## **IEE:** Environmental program connects students to the land

Continued from page 3

students hit the trail along the creek, IEE (Interdisciplinary Environmental Education) teacher Samra Spear and Yake gathered everyone up in a shady glen and invited them to share their music.

In moments a ukulele could be heard, along with a couple of guitars as the students began to warm up. Jessica Shepardson was one of the students who composed a song and wrote the lyrics that spoke of what she felt in her heart and how she saw her experience on Whychus Creek.

"Being out by the creek has been so amazing and inspiring," Shepardson, said. "It's great to be at a place that is so close to home, and I hope will always be here because it is so beautiful. With Kolleen we have been given prompts about the creek to work on as poetry.

"From there we took our poetry and turned them into songs. One day in particular we were asked to write a poem based on the sounds we heard around us around the creek. From that poem I came up with my song 'Singing with the Sounds."

Birds tweet a hello, Trees



SHS IEE students Megan Ellsworth, Tara Greaney, and Adie Ellson mix their voices with the music of Whychus Creek.

dancing around,

How many miles have I

Wind combs through my hair, Water ripples like petals, *Is this where I belong?* 

An everlasting friend Child of the Sisters

*Singing with the sounds...* In addition to finding their talents through the arts, the students also learned some hard science about hydrology. They are now capable of

describing how watersheds, riparian zones and streams function, and understand the role humans play in environmental protection.

They've also had a handson opportunity to actively restore the plants missing from the creek riparian to have a healthy ecosystem, and created fish habitat that favors the reintroducing of salmon to the

Chance Halley, Colton Manhalter and Steen Johnson had a similar outlook on their experience on Whychus Creek. Colton had this to say: "Coming out here made us realize how blessed we are to have something so special, so close to home.'

Steen said, "You know how we have energetic personalities, and coming out here to the creek brings us a new peace and physically shows us how blessed we are."

The hope is that many of the students will develop awareness about stewardship and long-term protection for Whychus Creek through the creation, production, and widespread distribution of a

No job too big

or too small

New

Construction Remodels

**Additions** 

**Decks** 

Maintenance

& Repairs

## Oregon drops ban on raw milk advertising

SALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has signed a bill that allows advertising of raw milk.

Oregon is among 30 states that allow the sale of unpasteurized milk, but it can be sold only on the farm. Sellers have not been allowed to advertise since the 1950s.

In 2013, a McMinnville farmer challenged the ban, filing suit after state inspectors told her to remove milk prices from a website.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture settled the case in February 2014 by ordering staff to stop enforcing the ban and asking the Legislature to repeal it.

Consumer demand for raw milk has increased in recent years. Health officials say raw milk can carry harmful bacteria that can make you





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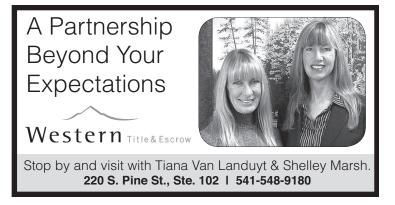
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