

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

-Continued from PAGE ONE

military charitable organizations, including the Seal Team Foundation. When they were introduced to each other by other Seal team members, he said they found an instant common interest in the gun Kyle used sniping...the 300 Winchester. McEwen said the military and hunting models of the 300 Winchester look different, but the bullet—whether used by the most lethal sniper in American history or an Eagle Scout hunting around Heppner—is the same.

After hearing Kyle's stories of the front lines, McEwen said he felt compelled to help Kyle get the story heard.

"I felt Chris' story was so compelling and patriotic...I wanted to make sure Chris' story was told because he was truly an American hero," said McEwen. "I felt it was a story that would help people understand about the conflict that American has been going through in Iraq."

That led to a three-year project in which Kyle,

McEwen and DeFelice worked to record Kyle's life, including his childhood, marriage and battlefield experiences during four tours of duty over the course of 10 years in Iraq.

McEwen said the book was created as a result of interviews with Chris. Those interviews were turned into text, and the text was polished into book form. While McEwen and DeFelice were in on the creation and writing, McEwen said there is no mistake that "American Sniper" is Kyle's words.

"This is Chris' story, Chris' book," he said.

McEwen couldn't have predicted the wild ride on which that book would take them, into a publishing world he had never expected to enter.

"It's been an interesting run, between assisting Chris in the preparation of his autobiography, to marketing and getting the book deal in New York, to finalizing the manuscript and watching the process of



McEwen (L) and his father, hunting in the mountains near Heppner when he growing up. -Contributed photo

it becoming a number-one bestseller," McEwen said.

"American Sniper" was published by the William Morrow division of HarperCollins and is available through most major book retailers, including

Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. Those who love the book may also have something else to look forward to...McEwen said they are currently negotiating movie rights. More information should be available soon.

Bank of EO offers scholarships

"Bank of Eastern Oregon will again offer twenty \$500 Agriculture/Business scholarships for graduating high school seniors in Heppner, Ione, Arlington, Condon, Boardman, Irrigon, Spray, Fossil, Burns, Crane, John Day, Monument, Long Creek, Dayville, Mitchell, Moro, Prairie City, Enterprise, Wallowa, and Joseph," announced Jeff Bailey, president and CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon.



CEO Jeff Bailey

This marks the 20th year the bank is sponsoring the \$500 scholarships to students.

"Through the years, we have awarded approxi-

mately \$86,000 in scholarships. We are proud of our graduates and pleased to continue offering the scholarships to the talented and deserving recipients in our market area," said Bailey.

Applicants must plan to enroll in college in either agriculture or business. Selection will be based on scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

Applications can be picked up from school counselors, at a branch of Bank of Eastern Oregon or online at www.beobank.com under the Community Commitment link. The deadline to submit applications is May 1.

Ione Elementary students of the month



Ione Elementary School announced its students of the month for January. Students were honored for showing knowledge, leadership and morals during the month of January. Top (L-R): Tiffany Hollis, Bryce Rollins and MaLinda Morter. Middle (L-R): Larysa Burright, Grace Ogden and Hailey Heideman. Bottom (L-R): Lewkus Burright, Renee Peterson and Haylie Peterson. -Contributed photos

LIBRARY TECH

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Audiobooks, music and video will automatically open in OverDrive Media Console; eBooks will automatically open in Adobe Digital Editions. Once the download is complete, the reader may select a title and enjoy the book.

For help, click on the Help/FAQs tab at the top of the Library 2 Go page. Click on the Overdrive help. They may browse audiobook help, eBook help and Kindle apps, and can find out which devices can be used with eBooks as well as get help by viewing videos.

Another presentation, by John Boufford from Cascade Specialties outlined an online language program, Manga, which once it goes live through

the library district, can avail online language learning to everyone in Morrow County.

The online language courses can be used anywhere where people can access the internet. Boufford said that the courses, offering more than 32 different language programs for English speakers—including Irish—and 13 English as a Second Language programs, which will help non-English speaking residents, in addition to students, travelers and anyone wishing to learn another language.

Boufford, a systems analyst for Cascade Specialties, said that different types of access would be available to members of the community, such as for

corporations, schools and individuals.

OTLD offers numerous free services through the Heppner branch: more than 11,000 items, large print books, newspapers, magazines, Library 2 Go Audio Books, videos and DVDs, the summer reading program, computer access to more than one million items, special programs, fee internet access, word processing and fax and copy services. The OT Library in Heppner, 444 N. Main St., is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The OTL phone is 541-676-9964.

The Heppner Friends of the Library is

dedicated to support OTLD with items that the OTLD budget cannot afford. This past year, they have donated more than \$500 in books and audiobooks, \$500 in magazine subscriptions, a new library table, more than \$450 toward the summer reading program and \$600 to fund spring and summer storytellers, in addition to sponsoring the Missoula Children's Theatre. They raise monies primarily through the St. Patrick's Celebration book sale.

Membership on the FOL is \$5 for an individual, \$10 for a family, \$20 for a business and \$50 for a sustaining membership. They also invite donations of funds, books, videos and DVDs.

Elks promote anti-drug message



Lindsay Kincaid, Heppner Elks Lodge Drug Awareness Chairman, handed out anti-drug literature at the recent Bank of Eastern Oregon Wrestling Tournament held at Heppner High School. Kincaid also set up the drug awareness table at a recent Helix-Ione basketball game. The Elks NE District has a drug-awareness trailer it can send to different events, and Lindsay said he is going to try and get it scheduled for this area. -Contributed photo

Preschoolers visit new lambs



Ione's Creative Care Preschool students made their annual February trip to pet and feed the newborn lambs at Skye and Penny Krebs' sheep operation. After enjoying the baby lambs, the students and their parents went to the Krebs home, where everyone enjoyed Penny's lamb-shaped sugar cookies. -Contributed photo

Merkley introduces transportation bill amendment

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley introduced a bipartisan amendment to the transportation bill currently on the Senate floor that he says would cut red tape for farmers and ranchers transporting their products.

The amendment, co-sponsored by senators Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), would allow farmers and ranchers who live near state lines to transport their products to the closest processing facility even if it is in a neighboring state.

"A farmer in Ontario shouldn't be subject to unnecessary government bureaucracy just because the closest processing facility happens to be across the border in Idaho," said Merkley.

"Agriculture is a huge part of the Oregon economy and this amendment will make it just a little easier for family farmers to stay successful."

In current law, farmers are exempt from a set of unnecessary regulations when they transport their products in farm vehicles, but only as long as they are transporting the products within the same state. This is problematic for farmers and ranchers who live near state borders.

If current law is not changed, for farmers to cross state borders means

they face regulations like:

- Vehicle inspections for every trip the farm vehicle takes, even if the vehicle is driving from the field to the barn;

- Adhering to reporting requirements like hours of service rules, even if the farmer is driving an hour down the road;

- Obtaining medical certifications meant for commercial truck drivers.

According to a statement by Merkley, his amendment is narrowly tailored to only cover farm vehicles transporting products.

The exemption only applies if the vehicle is registered in the state as a farm vehicle and driven by the farmer or ranch owner, an employee or family member; is transporting to or from the farm agricultural commodities, livestock, or machinery and supplies; is either 26,001 pounds or less or, if heavier than 26,001 pounds, be driven only within the state or a 150 air-mile radius of the farm.

The American Farm Bureau, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Wheat Growers League all endorse Senator Merkley's amendment.

Senator Merkley is offering this legislation as an amendment to the transportation bill currently under debate in the U.S. Senate.

Friends of library recognize volunteers



The Heppner Friends of the Library announced that David and April Sykes were the 2011 Friends of the Heppner Library Volunteers of the Year. The Sykes were recognized during the Love Your Library night held at the Heppner Library last Thursday evening. Pictured above with April is Bill Kuhn holding a plaque of appreciation on which the Sykes' names were engraved. -Contributed photo