

July yard of the month awarded

By Kay Proctor

Caroline Reynosa and son, Jason Cheek, have been recognized as the July Yard of the Month in Heppner.

The cute home sits in an oasis of green lawn edged by colorful plantings, but it all was in very rough shape when the family moved into the rental about a year and a half ago. The two made plans, then got busy: the front curb and side driveway got new gravel, trees and shrubs trimmed, new beds were dug out, a jungle of weeds removed, the lawn refreshed and regularly watered.

When ready for planting, Caroline was given starts from local resident, Tonya Jones, her BFF since being kids together in Milton-Freewater. Tonya is married to Caroline's brother, Lowell, one of the nine children in their family. Caroline is retired now but has worked as a beautician, waitress and was a caregiver in the Bend where she received employee of the month honors.

Inspired by her mother who loved gardening and grew flowers everywhere, Caroline says she is happy as she could be when "digging in the dirt." She



was surprised and shocked several years ago when her Milton-Freewater home received the Yard of the Month recognition there and was surprised again to receive the same honor in Heppner.

While Caroline's favorite plant is hybrid lupine, her yard is full of salvia, poppies, marigolds, lilacs, roses, Japanese iris, sunflowers, hens and chicks, petunias, apple mint, verbena and more all neatly tended to. Most beds are accented with interesting larger rocks and outdoor

decor.

Jason and Caroline's favorite place in the yard is a screened patio they created from a garage. Nearby a feeder is kept full for the visiting songbirds and because Caroline 'loves my hummingbirds,' their feeder is hung where she can view it from the living room window.

These two aren't through yet and future plans include planting for shade in their backyard that backs up to Willow Creek.

Caroline credits son Jason, saying he works



Caroline Reynosa and her son, Jason Cheek, were awarded the plaque for the July Yard of the Month.

hard to keep things nice, yet Jason says that Caroline deserves all the recognition, but to the rest of the world, it appears that keeping a green yard and bright flowers blooming during an extensive heatwave is the result of some real teamwork.

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

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