

Handburys receive August Yard of the Month award

By Kay Proctor

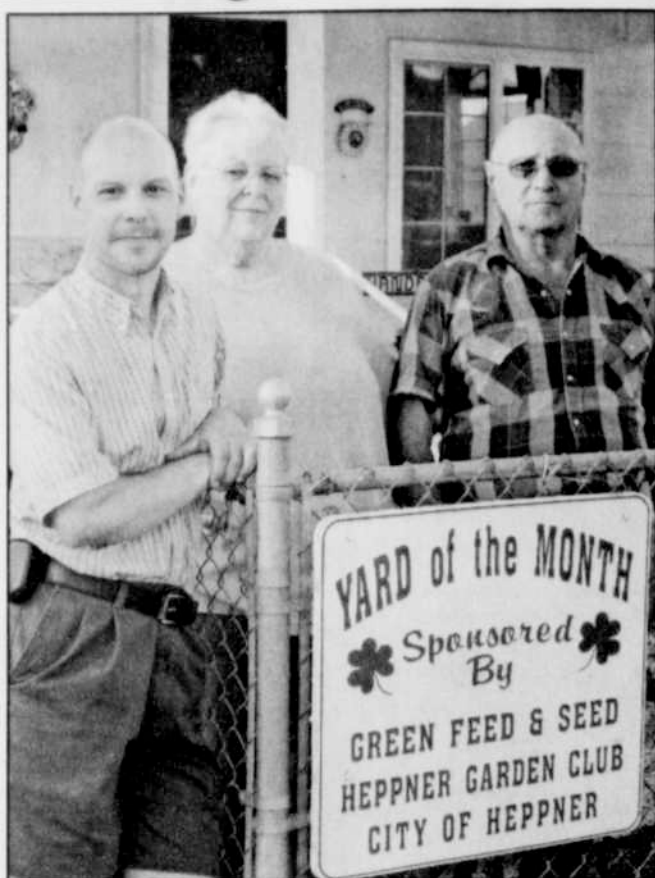
A neat and tidy yard has earned Buck and Judy Handbury with son, Dean, recognition from the Heppner Garden Club as Yard of the Month for August.

Moving from Central Oregon, the Handburys arrived in Heppner 35 years ago. Judy has been an active Avon representative for those same 35 years. Buck worked at Pettyjohn's Building Supply, then Kinzua Mill from which he retired. Dean, a 1993 HHS graduate, lives in Pendleton and works at Wal-Mart.

Since purchasing the 1886 home from Bob Murray, the Handburys replaced all windows, put on a new roof and painted the exterior a soothing green.

A project done this past June involved taking out the old, browning lawn in the front yard and reseeding it with a specialized mix for this area purchased from Green Feed & Seed. Covering the seed with peat moss and making sure it stayed moist resulted in new sprouts in three to four days. The turf is well established now and stays a deep green even in 100+ degree weather. Father and son share mowing responsibilities.

On one side of the front sidewalk, Dean carried out ideas that Judy had and added his own along the way. Rock mulch in pat-



August Yard of the Month recipients are Buck and Judy Handbury and their son, Dean. -Contributed Photo

terns offset a bear fountain and a horseshoe shaped planter overflowing with portulaca. Dean also used a mulch made of shredded rubber tires and painted red. "Purple Fountain" and "Variegated B. Oat" grasses are flourishing in the warm rock. Statuary, petrified wood and found rocks are used throughout.

Buck reconfigured nearby fencing to create a graveled driveway in their side yard where an Elm tree had to be removed. No

weeds are found there or elsewhere thanks to Buck's attention.

In the back yard, a peach tree is heavy limbed with ripening fruit that Judy will freeze later. A covered back porch has an eating area equipped with fountain stools from the old snack shack at Lehman Hot Springs.

After replacing the home's wood heat with propane, the woodpile site was changed to a sitting area where a double swing

glider is surrounded by Southwest décor and a collection of barbed wired cacti. The cozy fire pit is fueled by propane and sits on the gravel mulch.

The backyard lawn was reseeded a few years ago with the same specialized seed mix. When digging a waterline, Dean discovered their soil is fairly shallow reaching hardpan quickly. Buck waters regularly with city water using a long line of sprinkler nozzles he rigged together that is easy to move.

Judy especially enjoys the many perennial starts she has received from friends. There are plantings of asters, coreopsis, daylilies, cranesbill, salvia, lupine, and heuchera in the beds lining the yard. In addition to lilac, there is a forsythia shrub that Buck prunes into a globe shape. An attractive multi-trunked shrub, possibly a variegated elderberry, produces a dark red berry popular with birds.

None of the family claims to be avid gardeners. However, Buck states "if you are going to (have a yard), then keep it up." That advice is put into action at the neat and tidy yard on Quaid Street.

Yard of the Month recognition is co-sponsored by the City of Heppner, MCGG-Green Feed, Wind-wave-Heppner TV and the Heppner Garden Club.

Morrow County Court weekly meeting held

The Morrow County Court met on August 12 in Irrigon with Commissioner Grieb and Commissioner Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of the meeting provided by Leann Rea.

The court approved the minutes of August 5, 2009.

The court reviewed and approved accounts payable, retirement taxes and rodeo payment for a total of \$535,428.98. The court also reviewed the pooled cash report.

The court held a public hearing for an appeal of a planning commission decision for a land partition located a few miles west of Boardman and east of Tower Road. After listening to all of the information and reviewing the reports, the court upheld the planning commission decision to allow the partition.

The August 5 road report follows: Road Canyon - Have installed a six foot culvert and a concrete water crossing as well as six

smaller culverts. Currently the crew is working on laying gravel. Upper Rhea Creek - Some shoulder rock is being placed where shoulder work was done earlier; Cutsforth Park - Restrooms were installed Monday. Still need to put in the concrete sidewalks. One of the two new cabins in place. These cabins will be available for use in the near future. Reservations can be made through the Road Department in Lexington. Intersection Projects - The county has receiving funding for five intersection projects. This funding came through Senate Bill 2001. These are projects that have been ready to go for a while, but have been waiting for funding. This is good news for the county as well as ODOT since these are all intersections onto state highways from county roads. There will be two intersections on Rhea Creek Road, one on Porky Pine Road, one on Gooseberry Road and one on Clarks Canyon Road.

The department is also working on GPS inventory for all county roads and structures. This will allow the County to better track its road system assets.

Health Department and North Morrow Vector Control Report: Reviewed aerial photos of the Irrigon and Boardman areas and then heard a report regarding the increasing dangers for West Nile Virus in the Boardman and Irrigon areas. Reviewed and signed an order making a county wide "Medical Emergency Declaration" to allow for a more aggressive treatment of the mosquito problem. All citizens in the entire county need to education themselves of the symptoms of West Nile Virus and seek immediate medical attention if they suspect they may have contacted the disease. Since this disease can be transported by infected birds, please be on the lookout for any dead birds and contact the North Morrow Vector Control if you find one, so the cause of

death can be investigated. While the primary problem is in north county, that does not mean the disease will not appear in south county, so please be alert.

The court conducted the following business: Reviewed a notice from the Planning Department regarding a land action on property adjacent to the OHV Park; Reviewed notice of the upcoming meeting for the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line meeting to be held at the Port of Morrow in Boardman on August 20 at 4 p.m.; Reviewed and signed a number of contracts, contract amendments and Intergovernmental Agreements for the Commission on Children & Families; Signed an order to allow the county to enter into specific contracts for personal service; Reviewed a list of road repairs from Oregon Department of Transportation; Reviewed other miscellaneous correspondences and upcoming meeting notices.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Observations from a foreign exchange host parent

Heppner is my hometown and I'm so very happy to be back among people that are independent, proud and concerned about their neighbors. I was very fortunate to have the privilege of hosting Henrik Giske, an exchange student from Norway last year and that experience prompts this letter. Over the course of the year, several "things" occurred that gave me pause for thought. I want to share those, not as criticism, rather as observations.

1. Kids should be informed, educated regarding the importance of sports in the schools and communities by both the schools and their host families. In their countries, sports are not part of the school system.

2. Guns. Most of the kids are from countries where gun ownership is restricted and are actually afraid when they see guns in the "open" as they are here.

3. Inability to drive. Consideration should be given, in my opinion, to allow the kids to drive. There are people who would host kids that don't have the time or means to drive them to activities. I appreciate concerns about safety and the increased risk of liability for the companies placing the kids. However, the risk may be outweighed by the benefit.

4. Giving the kids a forum to talk about their countries. I was disappointed the kids weren't invited by community organizations to talk about their homes. Yes, there were "lots" of kids, maybe they could present in groups.

5. Field trips. Again, host families can and should take responsibility for educating the kids about the local and regional economy, culture, etc. However, I do suggest that the school should take an "organizational" role in asking ranchers/farmer to host the kids for an afternoon, visit a lumber mill, take a trip to the Woolen Mills, etc.

I want to be clear that my personal experience with Henrik and the other kids that I met could not have been better. I could ramble on for pages about how much I learned and how much just plain fun and energy the kids brought to my home. Mr. Stone told me several times how much the kids bring to the community. I'm suggesting that we can do more to give the kids the opportunity to see a part of the United States history and a way of life that they won't see on TV, internet or movies.

Shirlee Sweigart
Heppner

Ione Community Church VBS held

Ione Community Church hosted Vacation Bible School at their church August 10-13.

There was a turnout of 24 children who learned about the Bible through games, storytelling, crafts, music and hands-on exploration. The week ended with a program that the children put on for family members involving music, a slide show and a hot dog dinner.

The children and their parents raised \$186 toward Heifer International, an organization that strives to end world hunger by providing a means for people to earn their own money through agricultural resources.

Volunteers for VBS were Yvonne Morter, Betty Rietmann, Janna Vanden Brink, Nancy Ostheller, Betty Gray, Shadow Kendrick Theresa Dumler, Jason Reid, and Jason Thompson.

Free sport physicals to be offered at Ione Community School

Free sport physicals will be offered on August 20, at 5 p.m. at Ione Community School.

Students in grades 6-12 that plan on participating in athletics need to have a physical every other year. Forms are available at the school office or you can log onto the OSAA website, <http://www.osaa.org/forms/PhysicalExamination-June2005.pdf>, and print them.

Students receiving physicals have to have a completed physical form with a parent signature.

Ladies Play Day results

Ladies Play Day was held on Tuesday, August 11, at the Willow Creek Country Club. Results are as follows:

August 11

Low gross of the field was Betty Christman. Low net of the field was Pat Dougherty. Least putts of the field was Suzanne Jepsen.

Flight A winners were: low gross, Karen Thompson; low net, Jan Paustian; long drive, Karen Thompson; and K.P., Karen Thompson.

Flight B winners were: low gross, Lynnea Sargent; K.P., Lynnea Sargent.

Flight C winners were: low gross, Burul DeBoer; low net, Luvilla Sonstegard; long drive, Bev Steagall; and K.P., Suzanne Jepsen.



VBS students at Ione Community Church last week. -Contributed Photo

walla walla clinic

Announces the Arrival of

Francesco D'Alessandro, M.D., Ph.D. Dermatologist

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Francesco D'Alessandro will be joining Dr. Jeffrey Stiles and Kenneth Busby, P.A., in the Dermatology Department. His office will be located at 55 West Tietan.



Dr. D'Alessandro's background includes:

- Board Certified: American Board of Dermatology.
- Residency: Washington Hospital Center/Georgetown University; Washington, D.C.
- Medical School: Medical University of South Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina.

Dr. D'Alessandro is a welcome addition to the Walla Walla Clinic. He comes to Walla Walla with his wife.

Appointments may be made by calling 525-3720

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