

Kit & Shirley George earn 2019's first yard of month



Kit and Shirley George awarded Yard of Month
By Kay Proctor

The first Yard of the Month for 2019 was awarded to Kit and Shirley George at 687 Hager Street, Heppner, for May. The Georges moved to their two-story home in 1981 while the Willow Creek Dam was under construction. Watching the project close-up was interesting, but windows on the house needed

to be kept shut because of all the dust and dirt. Their house was built in 1966 by Bob Kelly and the Georges bought it from the original owners, the Anderson family, who have returned off and on to revisit their old place. Backed up to a rocky hillside, the home is the last house on Hager Street and overlooks Hager Park. Both Kit and Shirley enjoy hearing the



The Georges' home on Hager Street

baseball games and practices at the nearby ball field. Prior to the dam, Hager Street was part of the main route following Willow Creek to the mountains and carried a lot of traffic, hunters, campers, woodcutters, and log trucks. The Georges still see drivers headed to the Blue Mountains stop their vehicles and look up to the dam, confused by their GPS directing them via the old route. On the back hillside are the remains of a fairly intact flume built over 100 years ago. Terracing has been done to carve out a peaceful back yard and covered patio that often

catches a breeze. Towering pines provide ample shade. Open space beneath a juniper is used by the visiting quail for dust baths. Other wildlife includes blue heron that perch in the pines. One heron would sit above the hounds' kennels and seemed to enjoy stirring up the dogs. Western Oregon scrub jays were regular visitors for a while. Last year raccoons ate every single grape on the arbor and owls have left their signs. Shortly after painting their house, a woodpecker surprised them by putting the new paint to a test with his knocking. Deer visit often so the Georges try planting things that



Step in back patio came from old sidewalk on Main St Business in Heppner

the deer will leave alone. A concrete step to the back patio was carved from the sidewalk in front of the Mason's Building on Main Street when the sidewalks were being reconstructed some 20 odd years ago. "Oscar Borg" is stamped into the concrete. His jewelers/optometrist business was located at that site and he was Kit's great-uncle. Many of the plants in their tidy yard have been given as starts or seeds by friends and family, including a very old, but healthy gooseberry shrub from Shirley's family, the VanWinkles.

Kit does the mowing and maintenance of the oversized lot while Shirley takes care of the large variety of plants. River rock covers the flower beds, keeping down weeds and keeping in moisture. They both rake up the many dropped pine needles. Pine cones are collected, too, for a friend who gives them to their rabbits to chew on. Future plans are to remove some aged juniper shrubs. The Georges tell how it took them a long time to get things to grow and they learned a lot by trial and error. The couple worked

together on Main Street; about 14 years as owners of the Sears store, then 11 years owners of Lott's Electric. In their early years together, Shirley took care of children in her home, back when it was called "babysitting". They raised their two children here who were active in the local swim team. Lots of miles were driven to swim meet competitions. Their son, Cam, lives in Hermiston and daughter, Kimberly, in Chicago and the family includes seven granddaughters, two great-granddaughters, and one great-grandson.

Yard of the Month is co-sponsored by Heppner Volunteers, MCGG/Green Feed Store, and the City of Heppner.

Wheels with Meals program still underway

"Wheels with Meals," sponsored by the Morrow County School District (MCSO) is offered in Heppner, Lexington, Boardman and Irrigon through the summer. The Summer Food Service Program for the MCSO is expanding with two new mobile buses named "Wheels with Meals", with the slogan Feed a Smile, that will be going to eight Summer Food Service Program sites this summer. Three buses were donated by Mid-Columbia bus company and retrofitted for food service. Two of the buses will be put into service this school year. This project has been a community effort along with grants and support.

For the name of the bus and slogan, there was district wide contest for students to submit their ideas and graphics. Three classes had winners including Cynthia Hodgdon's class at Irrigon Elementary with the theme name "Wheels with Meals," Jon Schade's class at Riverside Jr/Sr High with student Levi Whitmer's slogan "Feed a Smile," and Hilaree Vanderpas's class, also at Riverside Jr/Sr High with students Luis Cardenas and April Mendieta's fruit, vegetables and entrée graphics. The winners received a healthy pizza party in the classroom as a reward, sponsored by Sodexo.

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to any child ages 1-18. One bus will be going to five new sites in Boardman and Irrigon and another bus will serve meals at three new sites in Heppner and Lexington. Lunch meals will begin on June 17 and plan to run through August 16. Summer school sites will also be running at different times throughout the summer in addition to the "Wheels with Meals." Times and locations are subject to

change but are updated on this website: <https://www.summerfoodoregon.org/map/> or text "food" to 877-877 or call 2-1-1 and ask about summer meals.

Breakfast will be served at:

-Sam Boardman Elementary: 301 Wilson Rd Mon-Fri, July 31-Aug 14, 7:45-8:15 a.m.

-Riverside Jr/Sr High: 210 Boardman Ave Mon-Fri, July 31-Aug 13, 7:00-7:30 a.m.

-AC Houghton Elementary: 1105 N Main St Mon-Fri, July 31 - Aug 13, 7:30-8:00 a.m.

-Heppner Elementary: 235 E Stansbury Mon-Fri, July 29-Aug 13, 7:30-7:45 a.m.

Lunch will be served in Boardman at:

-Morrow Estates: 201 Marshall Loop NE Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 10:30-10:50 a.m.

-Oregon Trail Library: 200 Main St Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 11:00-11:15 a.m.

-Boardman Parks & Rec: 1 N. Marine Dr Mon-Thur, June 17-July 18, 11:00-11:30 a.m.

-Teen Summer at Parks & Rec: 1 N. Marine Dr Mon-Thur, June 18-July 18, 1:15-1:30 p.m.

-Wilson Road Mobile Home Park: 600 Wilson Rd Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 11:30-12:00 p.m.

-Sam Boardman Elementary: 301 Wilson Rd Mon-Fri, July 31-Aug 14, 11:30-12:15 p.m.

-Riverside Jr/Sr High: 210 Boardman Ave Mon-Fri, July 31-Aug 13, 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served in Irrigon at:

-Irrigon Library: 490 NE Main Ave Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 12:30-12:45 p.m.

-Morrow Education Center: 240 Columbia Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 1:00-1:15 p.m.

-AC Houghton Ele-

mentary: 1105 N Main St Mon-Fri, July 31 - Aug 13, 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served in Heppner/Lexington at:

-Heppner City Park: 442 N Main St Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 11:00-11:15 a.m.

-Friendship Park by Rebekah Lodge: 145 E Main, Lexington Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 11:45-

12:10 p.m. Willow Creek Water Park: 433 W Riverside Mon-Fri, June 17-Aug 16, 12:30-12:45 p.m.

-Heppner Elementary: 235 E Stansbury Mon-Fri, July 29-Aug 13, 12:00-12:15 p.m.

For more information contact Kim Putman, Food Service Director, at 541-481-2526, ext. 2726.

Thursday, June 27 from 5-7 p.m., Questions about Willow Creek Dam presentation and Q&A at the Bartholomew Building, 110 N. Court Street. US Army Corp of Engineers will be joined by the Oregon Health Authority, Morrow County Health Department and other partners. Topics may include history of Willow Creek Dam, inspections and dam safety, operations and maintenance, water quality, water management and flood control, recreation, etc.

Thursday, June 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., "NERF" War (Teens against the Sheriff's Department). All teens are invited but must sign up with the Heppner library staff prior to the event. Snacks will be provided after the fun.

Friday, June 28 at 11 a.m., Summer Reading Program at Oregon Trail Library, Heppner Branch, solar powered rover. Make a moon rover that is powered by the sun.

Sunday, June 30, doors open at 5:30 p.m., concert starts at 6 p.m., Concert at the SAGE Center, featuring entertainment by Tylor and the Train Robbers with opening act Wade Aylett.

Chamber Chatter

Tickets are on sale now for \$15 each and can be purchased at the SAGE Center, Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, Heppner Murray's and Arlington Ace Hardware. Tickets are also available by phone by contacting the SAGE Center at 541-481-7243. There are a limited number of seats.

July 4th - Fourth of July Celebrations - Lone and Boardman communities: Check out the 4th of July Celebrations for Lone, Condon and Boardman.

Friday, July 5 from 6 to 8 p.m., First Friday summer event in downtown Heppner. There will be food, shopping, vendors, live music and family activities. Additional information available soon.

Sunday, July 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dakota Brown will perform for Music in the Park at the Heppner Main St. Park. There will be a meal available to purchase (by donation) prepared by the Hopeful Saints Ministry volunteers. Bring a lawn chair.

Saturday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fifth Annual Veteran Benefit EXPO19 at the Pendleton

Convention Center. Learn about available federal, state and local veteran benefits including health care, disability compensation pension, business, burial, transportation, education, recreation, long-term care, records, ID's, home loans and more. This event is designed to provide a one-stop shop for Oregon veterans of all eras and walks of life to learn about and access the full range of their earned benefits. For more information about the Expo, visit www.expo.oregondva.com. For questions, please contact Tyler Francke at 503-373-2389 or tyler.francke@state.or.us.

Thursday, August 1 is the deadline to apply for Morrow County Cultural Coalition grants. Applications for cultural-based activities are being accepted, with grants to be awarded for up to 50 percent of the total project cost. For complete guidelines and application form, contact Gayle Gutierrez at 541-676-5630 or via email at ggutierrez@co.morrow.or.us.

Sunday, August 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wasteland Kings will be the entertainment for Music in the Park at the Heppner Main St. park. There will be a meal available to purchase (by donation) prepared by the Hopeful Saints Ministry

volunteers. Bring a lawn chair.

Willow Creek Water Park is open for the summer. Normal hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday (weather permitting). Daily admission for adults 18 and up is \$4, students 5-17, \$3 and children and seniors is \$2. The daily family rate is \$14. Summer passes are available for \$140 and a single summer pass is \$75. Swimming lesson sessions will be July 17-27, July 8-18 and July 29-August 8. Each session will last two weeks and will be held Monday through Thursday. Each session is \$40 with a \$5 discount for season passholders. For additional info, call the Willow Creek Water Park at 541-676-5752.

Willow Creek Farmers Market started the season Friday, June 21 at the Heppner City Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Farmers Market will be open every Fridays through September except for Friday, June 28. The vendors will have produce, baked goods, plants, jams and jellies and a variety of handmade and artisan items. For more information or to become a vendor (\$25 for the summer for adults and \$10 for school-age children), contact Andrea DiSalvo at 757-285-5792 or by email at gutching@juno.com.

Closed July 4th
Have a safe holiday!
Heppner First Friday
July 5 - Open Late 6-8
Join us for a relaxing evening with wine on the sidewalk.
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Heppner and Lone offices CLOSED June 27th
Offices Will Also Be CLOSED July 4th & 5th in Observance of Independence Day