

## St. Patrick's Senior Center news Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

Chicken chow mien with vegetables, steamed rice, fruit cup and fortune cookies are on the menu for the June 7 noon meal gathering from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the senior center. Hope-Valby Lutheran churches are providing the volunteers for the day.

Ray Randall, brother-in-law of Marge Spangler, provided entertainment during the May 24 meal. He treated the group to "oldies and goodies" like "Springtime in the Rockies," "Let the Rest of the World Go By" and "Home on the Range;" then for his encore piece, he was joined by Flossie Watkins, Keith Brudevold, Vi Oliver, Barbara Struthers, Walter May and Betty McDonald to treat guests to a rousing "You Are My Sunshine." Randall was here from Montana for a few days to visit Spangler. His singing was a parting gift to the whole community.

Sunday, May 28, beginning at 12:30 p.m., is the Memorial weekend event. Dinner serving begins at 1 p.m. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children six and under. Families with visiting relatives and all members of the community are invited. The crew of volunteer assistants, chaired by Jack Melligan are ready to greet each one.

Barbara Struthers is our honored resident this week. She and her late husband, Ralph, were among the first residents of St. Patrick's apartment complex. They began residing at the apartments in 1989.

Barbara was born in a log cabin in Wyoming, on her grandfather's homestead in 1921. She was the first born of six children. When

she was six, the family left to settle in the oilfields of Casper, WY. She attended a one-room school at Rocky Point. Her grandmother was the teacher, who also lived in the school. They had a kerosene cook stove and kerosene lights. They were a musical family- her father was a fiddler and her mother a pianist.

Barbara graduated from Vale High School at age 15.

She and Ralph moved to Heppner in 1985. He had worked for the state highway department. They were married for 62 years at the time of his death in October 2001. They had two children, a daughter, Evelyn McKinney, who has three children and a son, Ed, who has four children and lives in Heppner. Barbara has 16 great-grandchildren.

Barbara enjoys painting and watercolors. In addition, she has done considerable volunteer work through the years- serving as a member of the board of the Neighborhood Center; assisting for six years with a second grade reading class; giving unnumbered hours to the senior center; and in 1998, she was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for community service by the Chamber of Commerce.

She is also an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She enjoys living here in Heppner. "The people are friendly and help one another," said Barbara.

### Births

**Zane James Acock**- a son, Zane James, was born May 23, 2006 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Rhonda Wilhelm and Zachary Acock of Boardman.

As those of you who have read this column over the years have come to realize, not very many days in the Chamber office (or in my life, for that matter) are routine. In a way though, no matter what we do, there is some routine and sometimes a memory making experience takes us by surprise. Such was the case at the Heppner Oregon Rugged Country meeting last week where people from Milton-Freewater, Hermiston, Pendleton, Lexington, Boardman and Heppner gathered to plan marketing strategies and events for The Bite of Oregon.

All met at Alvin Liu's Cornerstone Gallery for their drink of choice and then moved to the Bank of Eastern Oregon conference room until lunch. Rain caused the picnic invitation by Liu to move to Plan B, a catered luncheon by Liu and crew at Lynda Crane's. This was no ordinary lunch mind you. Meeting attendees were escorted into the dining table by two good-looking young gentlemen and were seated at a candlelit, linen covered table. Cloth napkins in a napkin ring graced by a live flower, decorated the plates. Starters were crackers, dip and a raspberry lime punch in beautiful goblets. The presentation of lunch (one could hardly call it lunch) left all in awe as they gazed down at grilled pineapple, lemongrass rice, barbequed pork with red curry coconut sauce, balsamic salad, secret ingredient garlic bread, ambrosia and pickled asparagus.

Attendees conversed about the wonderful, complimentary meal and a variety of topics from Oregon's bounty, to frogs,

watermelon, rodeo, wine and leprechauns. Liu shared stories ranging from his first impression of Heppner to being permanently bow-legged from his introductory three-hour horseback ride in Morrow County. As people laughed, raved about the dining experience, met the "family" who catered and got to know each other, dessert arrived in the form of strawberry cheesecake, tiramisu cake and coffee. All were treated royally... city managers, motel managers, chamber directors, economic development folks and tour planners. Guaranteed, they will remember Heppner.

Moral of this story is: don't avoid meetings; you never know what you might miss. Secondly, this is just one type of experience that leaves people talking about a community to everyone they meet. I've heard that sometimes an overnight stay at Northwestern Motel includes a breakfast comparable to the "lunch." Just an example of some of the things Heppner has the opportunity to offer. Guests thrive with special treatment and unexpected surprises. What a delight.

Additional Heppner guests, members of a Hood River car club, will be visiting Heppner on June 2 and dining at John's Place. It will be fun to view their vehicles and give them a Heppner welcome. It also never hurts to point out opportunities available to encourage them to return here or move here and start their own business in one of Heppner's ideal locations.

Though for the Week: "If you dream it, you can make it happen."

### Litter pick up improves look of Heppner highways

May 25 the Chamber of Commerce carried out an Adopt-A-Highway/ODOT litter pick up project along the state highways through town.

Six volunteers were able to do the pick up in an hour's time due to the efforts of the businesses and residents along the route. The volunteers were Teri Baker, Gail Arbogast, John Edmundson, Denis Lein, Becky Weseman and Kim Houweling.

Cooperators for the project included the City of Heppner, which provided orange vests, Heppner T.V. and the Heppner Gazette-Times, which provided public service announcements and Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV), which provided litter bags for the businesses and residents along the highways.

As a result of the combined effort of everyone who helped, Heppner looked good for the Memorial Day weekend.

### Dr. Barretta places fourth in Spray half-marathon



Dr. Ed Berretta as he crossed the finish line at the Eastern Oregon Half-Marathon in Spray on Saturday, May 27. Dr. Barretta was fourth to cross the finish line, with a time of 1 hour 37 minutes 40 seconds. Photo by Jannie Allen.



A group of kids from Ione also ran during Spray's Half-Marathon. (Back Row L-R): Rebecca Jepsen, Paul Neiffer, Eric Jepsen, Amy Jepsen, Jeff Hunt and Adam Neiffer; (Front Row L-R): Jacob Neiffer, Stephanie Holland and Julianna VandenBrink. Photo by Jannie Allen.

### Red Hatters to meet, compete and eat

On Wednesday, June 7, all Red and Pink Hat members and those who would like to join are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to the city park adjacent to the library at noon. To be a Red Hat member you must be 50 years old or older. Under 50 is a pink hat member. Prior to eating lunch, there will be a table-decorating contest.

Members who plan to attend should form teams of three or four people as soon as possible. If you are not sure who is a member, or you want to be put on the list to become a member, call Sally Walker, Pat Edmundson, Phyllis Piper or Julie Saling (Pfeiffer) for more information.

### Morrow County in top ten list of agriculture producers

Twenty-nine of Oregon's 36 counties reported an increase in agricultural sales last year according to preliminary statistics released this spring by Oregon State University. The latest figures underscore the importance of agriculture to both the local and state economy. Oregon's total agricultural sales figures for 2005 are up about five percent at \$4.1 billion with several counties recording double digit increases this past year.

Once again, the diversity of agriculture in Oregon resulted in winners and losers among various commodities. The mixed bag of results continues to tweak

the rank order of counties when it comes to 2005 gross farm and ranch sales. Still, the top ten list contains the same names. Morrow County placed seventh at \$233.3 million. This was a nine percent increase from last year.

Rebekah Lodge cancels June party, ends for season

Due to area graduations and the Ione Auction, Holly Rebekah Lodge will not be holding their card party on June 3. Lodge members appreciate all who attended the parties this year and look forward to seeing everyone back in October.

## IONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

### 44th Annual Auction & Barbecue

The Tradition Continues

Date:

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Location:

The Willows Grange Hall

Country Store & Silent Auction begin at 10 a.m.

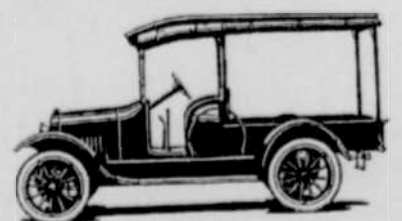


Auction begins at 10:30 a.m.

Pit Barbecue Beef Dinner at 12:30 p.m.

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