

Thompson yard receives Garden Highlight award

By Kay Proctor

A terraced yard overlooking Willow Creek and farmland was recently recognized with the Garden Highlight award.

Brian and Susie Thompson built their home in 2004 off Highway 74 between Lexington and Heppner. They both wanted a low maintenance yard. First, they needed decent soil for the rocky hillside so they brought in over 200 dump truck loads of dirt.

Next, Brian brought in hundreds of large basalt rock from the Wilkinson Ranch. Using an excavator, he carefully placed, then replaced the rocks into terracing that he uniquely designed to curve around half of the property. Setting and resetting the rocks was like putting together a giant puzzle.

A patio sits on the upper terrace, which is Susie's favorite outdoor area. Terraces, beds and yard have plantings that are fairly easy to care for. The yard includes aspens, Shasta daisies, willows, crabapple, variegated dogwood and decorative grasses. Yard art is displayed throughout the grounds.

Underground sprinklers and driplines keep everything green and river rock mulches the beds to hold in the moisture and keep weeds down.

The front entrance provides extra protection from the elements and an exceptional Rose of Sharon does well there. Near the entrance is a rustic, red wagon full of colorful annuals grown by Heppner High School's FFA chapter. On



Above: Hanging baskets from the Thompson's daughter's June wedding. Below: Bella guards the little red wagon of blooms. -Contributed photos.



the other side of the entryway, a hydrangea is loaded with large blooms.

A circulating basalt fountain attracts chukars to the water with their babies. The chukars also like to roost on the roof. Below, wild cottontail rabbits have taken up residence in the rock terrace.

Next to their long driveway, Brian planted sweet cherry trees and put them on a dripline system. The trees were doing well until deer found a way through the electric fencing.

The Thompson's black Labrador, Bella, watches

the yard and their border collie, Carlos, usually accompanies Brian to work.

Both of the Thompson's children have graduated from college after attending Heppner High School. Stephen works for NW Farm Credit in Kennewick. Daughter, Emily, is nearing completion of medical school at OHSU. Emily was married this June to Keenan Jack, also from Heppner. Huge baskets of annual flowers used in their wedding now hang from the covered front steps of the Thompson's home.

While Susie was born in Heppner, she grew up in Gresham. Summers were spent in Heppner staying at the Brosnan ranch, her mother's family. Susie works for the Morrow County Health District as a registered nurse.

Except for some time in Portland, Brian has lived in Heppner his entire life. He operates the Thompson family ranch which was established in 1909. Emily and Stephen are part of the sixth generation of Brosnans and the fifth generation of Thompsons in Heppner.

The Garden Highlight award is sponsored by MCGG/Green Feed and Seed and Heppner Volunteers. It is given to those with exceptional seasonal features, special outdoor projects or yards that are outside the city limits. For any suggestions, contact kayproctor@gmail.com.

Chamber announcements and upcoming events

Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m., Neighborhood Watch workshop at Heppner City Hall. There will be a PowerPoint presentation by the Morrow County Sheriff's office to teach the basics of a neighborhood watch program, with discussion following.

Saturday, Sept. 22 from 12-4 p.m., Suicide Awareness barbecue and entertainment event at the Heppner Fit Park. Hot dogs with all the fixings will be served, along with Tillamook ice cream provided by Morrow County Veterans Services. Music will be provided by The Jagerbums.

Saturday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Annual Morrow County Harvest Festival at the SAGE Center in Boardman. Do you make a unique artisan product? Grow delicious produce? Are you located in or near Morrow County? If you think your products are what we're looking for, then we invite you to apply to become a vendor at the event. The vendor application can be completed online at: www.tinyurl.com/

SAGE-2018HarvestFestival. For more information, please contact the SAGE Center at 541-481-7243. Please note we are not accepting direct sales vendors at this event.

Saturday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge, Heppner High School Booster Club's annual steak dinner and auction. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 6 and the live auction beginning at 7 p.m. Dinner will consist of steak, potatoes, salad, bread and homemade dessert for \$20 per person. A limited number of VIP Tables will be available and can be reserved by calling 541-561-0234. VIP tables include reserved seating, special table décor, two bottles of wine and wait service during the meal. For additional information or to make a donation, contact Brandi Sweeney at 541-246-0358. This event is open to the public.

Saturday, Oct. 20, 4th Annual Oktoberfest Auction and Dinner. This event is a benefit for The Woolery Project and will be held

in the big tent on the Port of Arlington peninsula. A prime rib dinner prepared by Paradise Rose Chuckwagon Catering will be served. There will be dinner music by One Hum and Wheeler County Ramblers, a huge silent and live auction (with 2 Henry Tribute Edition rifles). Dance music will be provided by Countryfied. Tickets are \$35 each and may be purchased at MCGG-Wasco, Thrifty Food Center-Arlington, Condon Chamber, Murrays Drug-Condon and Dinty's Market-Biggs Junction. More information is available on the Woolery Project Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thewooleryprojectinc or via email to info@thewooleryprojectinc.org.

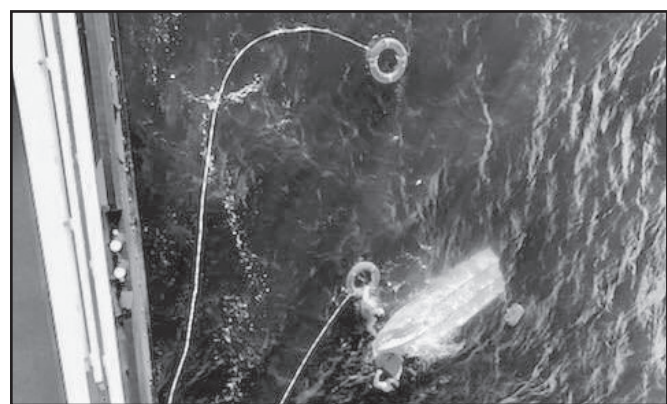
Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Riverfront Center, Port of Morrow, Boardman, First Annual Morrow County FFA Dinner/Auction to benefit the Heppner/Irrigon/Ione, Riverside Chapters. There will be a live and silent auction along with a meal.

Tugboat crew saves lives on the Columbia River

Derek Alan Ness, 38, of Umatilla and Laurie Dawn Merrell, 47, of Umatilla, owe their lives to the captain and crew of the tugboat Ryan Point. Captain Josh Burrows and his crew spotted the pair after their boat overturned in rough water on the Columbia River on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

The Morrow County Communications Center received a call from the US Coast Guard about 6 p.m. last Tuesday, advising that the Tidewater tugboat Ryan Point had spotted two people in the water clinging to their very small overturned boat. The rough water and angle of the sun made it difficult to see, but the crew of the Ryan Point are no strangers in assisting those in need on the Columbia River as they work running their tugboat from Longview to Pasco.

The Coast Guard advised that the Ryan Point was headed downstream near river channel marker 72 when they spotted the man and woman in the water, clinging to their small capsized boat. The two were hypothermic and extremely weak from being in the rough water for three hours before the Ryan Point came to the rescue. One person's temperature was so low it did not register on the thermometer. Since the conditions on the open water were very rough, there were no other boaters in the area. According to the report, a tugboat had passed them about 30 minutes before the Ryan Point, but due to the conditions did not see the pair in the water.



Above: The crew of the Ryan Point rescue two people. Below: The Ryan Point tugboat. -Contributed photos.



Morrow County Marine Deputy Mike Cahill was immediately dispatched. Cahill was in touch with Captain Burrows on the Ryan Point via phone and marine band radio. Due to the rough water, Captain Burrows determined it would be best to treat them on-board while enroute to the Tidewater dock in Boardman, rather than risk a boat transfer in open water. The crew is well equipped and well trained for just such emergencies.

The Boardman ambulance and Boardman fire were dispatched to assist Deputy Cahill when the tugboat arrived at the Boardman Tidewater facility. Medics took the boaters to two waiting ambulances.

The Marine investigation is still on-going and will consider the condition of the boat for seaworthiness and if all required safety items were aboard at the time the craft was launched out of Umatilla. Investigators deferred to let the families reunite and let the boaters recuperate from their ordeal.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol would like to remind all boaters to make sure to always carry the required safety equipment, be vigilant about keeping your craft seaworthy and be aware of the conditions on the water. If in doubt about any of these, please wait, there will always be another day to be on the water.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

THE CITY OF HEPPNER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MORROW COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE HAVE PLANNED A

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 6:00 P.M. AT HEPPNER CITY HALL

COME AND JOIN WITH OTHERS AND LEARN THE BASICS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM
POWER POINT PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION

Please join us for

IONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 16TH ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Ione American Legion Hall

Social Hour 6:00 PM / Dinner 7:00 PM

Prime rib and salmon dinner

Live auction, raffles & silent auction

Tickets available at Ione branch of

DINNER SPONSORS: Bank of Eastern Oregon, Wheatland Insurance, Morrow County Grain Growers, ICABO, Mid Columbia Producers, Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op

Cemetery to fix irrigation

The Lexington cemetery district has announced that there are some problems with their irrigation system that is causing the grass to dry out. The district spokesperson would like the community to know that they are working on correcting the problems.

FAIRWAY[®]

INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION

308 E Gladys Ave
Hermiston, OR 97838

Office: 541-564-5900
hermistonhomeloansrus.com

Kim Arbogast
Sales Manager
NMLS # 230847
arbogast@fairwaymc.com

Meghan Kae Golden
Loan Officer
NMLS # 573302
meghan.golden@fairwaymc.com

Copyright©2018 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. NMLS#2289. 4750 S. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI 53718, 1-877-699-0353. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. All rights reserved.