

## 1903 Heppner Flood presentation to be held

Joann Green Byrd will tell stories over lunch October 19--True Stories of bravery and fortitude, of breathtaking generosity, of lessons learned through unspeakable sorrow associated with the 1903 Heppner Flood.

The occasion is the Umatilla County Historical Society's Heritage Luncheon to be held between noon and 1 p.m. at Red Lion Hotel, Pendleton. Tickets are \$50 per person. Pre-registration is required by 5 p.m. October 10.

Joann Green Byrd is co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board, the 17 people who decide who wins Pulitzer Prizes in literature, drama, music and journalism every year. She was elected to the board eight years ago and will finish in April 2008.

Byrd, who retired following a distinguished career in journalism, said she "was going to spend her retirement in an easy chair with a thousand books" until she discovered the Heppner Flood of 1903. Because her father, Joe Green, was born and reared in Heppner, Joann had heard of the flood, but never guessed its scale.

After its centennial, Byrd went searching for the true story of a flash flood that killed 250 people on an ordinary Sunday afternoon. She will share what she found preserved in the Morrow County Heritage Museum and in the Umatilla County Historical Society's Heritage Station Museum and in conversations with area residents. She is finishing a book about the flood.

Interpath Laboratory, Inc. is Presenting Sponsor for the luncheon.

Support has also been provided by Major Sponsors East Oregonian, McLaughlin Landscaping, Pendleton Grain Growers, Pendleton Sanitary Service, Inc., Red Lion Hotel Pendleton, St. Anthony Hospital, and Dennis Turner, DMD, PC.

Byrd retired from the newspaper business in 2003--47 years after J. W.



Joann Green Byrd

Forrester, then editor and publisher of The East Oregonian, gave her a reporting assignment when she was 13. She wrote a column of news from Helen McCune Junior High and later was allowed to cover a whole range of stories, take photos, lay out pages and read proof through her years at Pendleton High School and during vacations from the University of Oregon.

After finishing the University of Oregon School of journalism, she spent 14 years as reporter and assistant city editor at the dearly departed Spokane Daily Chronicle, moving from there to The Herald in Everett Washington, where she was executive editor for 12 years.

In her last years at The Herald, Joann earned a master's degree in philosophy (with emphasis on ethics) from the University of Washington. She applied that training in a three-year term as ombudsman (internal critic) of The Washington Post.

She is co-author of the Ethics Tool, a decision-making model for journalists posted on newspaper industry websites. Byrd was inducted into the University of Oregon Hall of Achievement in 2000, and when she retired, had been for seven years editorial page editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

For more information call Heritage Station Museum, 541-276-0012.

## Life in Rwanda

*Editor's Note: The following was contributed to the Heppner Gazette-Times by Harley Sager. Sager's son, Kelly, and his wife and six kids live in Africa where they work as missionaries.*

It has been awhile since some of you have heard from me for which I apologize. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on life in Rwanda.

It is Saturday in Kigali, Rwanda. Another week in Africa is almost over. If my calculations are correct, this week marks approximately 175 weeks or 1,225 days in Africa. That leaves us with approximately 47 weeks or 329 days before we return to the U.S. We have not decided on the exact date when we will arrive in the U.S. but it will be in mid August 2008. Between now and then we have a lot ahead of us. We have no idea how we are going to get it all done. We will definitely be ready to rest and relax when we arrive!

It has been another busy and event filled week at the Sager household. We have added two turkeys and eight puppies this week. The new additions appear to be settling into the routine around here. The turkeys are the result of Laura's recent trip to the refugee camp. She spotted them on the way home and negotiated a deal with their owner. For \$40 we now have a male and female turkey. We are planning to invite the Turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner this year. We are trying to locate some grain to feed them over the next couple of months in order to fatten them up. I am not sure whom we will get to butcher them but we will figure that out the closer we get to dinnertime. I just know that I am not going to do the honors. There are things I refuse to learn to do - butchering turkeys happens to be at the top of the list!

As for the puppies, we are having to supplement tube feed as their mother (Panther) is not producing

enough milk. It is amazing how much you learn (tube feeding for example) when you are forced to.

There is a lot going on in Rwanda at this time. In Kigali, the face of the city is changing daily. There is a lot of new construction going in and around the city - including a new American Embassy within walking distance of our home. A new airport, football stadium, and other projects are on the drawing board. Even with all the changes, Kigali remains a very safe and beautiful capital city. We hope it remains that way.

Unfortunately, a lot of development we are seeing Kigali does not extend outside of the city. Once leaving Kigali, you enter a different world-a world of extreme poverty, AIDS and backbreaking work just to survive everyday. In the past month there has been unrest brewing near Goma, Congo. Rwanda and DR Congo share a common border. Rebels have killed several people and displaced hundreds of others. Few people remember that during the late 1990's Rwanda, Congo and Uganda were involved in a war in eastern Congo. More than four million people in Congo died because of this conflict. It is always a point of concern for those of us living in Rwanda when there are problems in Congo. The potential of Rwanda being drawn into another war is a real possibility. The politics behind it all would take me an hour to explain so I will not go into that now. We pray that cooler heads will prevail this time around.

The past couple of months have brought unexpected trials and frustrations. That is to be anticipated. Though we have adjusted to the challenges of living in Rwanda, it remains a strange and foreign land. We feel blessed and honored to be here.

Stay in touch. We enjoy hearing from you.

Kelly, Laura and kids

## FFA News

By: Kendra Rayburn

As many people may have noticed, the Heppner FFA Chapter has been very busy. We have many events coming up in the future, as well as many events we have already taken part in.

On September 19, six first year members of the chapter traveled to Hermiston to the first annual Greenhand Conference. About thirty members from the Blue Mountain District attended. Not only did the members get a chance to meet each other, they also got to some learning done. Members learned about career development events, official dress, as well as traveling opportunities. The conference was hosted by the Blue Mountain District Officers.

Coming up in October, some members of the chapter will be traveling to Camp Elkanah for the Blue Mountain District Leadership Camp. This camp will give members the opportunity to get acquainted with other chapters, while competing in chapter competitions. We will be given the opportunity to test out FFA knowledge, and show off our awesome skills during the rituals contest.

On October 20, 12 members will be heading to Indianapolis for the 80<sup>th</sup> annual Nation FFA Convention. Chapter members, as well as their parents, have been working very hard at fundraisers to help support this trip. While in Indianapolis, members will get to experience many new and exciting things, while at the same time, helping out at the convention. Traveling to Indianapolis with other FFA members will be a once in a life time chance for some of the members. This trip should prove to be a fun, exciting, and adventurous experience for all the students, along with the advisor. Members are expected to return on October 28.

Not only are the members getting ready for these two trips, we are also preparing for the two upcoming career development events. Students will be having the opportunity to participate in the District Soils Judging contest, and the District Ag Sales contest.

Heppner High School Agriculture classes will also be given the opportunity to meet two of our State FFA Officers. Within the next week, State FFA President Sheryden Root and State FFA Reporter Jeb Hollabaugh. We will get the chance to learn what FFA is about, and what opportunities we can gain from being a part of the FFA. This should be a fun time for the students, as well as the State officers.

Lastly, we would also like to thank the community for all the support that we have received. We really do appreciate everything that the community has done for us.

## Morrow County Health Department calendar

- Thursday, Oct. 4 - Heppner Clinic 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12-1)
- Monday, Oct. 8 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Tuesday, Oct. 9 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Thursday, Oct. 11 - Heppner Clinic 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12-1)
- Monday, Oct. 15 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Tuesday, Oct. 16 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Thursday, Oct. 18 - Heppner Clinic 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12-1)
- Monday, Oct. 22 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Tuesday, Oct. 23 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Thursday, Oct. 25 - Heppner Clinic 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12-1)
- Monday, Oct. 29 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)
- Tuesday, Oct. 30 - Boardman Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1)

## Jackson to celebrate 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

Wilbur Jackson will celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, October 14, from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Center. The family invites the community to join in the celebration. No gifts, please.

## We Print Business Cards

**Heppner G-T**  
188 West Willow - 676-9228



**HEPPNER ELKS 358**  
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

- Thursday, October 4th -

## Ladies' Night

Dinner starts at 6 p.m.

Roast Pork with all the fixings and homemade apple dumplings

Chefs Judy Buschke, Joyce Ward, Sharon Lewis and Bev Sherman

## Neighborhood Center, HES to hold canned food drive

The Neighborhood Center and Heppner Elementary School have teamed up again for the fourth annual canned food drive during the week of October 1-4. Items can be brought to HES.

Items will be weighed on October 4 and the winning class will receive a surprise.

## Barclays celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Max and Mary Ann Barclay of Walla Walla celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Portland on August 26 with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The couple was married October 11, 1947 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Walla Walla. Mary Ann's maiden name is Boulé.

Mr. and Mrs. Barclay moved to Morrow County in 1955 where they raised their family and farmed. In 1982, they retired and moved to Laton, CA where they raised and raced quarter horses. The couple returned to their hometown of Walla Walla in 1988.

They have a son and daughter-in-law, James and Kristi Barclay of Seattle; a daughter, Judy Carlson of Portland; two grandchildren, Katie Rideout and Michael Carlson, both of Portland; and a great-granddaughter, Roxanne Rideout of Portland.

## Thank You!

**THANK YOU to all that came to the HARDMAN OYSTER FEED and SILENT AUCTION on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007.**

**And THANK YOU to so many friends, neighbors and the business community that helped in so many ways to make the evening a success!**

The Hardman Community Center (Valby Lutheran Church - Hosts)



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