are you creative, are you forward thinking, are you willing to see Heppner change, are you spending dollars at home, are you thinking of future generations? Some businesses are expanding; this change is good. New ideas are being tossed around from a theme community to the pros and cons of a bedroom community. Of course jobs are needed and many are

working on this, as are people in hundreds of other small towns around the state. We don't just sit and wait, we diversify. We are tough enough.

A friend from Phoenix visited last week. When she was here three years ago, we gave three women on a bird watching excursion the bunkhouse to spend the night in. They were total strangers in need of beds. She still hadn't gotten over the shock of that story, when this time we sent our car to Prineville with a couple whose vehicle had quit on Highway 74 last Sunday. It's eastern Oregon after all. It's been a week and they keep touching bases as they wait for it to be fixed. My friend, being from Phoenix and maybe paying too much attention to the media fear factor, thought we had lost our minds. It's no fun to live in fear, one needs to trust and think positive thoughts. Whatever will be will be, as we do our best to live by the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The three women sent us a wonderful bird book and an invitation to stay with any of them in Spokane, Edmonds or Gig Harbor anytime. We trust our car will be back in our driveway one day soon. In the meantime, Heppner is a great place to call home.

Thought for the Week: "What you put in your mind stays there, fill it with good thoughts."

St. Patrick's Senior Center news



St. Patrick's Senior Center resident, "Chance."

a member of the relief personnel. Rita Van Schoiack has moved from the community.

Regarding last week's resident introduction: Did you guess who I am?

My name is "Chance." My mommy, Kathy Turner, calls me "Pound Puppy," because I was adopted from the Humane Society. We have traveled many miles to come to Heppner. I enjoy meeting new people. I am a cocker spaniel.

My mommy walks me and my sister, Sam, every day (twice) and she always carries a doggie bag so we don't leave a mess behind. No one likes to step in that-not even us.

Thanks for welcoming us. Do say, "Hello." Give me a chance.

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 14th

*A hug for each day of the week...
and a ring for today*

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Oxarc and Norco provide FFA student support



(L-R): Jason Thomas, Norco (Pendleton), Harold Mattox, Oxarc (Hermiston), Jay Tracy, Oxarc (Pendleton), Sam Ramey, Norco (Pendleton) and Stacey Feik, Norco (LaGrande).

Two local area companies have provided numerous dollars and man-hours to assist the FFA program in the Blue Mountain FFA District for many years. Oxarc and Norco, two welding supply companies that service much of eastern Oregon were on hand during the district FFA shop skills contest in Pendleton last week. The FFA district is comprised of FFA chapters from Condon, Hermiston, Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Athena Weston, Irrigon, Stanfield and Pilot Rock. Both of these companies have been long time supporters and proponents of agriculture education and have voluntarily involved themselves in the ag mechanics area of the program. Both companies bring sales representatives to

help judge and host the contest(s), supplies for particular areas like plasma cutting and oxy-acetylene welding in addition to prizes awarded to top individual students in each event.

"The amount of dollars donated by Norco and Oxarc is tremendous and the support is remarkable," said FFA advisor, Erin Heideman from Condon. "We couldn't provide these opportunities for students without their help."

FFA is the largest youth organization in the world who's mission is to provide students with premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. If you would like more information about FFA and the opportunities it provides students log onto www.oregonffa.com.

Youth fishing event scheduled for Cutsforth Pond

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Morrow County Parks today announced a youth fishing event May 6 at Cutsforth Park Fishing Pond near Heppner.

ODFW will stock 650 trout in the pond for the event, including some trophy-sized fish as part of the Youth Angling Enhancement Program now in its third year.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the angler catching the biggest fish in age groups six and under, 7 to 9, 10 to 12 and 13 to 14. Volunteers from the Elks Lodge of Heppner will be serving the kids hot dogs and hamburgers. ODFW will provide young anglers with loaner rods and reels, bait and tackle, and volunteers will be available to help the kids clean and care for their catch.

"This event is specifically for the kids," said ODFW District Fish Biologist Tim Bailey. "We want to encourage children as they learn to fish, and hope they enjoy an activity that can provide lifelong recreation."

Anglers 13 years of age and under can fish for free. A juvenile license is required for anglers 14-17 years of age. All state fishing regulations continue to apply.

The pond is located at Cutsforth County Park, 22 miles southeast of Heppner on Willow Creek Road (Blue Mountain Scenic By-Way).

For more information contact Betty Gray with Morrow County Public Works at 989-9500 or Bailey at ODFW's Pendleton office at (541) 276-2344.

Leadership... For A Change!



"I am running for Governor to provide leadership for Oregon's future - to change the way state government operates."

-Ron Saxton



Students receive awards for poster contest



Smokey Bear Poster Contest winners: (Back Row): Teacher Cara Osmin and Heppner Garden Club president JoAnne Burleson; (Front Row L-R): 1st- Joe Schmidt, 2nd- Jason Kendrick, 3rd- Ross Cutsforth and Honorable Mention- Makenzi Hughes.



Woodsy Owl Poster Contest winners: (Back Row): Teacher Cara Osmin and Heppner Garden Club president JoAnne Burleson; (Front Row L-R): 1st- Allie Allen, 2nd- Macy Gibbs, 3rd- Maddie Lindsay and Honorable Mention- Kelley Wilson.

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., gave certificates of cash awards for the yearly Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster competition. The following third graders received \$15 for first place, \$10 for second, \$5 for third and a certificate for honorable mention.

The winners were: Smokey Bear- 1st- Joe

Terry McElligott honored as Teacher of the Year

Terry McElligott, a 1976 graduate of Ione High School, was recently named Teacher of the Year by the members of the Classroom Law Project and awarded a check for \$1000. The Project is a nonprofit program in Oregon that works with teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade to teach civics, government and law through partnerships with the legal, business and education community. McElligott was honored for her dedication to her students and democracy. Marilyn Cover, the director of the Classroom Law Project, introduced McElligott at a Legal Citizen dinner April 11.

McElligott's accomplishments include involvement with the We the People curriculum the past 10 years; We the People hearings she started at Chehalem Valley that became a model for middle

schools across the nation; her students' success in the Project Citizen portfolios at state and national competitions; and her state and national mentoring for the Project Citizen and We the People Institutes in the summer. McElligott is an eighth grade social studies and language arts teacher at Chehalem Valley Middle School in Newberg.

McElligott's classroom projects are featured in the recently published Holt, Rinehart and Winston textbooks "Civics in Practice: Principles of Government and Economics." The text describes two Project Citizens projects done by students in McElligott's class.

McElligott, the daughter of L.J. and the late Maryan McElligott, will travel to Russia this fall for the Eisenhower People to People Ambassador program.

Join Us for a Mexican Buffet on Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) from 5-9 p.m.

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