

## EOU receives affirmation of accreditation status

Eastern Oregon University's reputation for delivering high-quality education has been reinforced with an official nod from the organization that assesses the region's institutions of higher learning.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) reaffirmed EOU's status as an accredited school after completing an interim review this spring.

"To have our accreditation reaffirmed is critical to our success," said Bob Davies, EOU president. "Accreditation is absolutely essential to a university's credibility. It

ensures our ability to receive federal financial aid, and most graduate programs require applicants to have a degree from an accredited university."

During the review the commission looked at EOU's institutional research capabilities, assessment, planning and budgeting processes. It also reviewed the university's work in the general education curriculum, post-tenure review process and evaluations of online instructors, transparency in decision-making and its relationship with the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

"This outstanding

accomplishment is the result of members of the university community coming together as a team and taking an active role," Davies said.

The commission reviews colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest every 10 years. EOU's last comprehensive accreditation visit took place in 1998.

Preliminary recommendations were received from NWCCU in April and EOU acted on them. The accreditation team wrote in their final report that there is "... a revitalized sense of optimism on campus... there is a shared excitement

about the future of Eastern Oregon University."

Davies said that he sees this sense of optimism reflected among the faculty, staff and students at EOU, as well as members of the Oregon University System Board of Directors.

"This notice from NWCCU is just one more indication of EOU's return to prominence and that we are a viable and sustainable university," Davies said. "As we head into the upcoming academic year, this attitude is essential as we continue to build on this foundation of success and maintain our momentum of progress."

## ICES looking for host families

ICES (International Cultural Exchange Services) is a non profit student exchange organization that is currently looking for American host families.

With 20 years of experience the program offers students between the ages of 15 and 18 the opportunity to study and live in the United States. The academic year program is designed to provide an international cultural experience that will expand the normal scope of world understanding. ICES offers a ten-month academic year program and a five-month semester program. Students have full medical insurance,

spending money, and the hope of experiencing life in America through the eyes of a caring host family.

ICES has a system of local support for each and every state. Regional Directors have a team of local area reps that provide ongoing care and support to our international students and host families. With the structure of support provided, ICES is able to walk you families through each step of the process from beginning to the end.

For more information contact Linda Corbin at 541-676-5270 or Teresa VanDoorn at 541-676-5985.

## Burt family yard named Yard of the Month

By Kay Proctor

The Heppner Garden Club has selected the home of Al Burt and his late wife, Jo Burt, at 565 Elder as Yard of the Month for August.

Originally from Minnesota, Al came out west to fight forest fires in 1968. He and Jo met on a blind date in Idaho, married and ended up in Heppner where Al worked for the US Forest Service, Kinzua Mill, retired from MCGG and now flags for the county.

The Burt's spent 32 years of their 40 married years together in the home across from Heppner Elementary School. The original home was built in 1893 on a waywardly sloping lot. Working as a team, the two built a front porch (Al's favorite part of the yard), a storage shed, fencing, carport, a second story and an addition. They also put on new siding, a metal roof, new windows, and built an extensive back patio. Jo grew up on a dairy farm in Idaho and continued with her strong work ethics learned then; she had her own tool belt and ladder and knew how to use them during new construction and remodeling.

The south side of their 132' long lot used to slope sharply. Al and Jo terraced this with railroad timbers and created a colorful flowerbed. On this same terraced side, rocks from topsoil screenings and grade leveling were used as fill to create a double parking space.

Fenced areas are gated for different uses; a productive garden for Jo (including rhubarb and

raspberries), a grassy lawn to enjoy, a pea-graveled play area where their sons as kids played with toy trucks. The boys, Al, Tony and Andy, are grown up and now six grandchildren, ages ranging from one to 18, have taken their turns enjoying the yard.

The entire lot is neatly bordered with flowerbeds. The Burt's planned for spring to fall color. Some of the plants used are crocuses, hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, rock cress, cranesbill, heath, creeping Phlox, campanula, creeping nettle, alyssum, dahlias, columbine, seathrift, bleeding hearts, Oregon grape, hens and chicks, heuchura, irises, and Virginia Creeper. Trumpet vine and feeders attract hummingbirds. Al has fittingly nicknamed an unknown variety of sedum 'Pork and Beans'. California poppies planted by son Tony over 20 years ago still return.

Al recommends "old fashioned gardening" so there is always color in the yard. He says gardening does not need to be "too fancy" and to just "have fun".

Both Al and Jo liked to collect rocks, stones and boulders and used them extensively as stepping-stones, mulch, weed blocks, edging and landscaping. A wood privacy fence is decorated with a collection of lanterns. Two old timed, hand pushed lawnmowers are propped up close by.



Jo Burt



Pictured is Al Burt on his porch, looking out at his award winning yard. -Photo by Kay Proctor

A cross breeze from nearby Hinton and Willow Creeks helps cool things off during hot weather. Mature Ponderosa Pine and Green Ash trees provide shade to backyard seating areas. A Maple and Persian Ironwood tree planted by the Burt's are beginning to provide shade.

The soil is not deep and part of their house's foundation sits on bedrock. Over the years, broken glass, horseshoes and lots of square nails have been found while digging. Al made a movable sprinkler system from PVC pipe to keep up with watering.

A corner of the front yard has some of Jo's favorite plants; snapdragons and Johnny-jump-ups. She especially liked the pansies with faces.

Among their yard decorations is a refurbished Moline, Illinois horse-pulled plow. The Burt's name is attached to the top spelled out with old, welded horseshoes. The plow and horseshoes came from Jo's family ranch and was given to her by a relative.

Roses are Al's favorite plant and at one time, they had over 50 rose bushes. He recently planted a yellow rose in memory of Jo. Al credits Jo with being the 'mastermind' for their many projects and speaks of plans they had made; they already have a garden of memories.

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.

## Qualls places in National Garden Club Youth Poetry Contest

Sydney Qualls, a student at Heppner Elementary School, wrote a poem that won third place in the National Garden Club Youth Poetry Contest. The poem was published in the national magazine The Mahonia.

### Five Senses

In our beautiful World,  
I hear the birds singing  
I hear the wind whistle.

In our beautiful world,  
I feel the grass against my ankles  
I feel the snow fall on my skin.

In our beautiful World,  
I smell the pine trees  
I smell the fragrant roses.

In our beautiful World,  
I taste a juicy mango  
I taste the freshwater from the stream.

That's what I see, hear, taste, smell, and feel  
In our beautiful World.

## Kinzua Lunch group plans next meeting

The Kinzua Lunch group met August 13 at Service Creek.

Those attending were Marilyn and Sheridan Ledford, Scott and Pat Reed, Mel Bailey, Bonnie Campbell, LaVonne and Bob Slinkard, Jackie and Pete Hester, Bob and Peg Nelson, OL and Jean Ann

Adams, Bob and Mary Lee Britt, Cenone Benson, Windy Liptak, Rollene Allen, Peggy Reed, Marry Bryant, Montell McDonald, and Ada Schell and Bill Potter.

The next lunch will be a potluck at Ernie and Ada Schell's in Twickenham on September 11.

## Willow Creek Baptist Awana Club to hold free bowling party

The Willow Creek Baptist Awana Club is sponsoring a free bowling party Sunday, August 29, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Stable of Youth. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

The club is open to all kids between four years of age through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents are welcome.

Awana is a nondenominational organization. Their main focus is Bible memorization and numerous games for the kids.

Regular club meetings will start up in mid September and be held every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

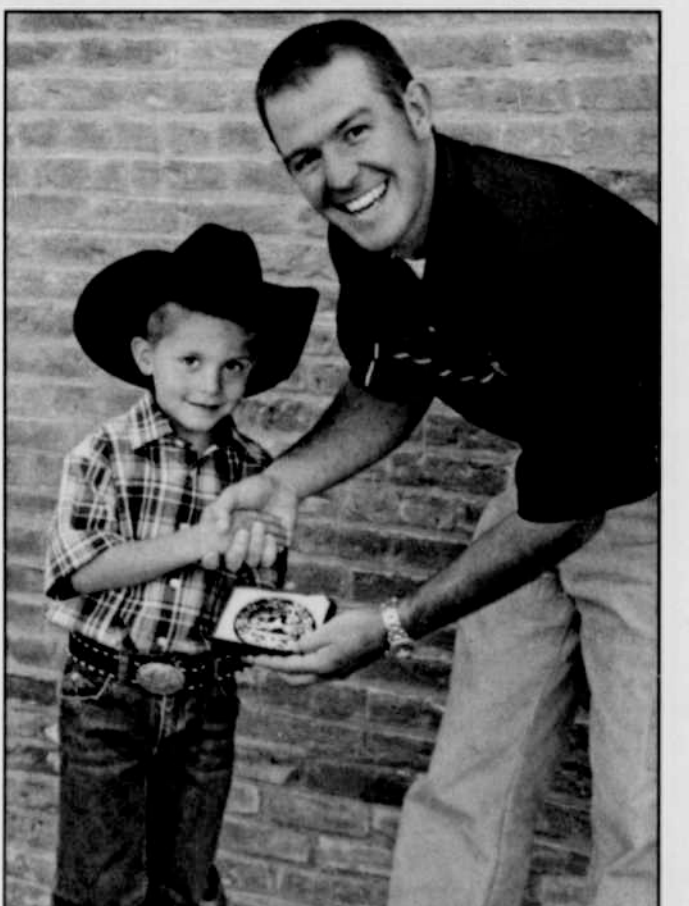
For more information or rides, call Dale Bates 541-676-5773.

## Ione Cheerleading Camp to be held

Ione Cheerleading Camp will be held Thursday and Friday, August 26 and 27, for incoming preschoolers through 5<sup>th</sup> grade from 5 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per student and includes a t-shirt.

For more information contact Misty Stefanie at 541-422-7142.

## Mitchell wins Mutton Busting buckle



Landon Mitchell is presented a MOCO Rodeo Mutton Busting buckle by sponsor Dr. Tim Dickenson from Dickenson Chiropractic. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

## First mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus in Oregon for 2010

West Nile virus, a mild flu-like disease spread by mosquitoes, has been reported to have been found at a site near Irrigon according to Oregon Public Health officials.

Health officials are advising people in Morrow County to take precautions against mosquitoes in order to avoid the risk of infection.

"The risk of contracting West Nile virus is low but we do encourage people to take appropriate

precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites," said Dr. Emilio DeBess, state public health veterinarian.

This is the first case of West Nile virus in the State of Oregon in 2010. Washington State and California have had WNV mosquito activity since early summer.

Mosquito pools testing positive in any area could lead to human as well as animal infection so health officials recommend

mosquito bite protection especially in the evening hours. Mosquito traps are set at night in various locations throughout the county. The trapped insects are sorted by species and tested for West Nile virus.

Eighty percent of people infected with West Nile virus exhibit no symptoms. Of the remaining 20 percent most have very mild symptoms, such as fever, headaches and nausea lasting from three to six days. In a few cases, more severe symptoms occur including convulsions or disorientation. The central nervous system also may be affected resulting in febrile headache, aseptic meningitis or encephalitis.

DeBess says simple precautions can prevent the spread of West Nile virus:

- Eliminate sources of standing water that are a

breeding ground for mosquitoes, including watering troughs, birdbaths, clogged gutters and old tires;

- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active;

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants in mosquito-infested areas;

- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or Picardin and follow the directions on the container;

- Make sure screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.

Additional information about West Nile virus is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/wnile.shtml>; [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/lhd/county\\_directories/Morrow.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/lhd/county_directories/Morrow.pdf); and <http://morrowcounty-oregon.com/>.

## Ione Community School Upcoming Events

Ione Community School will hold student registration on August 23 for grades 9-12. Students need to call (541) 422-7131 ahead of time for an appointment.

Free sports physicals will be given August 23 at 6 p.m.

Football and volleyball practices will also begin on August 23. Football practice begins at 7 a.m., volleyball practice begins at 6:30 p.m.

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