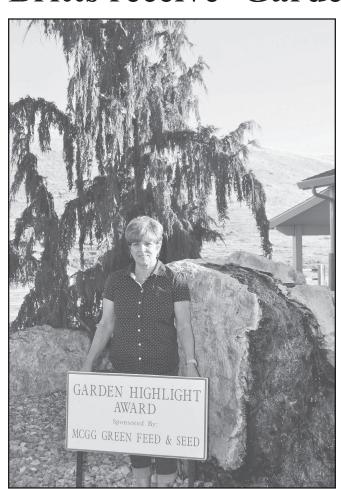
Britts receive 'Garden Highlight' recognition



Rita Britt stands in the large planting bed in the Britts' backyard, next to a fountain drilled in an Opal Creek boulder. Roger Britt opted out of the photo, stating that Rita was the "yard person" and deserved the recognition. -Photo by Kay Proctor

By Kay Proctor

tion for 2017.

for the Brahmas Roger Road in 2002. raised for breeding and sell-

ing for rodeo stock. A few Creating a neat and tidy of the older Brahma cows country yard has earned are left, replaced by Black Rita and Roger Britt the Angus. Their chosen home Garden Highlight recogni- site had never had a house on it before, so ground was The Britt's purchased leveled and a new home put the old "Ham's place" in in place. The Britts moved 2001. First improvements to their new address of were pastures and fences 56574 Upper Rhea Creek

The home and yard cook stove on Craigslist,

pasture, alfalfa fields and way and now Roger cooks CRP with Rhea Creek running through it. Roger was a rodeo bull rider for years, and that is captured with two steel silhouettes of a bull and rider flanking the graveled driveway leading to the home and its green

The lawn and beds are entirely edged in concrete and the house is surrounded by smooth, wide sidewalks. Roger sprays the property for weeds, but Rita keeps the yard weed-free. She walks it several times a week with a ready-to-use weed killer spray bottle to keep weeds at bay "before they get a stand."

Rita uses a riding lawn mower and has always loved to mow, stating she would do so every day if the yard needed it. She enjoys having a "neat, tidy place with a fresh look." Her favorite plants are petunias and purple fountain grass. Automatic, underground sprinklers keep everything green.

A breezeway connects the home to the garage and provides privacy as an outdoor room. Comfortable chairs, tables, a ceiling fan and family mementos all make this Rita's favorite place in the yard. They found an old fashioned 'Home Comfort' wood

sit on about 1,200 acres of installed it in the breeze- winter's weather brought



One of the distinctive features of the Britts' home is this working wood cook stove found on Craigslist; Roger Britt cooks sourdough pancakes on it every Sunday. -Photo by Kay Proctor

sourdough pancakes every Sunday.

From there, they can look out to the large planting bed in the middle of their backyard where deciduous and evergreen trees are mixed with large boulders hauled in from the Opal Creek area. One has been drilled, plumbed and turned into a fountain with water cascading from the

Chukars, pheasants and killdeer visit, but "deer aren't too bad." Gus, their border collie, might help keep the mule ear and white tail deer away. This past in lots of elk to the area, though. There was a surprise visitor one holiday: Rita had set a turkey carcass in a roasting pan on the breezeway table to cool. When she returned later, a raccoon was sitting at the table enjoying the traditional Thanksgiving feast, "just like he was invited."

Rita grew up in Heppner and met Roger when he moved here. He has also lived in Spray and Madras. During their 47 years of marriage, they lived in Pilot Rock for a while, but mostly around Heppner where they raised their two sons, Russell and Jason, who live in the Sacramento area and work for the same electrical co-operative. The Britt's have a 15-year-old granddaughter and a 13-year-old grandson in California, too.

Roger owned and operated a logging truck for years, then switched over to gravel trucks and septic service. Rita was the bookkeeper and they sold the business in 2014. Also working as a hairdresser and secretary in the past, Rita has retired recently from 28 years employment with the Morrow County School District, first as a school bus driver and then as a teacher's aide. She states she will "really miss the kids" this fall when school starts.

Garden Highlights recognition honors yards with exceptional highlights, special outdoor projects or rural settings and is sponsored by the Heppner Volunteers and MCGG-Green Feed & Seed. Contact Kay Proctor for further information or suggestions.



This steel silhouette, one of two that flanks the Britts' driveway on Upper Rhea Creek, is reminiscent of Roger Britt's days as a rodeo bull rider. -Photo by Kay Proctor

COUNTY COMMISSION

divide the duties among the three commissioners. He said hiring the administrator was a smart decision and he wanted to continue

on with that. Commissioner Jim Doherty said he was also in favor of a full-time administrator. "We give direction of where the county is going to the administrator and he carries that vision out," Doherty said. He said going for the county staff.

lissa Lindsay said she had Wolff, Jerry Sorte, a lay tion and ordinance) there Lakeview Heights and was talked to most of the county department heads and they all felt some form of chief officer was important for a smooth-running county government.

Through consensus the commissioners decided to start the search for a new

several choices would be sell if he would be willing not "shall." to hire an administrator, or to take on the administrator job in the interim.

"I ran a business with consider taking on the interadded that he would only do it if it lasted for no more than three to four months. Both Doherty and Lindsay also said they would consider the job if Russell declined. Russell said he would have an answer by The committee would be departments. Commission chair Me- made up of Doherty, Karen person from the community and to ignore it would be and one department head.

In other business at of staff or administrative a previous July 26 meeting the commission voted to appoint county finance director Kate Knop to the position of county auditor. The position has not been filled since the 1990s and replacement administrator, the commission wanted from Rowand Machinery and then went on to decide to make sure it got filled. in Pasco for a 2012 John whether to hire an interim County treasurer Gail Guti- Deere grader with a 2013 or have one of the commis- errez objected to the posi- Henke -way folding plow sioners do the job until the tion being filled saying and a 60-inch benching position is filled. Commis- that the ordinance said the snow wing.

-Continued from PAGE ONE sioner Doherty asked Rus- auditor "may" be appointed

"What is the purpose and reason for this?" she asked the commission. "Is it 90 employees and I would necessary and is it needed?" she wanted to know. Gutiim admin," Russell said. He errez said the commission was moving forward without knowing the financial impact of appointing the position. She also wanted to know who was going to do the financial analysis of filling the position. Assessor Mike Gorman also objected the Aug. 2 commission to the appointment, saying the way of the commission meeting. The commission that most of the duties of handling the duties would also agreed to form a search the auditor were already refusal. Transported POV result in fragmented bosses committee at this meeting. being carried out by other back home to La Grande.

inappropriate," chair Lindsay said. The commission then voted unanimously to appoint Knop as auditor.

In other action, the commission voted to buy a new road grader for public works. They accepted the low bid of \$210,000

from Morrow County Sheriff's Office Administrative Lieutenant Melissa Ross, who went over several incidents around the county in the past month, including the following:

South County

7-6 Accident. MP 10 Willow Creek Road. Pickup truck reported off the road, on the creek side, folded up with broke windshield, rolled. Located driver at nearby residence. Ambulance responded, patient

7-15 Citizen Assist. "It's (the auditor posi- Resident ran away from no one saw him get out and Five drivers driving in exswimming near the dam. She would not come out of the water. Worker called back to advise they convinced swimmer to come out of the water and back to Lakeview.

North County

7-5 Agency Assist/Benton County, WA. Three subjects left on a jet ski about 6:30 p.m., been gone about hour and a half. One subject was found three miles west of Crowe Butte about ¹/₄-mile off the Oregon side.

In other business, the A 40-year-old male and the freeway, by county line out, headed to marina. Benthanks. They found all subjects alive.

> 7-6 Lost Child. Boardman Eastbound Rest Area. Nine-year-old male came out of the restroom and his family had left without him. From Montana. Able to make contact with parents on the road. They came back to pick up son. He had been in the third seat row in the Suburban and thought he was still asleep in the back.

7-21 Fire Started in Gilto MCSO by someone on 100 mph.)

commission heard a report three-year-old female still about 1:40 p.m. Boardman missing. Unknown if they Fire went out to check, in have life jackets. MCSO Gilliam County and they Marine Deputy was called were aware of situation and had crews working ton County called back fire. At 5:12 p.m., Ione FD and said to disregard, but was paged out to respond to MP 9 on Highway 74 to protect structures from wildland fire that got away from Gilliam County. Our fire crews headed back to station about 1 a.m..

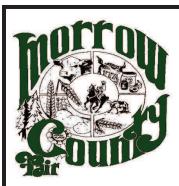
> 7-21. Excessive Speed. Three drivers driving in excess of 90 mph on the freeway were issued citations within one-hour period.

7-22. Excessive Speed. go into the rest area. They cess of 90 mph on the freeway were issued citations within 1-1/2-hour period. (Two citations earlier in liam County, was reported month were in excess of

WEATHER

-Continued from PAGE ONE Normal highs for Heppner during August are 85.5 degrees and normal lows are 53.5 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.39 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.



"Our Roots Run Deep in Morrow County" August 19-20, 2017

> Fair Admission: Ages 8 & Up \$4 daily or \$10 week 7 & under FREE (must be with Adult) Rodeo Admission: 13 & up \$10 7-12 yrs. \$6 6 & under FREE

> > <u>Fair: www.co.morrow.or.us/fair</u>

Wednesday 16th

The Reptile Man Kid Fun Zone Scarecrow Contest



Ice Cream Social 4-H Food Contest 4-H/FFA Small Animal Showmanship 4-H Fashion Revue RDO Tractor Pull Cory Peterson Band



Thursday 17th The Reptile Man Kid Fun Zone Old Time Fiddlers

Talent Show FFA Floral Design Murray's Wine Tasting Featuring: Joe Lindsay

Nate Botsford

Friday 18th

The Reptile Man Kid Fun Zone 4-H/FFA Showmanship Ballet Performances 4-7 yrs. Master Showmanship Adult Showmanship Greased Pig Contest OTPR/NPRA Rodeo



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OR COME IN TODAY!

All Exhibits Released Morrow County Rodeo

Saturday 19th

The Reptile Man

Buyers Luncheon

Livestock Auction

OTPR/NPRA Rodeo

Kid Fun Zone

FFA Awards

Parade