

Walkers awarded June yard of the month

By Kay Proctor

June yard of the month honors goes to Ralph and Sally Walker. Their home at 50 Canyon Road was built in 1974 and the Walkers purchased it in 1989. Due to frequent moves with Ralph's US Forest Service career, this was the first and only home the couple has ever purchased. They have added on, remodeled and updated the home's interior which they share with cats, Beau and Moochie and dogs, Daisy and Midge.

The house is perched at the top of a draw with nice views of the area. Due to clever use of space, terracing and building out, the Walkers have put their steeply sloped yard to good use. An extensive and shaded deck is full of potted flowers and comfortable seating used to enjoy their quiet backyard. School-teacher Sally does get a kick out of sometimes hearing the intercom making announcements and the bells for class changes at Heppner High School from their deck.

Their son Stuart lives in the St. Johns neighborhood of Portland and their daughter, Carrie, in Milwaukie. In 1991, Carrie gifted Ralph with a small redwood tree start in a test tube. Now standing at least 30' tall, the healthy redwood is thriving in an unsympathetic environment to which Carrie remarked, "I knew you could grow it, Dad." Ralph decided to try redwoods at the golf course, planting 25. Only two remain proving they are a challenge to grow in eastern Oregon.

Other pleasant surprises in the yard are two hydrangea shrubs, one absolutely loaded with white and blue blooms. Crocosmia grows tall in the front flower bed, well above average. A sun-loving yucca brought back from Tucson is happy and healthy next to some shade-loving hostas. A "dinky little stick someone gave Sally" has grown



Sally and Ralph Walker stand by the sign designating their yard on Canyon Rd as the yard of the month. -Photo by Kay Proctor.

into a nice shady maple tree. A purple clematis has grown off its trellis and is on its way to the roof. Sally credits Ralph with getting everything to grow.

The biggest surprise is the soil. Instead of the usual rocky, shallow, alkaline soil found on Heppner's hills, their soil is rich and not particularly rocky. Ralph has dug to three feet down with no problems at all. He does mention that while working in the yard, he has found some little metal toys and a rusted pistol.

Watering is done by automatic underground sprinklers and drip lines. They have a helper, Brenda Worden, come in every week. Several beautiful rose bushes have managed to escape the town's deer herd. Ralph put in a large vegetable garden surrounded by a tall fence towards the bottom of the draw. Bird feeders are set out and Ralph says that the Colorado Blue Spruce in the front yard "is a bird sanctuary." A nearby Mountain Ash tree provides lots of bright orange berries for the birds, too.

Retiring from the US Forest Service as a silviculturist after 37 years of service, Ralph next worked for TREO and frequents Willow Creek Country Club to golf and to volunteer. Sally retired after teaching a total of 20 years, the last at Heppner High School from 1990 to 2001. Many remember her encouragement to her students to write and to save their writings.

Ralph is originally from Wellsville, Utah and Sally is from Illinois, north of Chicago. She came "out west" after college and loved the great outdoors here. The two met in Montana in 1966 and later eloped. They now get away by traveling in their motor home to places like Mt. Adams for huckleberry picking. Sally has done some golfing but is recovering from a recent knee replacement. She states that someday she will write a book about all their adventures.

Heppner's Yard of the Month recognition is sponsored by the Heppner Volunteers, MCGG-Green Feed and Seed and the City of Heppner.

By Doris Brosnan

A view of Willow Creek Terrace's front room no longer includes extra rocking chairs, but the great time had by the participants who helped to rock away the longest day in the extra chairs on June 21, as a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association, remains a pleasant memory. About seventy-five participants helped to raise about \$2,000 for the research efforts. Eight or nine individuals turned out for the information that Samarra Fisher shared about caregiving and sources of support.

Administrator Nairns pointed out the importance of community support. And besides the rocking-chair donors, the Sage Clothing Co. gave a percentage of profits that day to the cause. Murray's, Breaking Grounds and Bucknums provided rocking chairs at their establishments. Great efforts will mean a repeat next year.

Even when added attractions are not part of the scene on the Hill, everyday activities offer variety to residents who choose to participate, when not enjoying the privacy of their apartments. A jigsaw puzzle always offers a constant challenge. Bingo is an option. The shared

crossword puzzle is another type of challenge. Morning discussions and exercises can offer a mentally and physically stimulating start to a day. The Book Club can provide some good reading and create much food for thought. The piano performance is filled with pleasurable listening.

Always free to come and go as they choose, residents have friends, family and the Loop for transportation here and there if they no longer drive. And while the summer weather cooperates, even an interlude in the fresh air on the patio, the front porch or the new front lawn can provide a change of pace for part of a day.

A recent change at breakfast time has been welcomed by the residents who like to sit in the sunroom and watch the morning news while they eat. A change the community hopes for would be new neighbors in the two available apartments. New personalities are always a nice addition. Information is available by calling 541-676-0004 and on the Terrace's Facebook page.

Coming soon to the Facebook page will be pictures of the "Gorgeous Grandmas" who live at the Terrace. These ladies will be recognized on Gorgeous

Grandmas Day, July 23, which also happens to be the 115th birthday of the ice cream cone.

July is considered Ice Cream Month at the Terrace. It started with root beer floats on the 4th when everyone was invited to fireworks in front of their home. It included hotdogs yesterday, celebration of the 90th MLB All Star Game. It will be enjoyed when everyone can build his or her own sundae on the 21st, which will be National Ice Cream Day. And it will show up on other menus throughout the month.

On the 25th, Act-Like-a-Caveman Day might involve some caveman-like grunting and will include some uncommon menu items that reflect caveman foods. Two days later should feature carrots on the menu because it will be Bugs Bunny's 79th birthday, a day for cartoon viewing.

The community on the hill was saddened by the passing of Mary Ramey, who had been a resident for over three years. They were, however, happy for Donna Bergstrom yesterday, when she celebrated her birthday with family and friends. Birthdays continue to be viewed as upbeat, positive moments for everyone.

Heppner man arrested for theft, suspect in homicide

Colby James Hedman, 23, 323 Linden Way, Heppner, was taken into custody for unlawful use of a motor vehicle and attempt to elude police following a vehicle pursuit in Baker County on July 8.

After receiving a report of a stolen vehicle, deputies encountered Hedman on the freeway side of Old Trail Road. He failed to follow commands and fled on foot. Hedman then circled around to the same property and stole a second vehicle, which a deputy noticed leaving at a high rate of speed. The deputy began pursuing the vehicle which left the roadway and drove in a dangerous manner through a fence. Hedman then ended up in the area of the I84/298 on ramp and as

he tried to turn westbound into the eastbound lanes of travel, two Oregon State Police units intentionally used their vehicles to stop the stolen Jeep. All three vehicles received minor damage. Hedman was taken into custody without further incident and only received minor injuries from broken glass.

In a separate incident in Walla Walla, WA, an update in a missing person case identified a body found previously as 35-year-old Kyle Jordan Martz after a person was arrested near where the victim's vehicle was located in the Baker City area.

WWPD detectives responded to Baker City and determined that the suspect who had been arrested,



Colby James Hedman

Colby James Hedman, was the suspect in the homicide under investigation. At this time police do not believe that the suspect and the victim knew each other. An autopsy will be scheduled to determine the cause of death.

Sheriff's Report

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April 15: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on Willow Fork Dr, Boardman that her brother came over to her house and started yelling, broke the RP's phone and punched his pregnant girlfriend. Male yelling in the background and phone was disconnected.

-MCSO received a report of a structure fire on Hwy 730, Umatilla behind Fred's Melons. Assisted.

-MCSO received a report on Hwy 74 Lena, Heppner that a road sign is leaning into lane from eroded bank. Referred to other agency.

-MCSO received a report at Irrigon Shell Station on E Hwy 730, Irrigon that she found a white female Husky at the Shell last night.

-MCSO received a report at Prickly Pear Ln, Irrigon of aggressive animals. Deputy responded. Owner was unaware of hole in the fence but has fixed it now.

-MCSO received a report at AC Houghton on NE Main Ave, Irrigon that a black car with WA plates

was circling the parking lot. School called back and advised all was OK, it was a parent.

-MCSO received a report on Knapp St, Irrigon of a welfare check. Patient was transported to GSH.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a gold Yukon flew through the area. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report at Columbia Ln/Pateron Ferry Rd, Irrigon that there is a blue Hyundai off the road. RP thinks the person might be intoxicated.

-MCSO received a report on Myer Ave, Irrigon that there is a motor home on fire next to his shop.

-MCSO received a report on W Idaho Ave, Irrigon that there are girls out teasing the horse and dogs. Horses keep charging at the girls. Deputy responded and spoke to mother about supervising the juveniles.

-MCSO received a report at Loves Travel Stop on Tower Rd, Boardman that there is a younger Asian girl with an old white male. RP contacted the female and she said yes everything is

fine, I'm sorry. Referred to other agency.

-MCSO received a report on NW Gale St, Heppner that somebody has been at his residence breaking/entering. Cans have been dumped in the living room, kitchen cabinets open and things knocked off the refrigerator.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 E, Boardman that a white Doge Ram pickup is swerving all over the place. Referred to other agency.

-MCSO received a report at Irrigon High School on SE Wyoming Ave, Irrigon that a car is parked in the cross walk. MCSO responded and gave verbal warning to Ruby Cobarubia Munoz for parking on a walking path.

-MCSO received a report at Riverview Mobile Court on H Hwy 730, Irrigon that a 47-year-old female has weakness and numbness with a high heart rate. Patient transported.

-MCSO received a report at Shobe Canyon Rd/Hwy 207 Heppner that the flood screen is showing a 4 at Shobe Canyon.

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