

Museum exhibit explores high desert childhood

Imagine what childhood in the high desert was like a century ago, when young children were expected not only to go to school and do household chores, but often to work to help their families survive. This was a far different lifestyle from that of today's tech-savvy youth. Growing Up Western, a new exhibit at the High Desert Museum depicts how children worked — and played — in the high desert.

The exhibit, curated by museum staff, will include historic photographs, artifacts and treasured toys.

"The exhibit is a great way for adults and kids alike to discover what their lives would have been like had they been born in the 19th or early 20th century," said Dr. Margaret Lee, the museum's curator of Western history. "Back then, it wasn't unusual for a 3-year-old to be put in charge of looking after younger siblings."

Museum staff collected items over many years to create the exhibit, which will highlight the differences and similarities between growing up then and growing up today. A few of the items that will be featured are a replica of a child's 1900 bedroom, a hand-sewn and hand-painted

baptismal quilt from the 1890s, a beaded plateau cradleboard and Chinese girls' binding shoes. There also will be a section about children's working lives, which will include a child's pair of woolly chaps, a small saddle and a child-size rifle.

Dr. Lee notes, "You don't think of children needing work gear such as a rifle, but here in the high desert, children often had to help hunt for dinner to feed their families."

But even with all the responsibility weighing on their shoulders, children found ingenious ways to integrate play into their everyday lives. The exhibit will include toys and puzzles children played with a century ago.

High Desert Museum Executive Director Dr. Dana Whitelaw said, "Seeing the photographs of children working and playing — in addition to the artifacts — brings to life how challenging life was back then and the indomitable spirit of children of the West."

The exhibit runs through July 26.

A beaded plateau cradleboard is part of the new exhibit.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Outlaws beat Madras on diamond

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws earned an 11-5 win over Madras at home on Friday, April 3. A day earlier, Sisters lost 3-2 at home in a tight game against Burns.

In Friday's action, the Outlaws scored 11 runs on 10 hits, and had one error in the game. The White Buffs scored five runs on six hits and had four errors.

Alex Olivier pitched the first five innings for the Outlaws. Olivier attacked the hitters and made them hit the ball. The infield defense did a great job of backing him up to get the outs. Ryan Funk came in and closed out the last two innings.

Sisters had two back-to-back doubles to highlight the second inning. Justin Harrer started with a double down the left-field line, which scored two runners, and Funk followed with a double to score Harrer.

Defensively, Alec Gannon made a fully extended diving catch for an out in the second inning.

Coach Steve Hodges noted that Funk had a very strong defensive game.

"Ryan worked very hard, and had a great defensive performance," said Hodges. "He had one particular great play from the mound. Ryan went to his knees, grabbed the ball with his bare hands, and threw the guy out. It was a very athletic play. Ryan also did a great job when he was behind the plate. He blocked the ball all day. He blocked it in the dirt, and kept the ball in front so runners couldn't

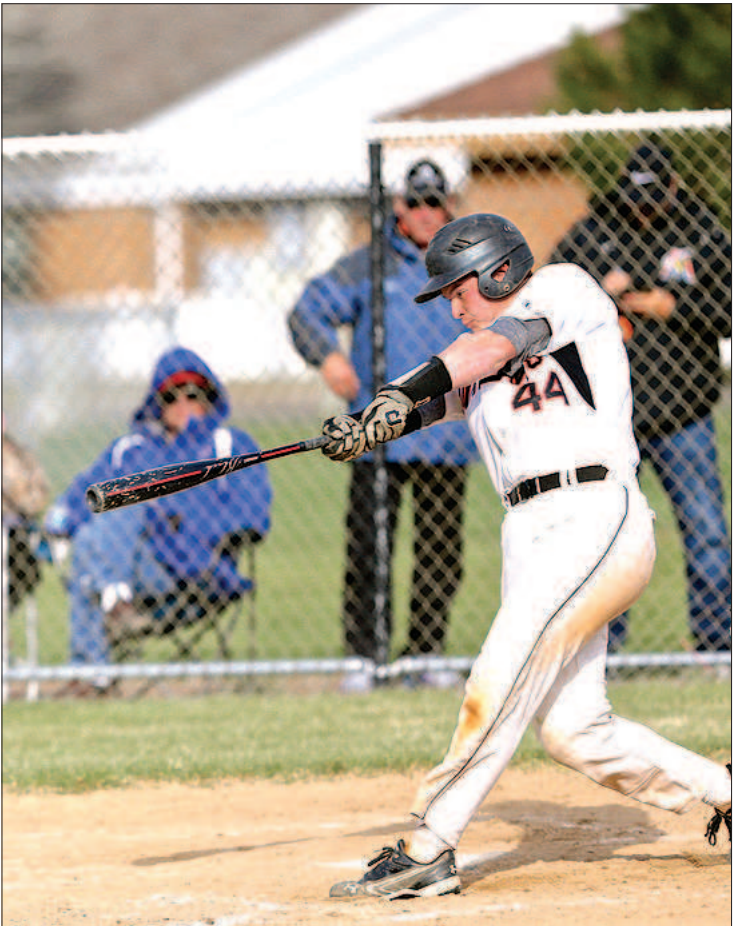


PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Ryan Funk hits one of two doubles vs. Madras.

advance. His defensive effort was really good, and made a big difference in the game today."

Hodges also said that Harrer had several outstanding plays from shortstop.

Harrer went two-for-four from the plate with three RBI, Funk had two doubles and two RBI, and Ben Larson went two-for-three.

"We've been playing really good defense, and are averaging just one error per game in the last five games," said Hodges. "Our defense has been very solid, and that's what is getting us wins."

In Thursday's game against Burns, Sisters got two runs off two hits, and they had no errors in the game. Burns got three runs off five hits and committed three errors.

The Outlaws had a big hit from Alec Gannon, who had a double down the right-field line in the second inning.

Next week the Outlaws start league play. Sisters was to play Sutherlin on Monday, April 6. The Outlaws will play at Cottage Grove on Wednesday, April 8, and wrap up their week at Sweet Home on Friday, April 10.

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