

Wights earn Yard of the Month for May

Gary and Jeri Wight's neat and tidy property at 515 S. Chase has earned them May's Yard of the Month recognition, much to their surprise.

The Wights' lives and lifestyles have influenced their gardening style, keeping it simple without a lot of flowers. When assured that a neat and well-kept yard is always appreciated, Jeri was relieved because she "is good at growing grass and murdering dandelions" but "is just not much into flowers."

Both Wights are originally from Spray, where Gary retired from the Oregon Department of Transportation. Jeri began work at the Spray post office, then transferred to Heppner, where she retired in 2002. In Spray, the couple lived in the Templeton house, owned previously by Jeri's parents, where they kept a nice, large yard. Her father had established more than 50 trees around the property, watering them from a 50-gallon barrel since regular irrigation wasn't



Jeri Wight (pictured above) and her husband Gary won local recognition with May's Yard of the Month. -Photo by Kay Proctor

possible at that time. Since purchasing their home in 1996, the Wights have built a shop, put on siding and a metal roof, and added a back deck from where they can enjoy views of town and the Willow Creek Valley. An adjacent lot had a home burnt by fire, but still standing, so they purchased that property for extra parking on their steep

hillside.

The open lawn stays green with an underground sprinkler system they put in. A high priority is to keep weeds under control so they won't be a fire hazard. Last summer, Jeri says she watched the hillside to the northwest of their home burn rapidly, then later that summer saw smoke from a hillside fire to the southeast. Both wildfires reinforced their belief in keeping the yard green and the weeds down.

Son John Wight with wife, Shelley, live close by, sharing a property line. When John and Shelley's original house burnt, extensive leveling was done in building the replacement home. Gary was able to use that excavated rock to build a road connecting the two

properties. He keeps weeds on the hillside under control by spraying, and Jeri uses a lightweight weed eater where possible.

Like many yards in town and country, deer are frequent visitors. Last summer, they annihilated a lilac shrub, wiped out a bed of strawberries and even ate moss roses down to stubs. To keep the border beds easy to maintain, Jeri has filled them in with river rock and other larger collectible rocks from here and there. Gary jokes about how she hauls rock home to their already rocky hillside.

Jeri enjoys their hillside neighborhood and speaks fondly of neighbors, past and present. While the Wights do not have a pet right now, the neighborhood cat stops by often for snacks and a visit.

During winter snowfalls, Gary can be seen downtown on his ATV, snowplowing sidewalks and parking lots. He also has a lawn mower attachment for his ATV. The entire family, including grandchildren, Adam and Riley, and great-grandchildren, Cooper, Jaxson and Remi, enjoy getting together to camp and ride ATVs and side by sides.

Yard of the Month recognition is sponsored by the Heppner Volunteers, MCGG-Green Feed and the City of Heppner. Contact Kay Proctor if you would like to be a part of the Heppner Volunteers.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Ace Jeremy Huff, 40, was convicted of one count of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII), a Class A Misdemeanor, and sentenced to three years' driver's license suspension and 180 days jail time. However, execution of 140 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 36 months bench probation, to include 40 days jail time with credit for time served, Antabuse if medically able, 160 hours of community service, alcohol evaluation and victim impact panel. The defendant was further convicted of one count of Reckless Driving, a Class

Misdemeanor; execution of the 180-day sentence was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 36 months bench probation, to include 40 hours of community service, Antabuse if medically able, alcohol evaluation and victim impact panel. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$3,200.

-Robert Lee Carneal, 74, was convicted of Contempt of Court. Sentence was 180 days jail time; however, sentence was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 12 months bench probation, to include compliance with a Morrow County restraining order and no contact with listed individuals. A second count of Contempt of Court was dismissed. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$100.

FBLA to hold bake sale June 12

The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) will hold a baked goods fundraiser at the farmer's market next Friday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the three girls traveling to FBLA National Competition in Chicago June 26-July 3.

Available that day will be homemade yeast breads, Caitlynn Bailey's sweet breads, cookies, brownies, cakes and more.

Sheriff's Report

October 18: -A caller in Boardman advised 911 dispatch that when she was driving by a location she saw a subject kicking at a door; subject was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. Boardman Police Dept. and Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded. The subject had locked himself out.

-Someone at Sub Zero Restaurant in Irrigon reported that five to six people, mostly women, were fighting in front of the location.

-MCSO was advised that Benton County arrested Cesar Junior Munoz Gutierrez, 20, on a Morrow County warrant for Failure to Appear on Criminal Mischief II and Reckless Endangering.

-MCSO was advised of a motor vehicle accident on I-84 E near Boardman, unknown injury. BPD, MCSO, Boardman Fire, Boardman Ambulance and Oregon State Police responded.

-MCSO was advised a white Chevy Blazer with music blaring was driving on the sidewalk by Heppner Elementary School, weaving around the pillars. MCSO responded and checked the area but was unable to locate.

October 19: -MCSO was advised that female was in Bucknum's in Heppner for about two hours playing the poker machines; she left for 15 minutes but her car stayed outside. She then went back in and then went back outside to smoke, and two small children got out of her car and were talking to her. They were in pajamas with no shoes on.

-A woman in Irrigon advised a Border Collie had dug into her yard and she would like to sign a citation. MCSO issued a citation to James Edward Anderson, 54, for Maintain Dog as a Public Nuisance.

-A caller in Boardman advised MCSO of a loud party near his residence. He believed it might be at Our Lady Guadalupe Catholic Church.

-An MCSO deputy advised of a male subject lying in the road in Irrigon with a head wound. MCSO and Irrigon Ambulance responded. Jose Ramirez Fernandez, 35, was issued citations for two warrants and released to appear at Irrigon Justice Court.

October 20: -MCSO was advised that Lincoln County arrested Jacob Earl Busch, 31, on an IJC warrant for FTA on Giving False Information.



Gary and Jeri Wight's "neat and tidy" yard earned them the title of May's Yard of the Month from the Heppner Volunteers. -Photo by Kay Proctor

Funding available to help Oregon landowners mitigate effects of drought

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon announces up to \$2.5 million in funding available to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to mitigate the effects of drought in counties that have secured drought declarations from the governor's office.

At this time those counties are: Morrow, Umatilla, Wasco, Wheeler, Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane and Malheur. If additional counties receive a drought declaration they will also have the opportunity to apply for this funding.

Landowners in these counties should submit applications to their local USDA Service Center by June 26 to be considered for funding.

"This funding will help Oregonians in the most drought-stricken areas of the state to mitigate the impacts of drought on cropland, rangeland and forestland," said Ron Alvarado, state conservationist. "This funding amplifies the work NRCS continues to do every day to support water conservation, soil health and productivity on Oregon's working agricultural

lands and forest lands." NRCS will give higher priority to applications in counties with the highest drought status according to

conservation practices. For cropland practices, NRCS will assist producers with planting and managing cover crops and implement-

to livestock.

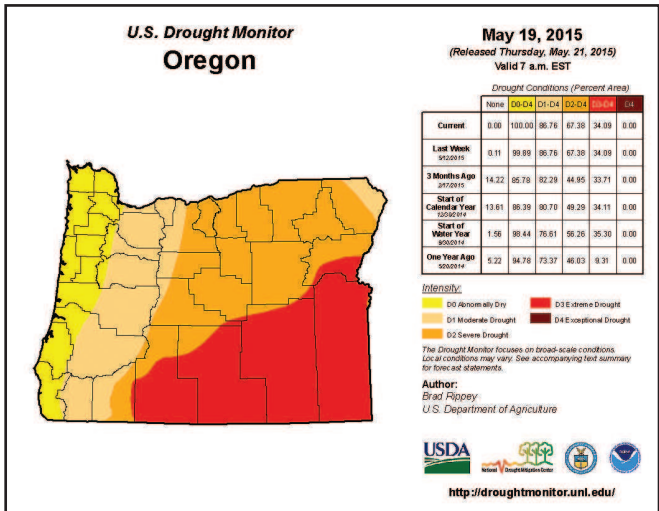
For forestry practices, NRCS will help landowners with wildfire prevention measures, such as creating fuel breaks, multi-purpose water impoundments and other fuel reduction activities. These actions reduce excess vegetation in a forest so that wildfire has less fuel to spread higher into the canopy, where it causes the most damage. NRCS is partnering with the Oregon Department of Forestry to focus the funding on areas with a higher risk for catastrophic forest fire.

The funding will be made available to eligible landowners through the NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Read more about EQIP eligibility, selection and payments on the Oregon EQIP webpage.

Applications will be ranked and prioritized for funding based on the drought level, resource concern, conservation benefit, and if applicable, the wildfire risk factor.

Landowners should submit applications by contacting their local USDA Service Center.

Learn more about NRCS programs in Oregon at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov.



the USDA Drought Monitor; however, producers in all counties declared by the governor will be eligible to apply for funding. The USDA drought monitor is updated weekly every Thursday and classifies counties under five drought categories: D0 - Abnormally Dry; D1 - Moderate Drought; D2 - Severe Drought; D3 - Extreme Drought; and D4 - Exceptional Drought. All of Eastern Oregon is in a D2 or D3 drought status.

In Oregon, NRCS will focus the funding on cropland, rangeland and forestry

ing emergency soil erosion measures. These practices will help farmers protect the soil from erosion, promote more organic matter in the soil, and aid in better water infiltration.

For rangeland practices, NRCS will assist ranchers in developing grazing management plans and installing emergency livestock watering facilities and multi-purpose water impoundments. These practices help reduce pressure on stressed vegetation, allow the soil to retain more moisture, and deliver emergency water supplies

10th Annual Youth Fishing Derby

Free

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Morrow County Parks are sponsoring a FREE YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Where: Cutsforth Park

When: Saturday, June 6, 2015

Address: 58430 Willow Creek Rd., Heppner, Oregon

Start Time: 8:30 am

End Time: 11:00 am

For children 14 years old and younger

For more information contact Kirsti Cason or Betty Gray at the Morrow County Public Works Office (541) 989-9500

American Red Cross encourages adding blood donation to vacation to-do lists

There are 100 days of summer, and the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to choose their day to give blood and help ensure a sufficient blood supply.

Two of those opportunities will come in Morrow County June 16 and June 23 in Boardman. June 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., donors can give blood at Portland General Electric/Boardman Coal Plant, 73334 Tower Road, while the site will be Columbia River Community Health Services, 450 Tatone St., on June 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Red Cross reports that summer is a difficult time to collect enough blood to meet patient needs. Nearly 90 percent of donors surveyed this past spring said they planned to take a vacation this summer,

potentially making them less available to give. In addition, many schools that host blood drives are out of session during the summer. But the need for blood donations is constant. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Donors of all blood types—especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative—are needed. The Red Cross must collect 15,000 blood donations every day to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide.

To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).