

Cherrys win yard of the month

By Kay Proctor

Keeping their corner lot shady and green on a steep slope has earned Steve and Becky Cherry the May Yard of the Month recognition, the first for 2021.

Steve grew up in the Redmond countryside where his parents were, and still are, serious gardeners including building a large pond and caring for about three-quarters of an acre of golf course quality lawn. He mentions that sitting on his covered back porch of their Heppner home, looking across the draw through multiple shrubs and trees feels like living in the country and is his favorite part of their yard. Originally from Prineville, Becky mentions that her favorite place in their yard is "her sewing room in the house."

Beginning their married lives together in Heppner, Steve also began his career with Oregon State Fish and Wildlife in Heppner 21 years ago. Becky has done childcare at home, pre-school and day care at Heppner Day Care, and is now at Community Counseling Solutions. Sons Andrew and Jordan both graduated from high school locally, but live elsewhere in Oregon for their careers. Both have married and blessed the Cherry's with granddaughters, Everly and Thea. Sam, their four-year-old Brittney spaniel, shares their home now.

The Cherry's first Heppner home was on a flat lot on Gale Street, so moving to the hillside home was a change. On the north side yard, juniper shrubs close to the house were removed by Steve, then a dump truck load of dirt brought in to help level and fill in. Total



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underground sprinklers were installed by Steve and a landscaper friend in the entire yard. Steve also built a shed at the end of the side yard.

Overgrown English ivy in the backyard was quite a project to remove. A more gently sloping path now leads down to the lower part of the yard where Steve has fenced off an area for a variety of fruit trees: three peach (his favorites), one nectarine, one apple and one pear. The couple together cans the peach crop while the other fruits are enjoyed fresh.

Tall pine trees have been trimmed up by Steve and some trees had to be removed including a noxious common sumac in the front yard. The south side yard has a heavy border of tall pines and a bank of older juniper shrubs. When Steve built a fence there, he had to

auger through the junipers to set posts.

Preferring shrubs and perennials, other plantings include rhododendrons, lily of the valley, colorful tulips and a row of boxwood, which is deer resistant. Steve says that he likes things "to look good and green" and is trying to plant to fill in so he won't have to weed although Becky suggests getting a miniature goat to keep things trimmed back.

Becky's favorite plantings are her fragrant lavender along a fence line and a very special row of pink peonies which bloom every year just before June 9, the date that, sadly, her 15-month-old daughter, Taylor, passed away.

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

Cultural Coalition grant recipients announced

The Morrow County Cultural Coalition, supported by Oregon's Cultural Trust Foundation, recently announced the following grant recipients for 2020 awards to Morrow County organizations:

-Inland Northwest Musicians, to assist local musicians in sustaining their ability to continue to provide free concerts to the citizens of Morrow County following the COVID 19 pandemic shut down.

-Heppner Community Foundation for collecting, reproducing and displaying historical photographs of ranching, logging, farming and local history in the refurbished historic Gilliam and Bisbee building.

-Oregon Trail Library District for efforts in im-

proving access to information and services regarding arts and crafts videos and increasing digital offerings for patrons to access at home.

-Morrow County Historical Society to help with the costs of printing the Morrow County Chronicles.

Applications for the 2021 culturally based activities in Morrow County are now being accepted. Projects supported in the past have included quilting, art displays, historical library books, cultural entertainment and events, kids' activities in the parks and schools, drama and musical workshops. Grants can be awarded up to 50 percent of the total project cost. For complete guidelines and

application forms please contact Jaylene Papineau 541-676-5630 or jpapineau@co.morrow.or.us or visit the Morrow County web site under the Clerk/Elections Office, Morrow County Cultural Coalition Information. Applications must be submitted by August 1, 2021. You may also visit the Oregon Cultural Trust site at <https://culturaltrust.org/>

Anyone interested in making a donation to the Oregon Cultural trust or interested in participating in the committee may contact Melissa Lindsay 541-561-0234 or Jaylene Papineau 541-676-5630. The local coalition is actively seeking volunteers for the committee.

Library now fine free

Starting May 20, 2021, the Oregon Trail Library District is now fine free for all patrons. OTLD Board of Directors voted May 19, 2021, to adopt a fine free policy. "Fine free" means that patrons will not be fined daily for overdue materials. This change is part of an institutional movement from libraries nationwide, guided by the recommendations of the American Library Association in an effort to increase free public access to library services.

As a special gift to patrons during these challenging times, the Oregon Trail Library District will also erase all past overdue fines for patrons. This does not include past fees for lost or damaged items.

Only the overdue (late) charges on your OTLD account will disappear. Lost and damaged charges will remain your financial responsibility. If you order items from another library and then check them out at an OTLD branch, you will not be charged overdue fines. If you go to a different library, which still charges fines, and check items out at that location, you will be charged fines for overdue items. We cannot waive these fines.

Going fine free does not mean that you do not have to bring your books back to the library. Items still have a due date and materials still need to be returned. Materials can be renewed two times if there are no holds. If an item is not returned,

or is returned damaged, patrons will still be charged for lost or damaged items. Many libraries within the Sage Library System and in Oregon have gone fine free already.

This change is for all of the patrons of the library. The library's mission is to provide free and equitable access to all. Library Director, Kathy Street, is very excited for the change. "Many new patrons are afraid to establish an account for fear of costs. Especially families." Fines should not prevent any member of the community from accessing services. Studies in libraries that have eliminated fines show that there has been no impact on return rates. In fact, it can even increase use of library materials.

Class of '65 plans celebration

The Heppner High School class of 1965 will celebrate growing up in Heppner Saturday, July 17 at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building beginning at 5 p.m. The class also invites all classes of the 60's as well as family and friends to share the appreciation of growing up in the 50's and 60's in Heppner.

Alvin Liu of the Gateway Café will cater the

Saturday event serving a prime rib dinner and Bucknum's will have a full bar. Music, karaoke and fun will be provided by Roger Leonig and the class of 1967. Tables are still available by reservation only for \$30 prior to June 20.

The class will also host golf at Willow Creek Country Club on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Gateway Café will be open

for dinner Friday, July 16 and breakfast July 17 and 18.

Those interested are asked to contact Stuart Dick at 541-377-5451 or Ken Evans at 541-571-7982. Dick told the Gazette, "We have a great heritage to celebrate growing up in Heppner and eastern Oregon. After a year and a half of COVID, it is time to have a party."

Heppner to hold open mic event

The local open mic - Music in the Park will be held Sunday, June 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Heppner City Park. The event trailer will be set up with a full sound system, featuring local talent and possibly out of town performers.

Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs and follow social distancing guidelines set by the state. Those interested in performing should contact Dale Bates at 541-980-5694.

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Seth & Babali Hammond

Join us in celebrating this special couple with a casual event after their micro-wedding in Bend, April 10.

Sunday, June 13th
2:00PM
Ione City Park

Babali and Seth are registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond