

Chamber Chatter

Heppner

Heppner's Farmer's Market will be held at the Heppner City Park on Main Street every Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through October 7. Make sure you stop by and check out all the vendors.

The Veteran's Association has scheduled a "meet and greet" on August 11 for the new community provider/informational meeting regarding the new VA clinic opening in Morrow County. All Morrow County area veterans are invited to attend a meeting at the Irrigon City Hall at 9:00 a.m. or at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Conference Center in Boardman at 1 p.m.

Representative Greg Walden will be at Heppner City Hall for a Town Hall meeting from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 11.

The Chamber is coordinating the Gate Volunteers for this year's rodeo, August 19-21, and is looking for volunteers to fill specific time slots and gates. Volunteers receive free admission into the rodeo. Please let the chamber office know as soon as possible if you can help out.

Morrow County Fair and Rodeo is Wednesday through Sunday, August 17 - 21.

Join Senator Ron Wyden on Wednesday, August 17 at 6 p.m. at the Wheeler County Courthouse in Fossil for Oregon

town hall meeting #600.

On Monday, August 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a Heppner blood drive at the senior center.

Boardman

Correction: Join the Columbia River Community Health Services in celebrating National Health Center Week at the Community Appreciation Barbecue - **Thursday, August 11** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Hope to see you there.

A ground-breaking ceremony for Castle Rock Apartments, "providing easy family living," will be held on the corner of Main and Wilson St. on August 24 at 3:00 p.m. Bring your family, friends, and everyone else; light refreshments will be provided.

Sunday, August 14 at the Port of Morrow, the Columbia Youth Soccer Club will be holding a "Meet the coach" night. Coaches will be given their equipment and their list of kids, as well as the opportunity to see the smiling faces of those they will be coaching. This is also a night for us all to come together and ask and answer questions.

Music in the Park on Monday, August 15 is at the Boardman Marina Park at 7 p.m. The guest entertainers are the Rolling Hills Chorus (Sweet Adeline's). This is the last of the season series for Boardman. August 22 will finish the season series with Sidewalk

Stompers in Irrigon.

Free Sports Physicals are available by appointment only at Columbia River Community Health Services on August 10 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and August 29 from 3 to 7 p.m. Call 541-481-7212 for an appointment.

The last Farmer's Market of the season will be Monday, August 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Boardman Marina Park.

Bow Fishing Tournament

The Kiwanis Club of Boardman is holding weekly Saturday night dances. Each evening will include dance lessons and open dancing from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Open to all individuals, but children under 14 will be required to have an adult present. Cost is free.

Chamber monthly lunch will feature Wildhorse Resort and Casino as the speaker on Wednesday, August 17 at noon at the Port of Morrow. Lunch is catered by Judy Scott's Chuck Wagon and is \$10 per person. RSVP by Monday, August 15.

The City of Boardman will pay for the collection of puncturevine throughout the month of August. The puncture vine and their seed pods need to be collected in bags provided by the city and returned to City Hall to receive \$1 per bag in bounty, until the entire \$300 has been paid out.

Heppner Garden Club surprises yard of the month winners

By Kay Proctor

Craig and Deb Gutierrez both expressed disbelief when the Heppner Garden Club recognized their home at 460 S. Court as the July Yard of the Month.

"Are you sure? We don't have much in our yard," were some of their reactions, along with claims of not having "a green thumb." They were reassured that recognition of all styles of yards, full and minimalist, was important to the community.

The couple has a goal of a "low maintenance" for their yard, which is kept neat and tidy year round. Front and back yards have an expanse of lawn with some clover. Sons Justin and Austin along with Craig share lawn-mowing duties, although Justin will be missing his turn when he begins classes at Washington State University this fall.

The home, built in 1958, was purchased in the mid-60s by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to provide housing for Heppner's District Ranger.

"The ranger's residence" was home to several families until the federal government sold it to a private party in the early 90s. Craig and Deb purchased it in 1996 and have aimed to do one major improvement yearly. Some of the projects have been new windows, gutters, garage doors and a roof. Cement driveway and curbing were also added. Future plans are to complete the privacy fence.

Willow Creek runs alongside the home, providing a cool breeze. A huge weeping willow tree used to tap into the creek and provide abundant shade. Unfortunately, it shattered during a storm a few years ago. Craig had no choice but to finish the job Mother Nature started. Although no damage was originally done, their garden shed was dented while Craig was removing the tree's remains. The wood was claimed 15 minutes after they placed it by their street with a "free" sign. The long-gone willow and its character are still missed.

Crimson and Autumn Blaze maples were



Top: July Yard of the Month winners Craig and Deb Gutierrez pose in their tidy yard on Court Street. Bottom: One of the appealing features of the Gutierrez yard is their hanging vegetable garden with its flourishing tomato plants. -Photos by Kay Proctor



planted, although digging proves challenging. The soil lies shallow over large river rock and boulders, and the house sits solidly on near-bedrock.

Potentilla, barberry and boxwood shrubs line the house in beds added by the couple, with small river rock used as cover. An Oregon grape had to be moved when a volunteer Japanese elm grew through the middle of it to the eaves. Orange flowering lilies along a side yard were planted as a surprise by Craig's dad, the late George Gutierrez, because he wanted to add some color. Granite rocks are arranged in a well-groomed corner with thoughts of George in mind.

The low-maintenance goal has resulted in a pergola built for a hanging vegetable garden. Strawberries grown in hanging baskets were tried and did well, but wouldn't winter over. Now, six plastic buckets, some painted black to retain heat, hang with a variety of healthy tomato plants growing from beneath. Craig put mulch in the bucket tops to

retain moisture. When peppers were grown, it was a challenge keeping up with harvest.

Deb has worked for the USFS for 24 years and has been commuting to Pendleton the past six. Her father also worked for the USFS, and she grew up in various Oregon locations. Craig is originally from Ione and has worked for Morrow County Public Works for 18 years. The two met at college in LaGrande. The family includes cat, Stanley, and chocolate Labrador Retriever, Boggs.

Spending minimal time in their yard frees the family up to follow sports. Deb has coached whiffle ball and Craig has been deeply involved with local baseball for 26 years; watching, coaching, umpiring, helping build fields and maintaining them. Seems like a "home run" for the Gutierrez family and the community.

Yard of the Month recognition is co-sponsored by the City of Heppner, MCGG-Greed Feed and the Heppner Garden Club.

Quilter's Roundup holding great apron contest

Quilter's Roundup is holding its first annual great apron contest. The entries are on display in the Quilter's Roundup window on the corner of Main and Willow streets in Heppner.

The first-time contest has had a good turnout, with seven aprons competing for first prize and several more entered for display only. Prize winners will be selected based on judging as well as viewers' choice.

Voting for viewers' choice will be open August 7-14, so everyone



These are only three of the seven aprons vying for viewers' choice in Quilter's Roundup's first-ever great apron contest. -Photo by Megan Futter

is encouraged to stop by and pick a favorite. The

voting is open to all local area residents.

Ione offers free sports physicals

Free sports physicals will be available at Ione Elementary School from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 18. Physicals will be available for students grades six through 12.

Students must have a sports physical every other year in order to participate in athletics. Students must have physical exam forms filled out and signed by parents; forms are available at the school office or at the OSAA website.

For more information on the free physicals, call 541-422-7131.

VA "meet and greets" planned

All Morrow County area veterans are invited to attend one of two "meet and greet" events regarding the new VA clinic opening in Morrow County.

The first informational meeting will be held on August 11 at 9 a.m. at Irrigon City Hall at 500 NE Main in Irrigon. Interested vets can also attend an open meeting at 1 p.m. on August 11 at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Conference Center at 2 Marine Drive in Boardman.

Lexington girl named to all-NWC squad

Lexington's Sarah Stillman, a graduate of Ione High School, was one of only a few area athletes named to the Northwest Conference all-Academic team for the 2010-11 year.

Stillman made the women's track and field all-academic list in her freshman year. She represents the University of

Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, where she majors in international political economics.

In order to qualify for the distinction, students had to have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above and must have participated in varsity athletics throughout the season.

US News gives Heppner school bronze ranking

Heppner Junior/Senior High School received a bronze in U.S. News and World Report magazine's rankings of best high schools in the nation.

Schools that made the list from neighboring counties included Grant Union High School, Crane Union High School, Nyssa High School, McLoughlin High School (Milton-Freewater) and Pine Eagle High School (Halfway), all of which also received bronze rankings.

No Oregon schools received gold status. However, there were 33 Oregon high schools that received

bronze or silver. Only 100 school nationwide received gold rankings, out of more than 21,000 public high schools included in the judging.

Statistics in the report for Heppner, which listed an enrollment of 226, with 33.2% of those economically disadvantaged. Heppner received a state test performance index of 104.0, with a disadvantaged students' state test proficiency rate of 63.2 and non-disadvantaged students' state test proficiency rate of 83.9. There was a 22.3 disadvantaged students performance gap.

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