Caliene Smith receives July Yard of the Month recognition



Above: An irrigated sagebrush is a dominant feature of Caliene Smith's home on Jones St. in Heppner. Inset: Smith stands by one of her huge hanging baskets, which she purchased at MCGG/Green Feed & Seed. -Photo by Kay Proctor

By Kay Proctor

of the Month recognition.

from her son Dave Jaca and for construction of the tall daughter-in-law Jennifer Hughes Jaca, who lived there previously. They jok- the yard and every siningly refer to the large plant as a "Bonsai Sagebrush" since it requires continuous drip system that Caliene and she grows some of an trimming to hold its growth envisioned and Charlie extraordinary flame-red in check. It's worth the installed. It runs the entire color with gold centers. extra work because of its length and width of the Geraniums do well under welcomed shade and earthy lot, with varying heights. scent after a good rain.

ago. She has personalized tering.

the yard in several ways A home with an irri- with help along the way. gated sagebrush by the front Dave, Jennifer, and grandsteps has earned July Yard sons Tim and Mike pitch in. Leon Bowles mows and Caliene Smith rents does some yard work. Charher home on 570 Jones lie Grabeel planed lumber

wood fence.

Every square inch of gle flower container are hocks, zinnias and poppies. watered by an extensive Her favorites are peonies, Consistent irrigation from The house was built in the automatic system has in Arock, OR, Caliene Heppner Volunteers, MC-1893 and survived the Hep- resulted in healthier trees, pner flood of 1903. It was shrubs, flowers, and lawn. a rental for a time before Large hanging baskets Caliene moved in six years thrive on the regular wa-

good" and she has used Miracle Gro in a hose-end sprayer. Deer have been a challenge and even broke a portion of a wood fence trying to jump in. A taller ways gardening and having wood fence keeps them a yard," probably because out now, but they bed down right next to it. Watchdog ing/ranching community. Agnes does her best letting A sentimental reminder them know that they are not welcome.

shade, cool breezes and privacy is Caliene's favorite area. It's paved with bricks from the house's original chimney, and a barbecue grill sits nearby that Caliene 'burns things" on.

Tomatoes take up a row in the back while strawberry plants fill up a side yard bed. The many flower beds Caliene has added or expanded are full of old-fashioned annuals and perennials such as hollyher care, too.

Growing up on a ranch seven years and has been further information.

Youth volleyball

camp next week

focus on basic skills and having fun.

-An RP in Irrigon re-

541-256-0126.

The Heppner Mustang volleyball program will host a

Anyone with questions, contact Coach Wilson at

April 11: -Morrow want it going over the air

-Morrow County Sher- complaint regarding juve-

so they could run.

Road in Boardman.

-MCSO received report

-MCSO received a

-An RP advised MCSO

of a safe broken open and

dumped along Pole Line

niles getting high in Irrigon.

that her medication was

taken from her suitcase

sometime between Port-

land and Irrigon. Subject

-MCSO received a

requested phone contact.

in Irrigon who stated her

youth volleyball camp for incoming fifth through eighth

graders Aug. 1-3 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Heppner El-

ementary gym. The cost will be \$25, and the camp will

Sheriff's Report

The soil seems "pretty the drive-up teller at Bank of Eastern Oregon for the past three years. Previously she worked at Cortex Gold Mine in northeast Nevada.

She remembers "alshe was raised in a farmof her high desert life is a "Welcome" stone by the A side patio with deep front door carved with her maiden name, "Stitzel." Every so often, Caliene gets to watch her son J.T. participate in ranch rodeos in that area, enjoy the company of her other four grandchildren, and sit with family to listen to and tell stories.

Yard of the Month recognition is sponsored by the



This welcome stone carved with her maiden name is one of the distinctive features of Smith's yard. -Photo by Kay

moved to Heppner about GG-Green Feed & Seed, 10 years ago. She worked at and the City of Heppner. Heppner Family Foods for Contact Kay Proctor for

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

vice District (IMESD). Funding for this collaboration was made possible by the Port of Morrow, with some grants from the state as well as partner contributions. The capital costs approached \$2.1 million.

The center is named in honor of Gary and Kathy Neal, longtime residents of Eastern Oregon. Gary is the general manager for the Port of Morrow, where he has worked since 1989. Through her 17 years of service on the IMESD Board of Directors, Kathy said she has come to realize the great importance of early learning in the lives of children.

"I really believe that providing a strong foundation for our youngest children is what they need to be successful in school and life—data shows this. We need to be giving our kids the best opportunity we can from the beginning," Kathy said.

Kathy Neal said the center came to fruition through a shared vision of many individuals in the area: business professionals at the Port of Morrow, Morrow County commissioners, IMESD Superintendent Dr. Mark Mulvihill, BMCC President Cam Preus, Umatilla-Morrow Head Start Director Maureen McGrath and the team there, other educators and support from the state of Oregon through Representative Greg Smith.

"That's the way we get things done in Eastern Oregon—it's never one person. We are really good at collaborating and sharing resources to accomplish what we want," she said.

The Neal Early Learning Center will be the site for several programs. One is a preschool program of the Morrow County School District (MCSD) for threeand four-year-olds, a free program open to any families in the school district. Dirk Dirksen, superintendent of the MCSD, said the new center offers a positive step for educating the youngest students in the Neal said.

some of our resources to the earliest learners, because we know if they are ready for kindergarten, they are reading well in third grade, freshmen are on track and more students are graduating," Dirksen said. He said he appreciates the efforts of

-Continued from PAGE ONE all the partners to make the center a reality and looks forward to working together to maximize the center for community needs. The school district also offers preschool programs in Irrigon and Heppner.

Umatilla-Morrow Head Start will manage the facility and operations including three classrooms, an adjacent infant/toddler room hosted by BMCC, as well as home visitors, parent educators and child and family advocates. The IMESD's Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education program will have a classroom, too.

"This site signifies how deeply the community values its children and their future," said McGrath. "It's a place to learn, to grow, to connect and ultimately to succeed."

The proximity of the Neal Early Learning Center to the Boardman Workforce Training Center is not lost on Kathy Neal and Dirksen. They said having a place to educate adults alongside a place to educate the children of those adults is a definite asset.

"It's all about supporting a community of learners, whether they are three- or four-year-olds or 35- and 50-year-olds, the connection between facilities and partners like BMCC, schools and businesses is tying that effort together," said Dirksen.

Training and supporting employees for work in the area is crucial, Kathy Neal said, and having the Early Learning Center for those families makes a stronger community, and entices young people to return to Morrow County to work and live.

Gary and Kathy Neal's son and his family recently moved to the area to raise their family, and their threeyear-old grandson will be in the first class at the center. "We are 100 percent sure the learning center is going to make an impact in a really positive way," Kathy

The Neal Early Learn-"We are trying to shift ing Center will have its official opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 3 p.m. For more information about Morrow County School District's preschool program, visit www.morrow.k12.or.us.

Chamber lunch meeting

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be an all entities report on Thursday, Aug. 3, in the Heppner City Hall conference room.

Cost of lunch is \$10; Willow Creek Diner will cater. RSVP is required at 541-676-5536 no later than the Tuesday before to guarantee food and seating.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536.



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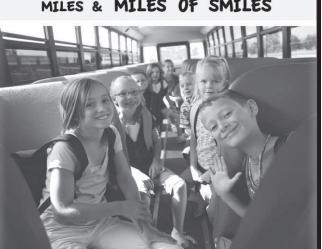


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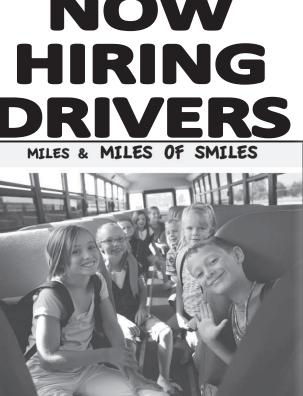


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