

LETTERS

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The impact of Title IX

To the Editor:

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX.

Back in 1972 Title IX was passed by Congress to give equal access for all in educational and other activities in schools that received public funding.

Deirdre Kanzig, a third grade teacher at SES, was 11 years old at the time. She played volleyball and track in school but there were no winter sports for girls in Fossil, Oregon. When Deirdre attended Wheeler High School, her science teacher, a woman, encouraged her and others to put together a girls basketball team. There wasn't such a team, so the girls enthusiastically went out for the boys team, much to the consternation of JV boys who were worried that they might not get to play.

However, with the support of the school board they were able to put together their own girls basketball team. They played against other teams from Hepner, Ione, Dufur, Condon, Arlington, Spray and Mitchell. It was fun and the team was very supported by the community of Fossil. In the 1977-78 season, they even won state!

Many people were quite upset with Title IX. Jesse Helms, a senator from North Carolina, condemned Title IX in its entirety. Senator John Tower in 1974 proposed the "Tower Amendment" which would exempt revenue-producing sports from Title IX compliance. President Ronald Reagan vetoed the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 that sought to restore some of the coverage of Title IX that had been lost. All these attempts at limiting full access to educational and athletic activities failed. There are still plenty of inequities that need to be addressed; salaries, travel expenses, supplies and facilities to name a few. The work continues but Title IX has survived.

In this season of the Winter Olympics, it's hard to believe that only 50 years ago women were denied access to many athletic activities. Some of this was due to people thinking that neither girls nor the public cared all the much for girls sports. You would hear statements like, "You throw like a girl; you run like a girl; not bad...for a girl; girls can't dribble a ball; woman driver (meaning a bad driver); girls aren't strong enough to pole vault or run a marathon." These put-downs just don't fly in today's world of sports. If you were to say such things at work, they might even get you fired.

The major author behind Title IX was Representative Patsy F. Mink of Hawaii. She is an example of where one person can make a big difference in how we treat one another. This might be also true for you.

Did Title IX have an effect on your life in some way? Were your brothers, sisters or other family members treated differently at school because of their gender? Do you have a story like Deirdre's? Please share your stories as they are all a part of our continued education into understanding one another better.

Paul Bennett



Thanks for the warning

To the Editor:

I wish to say thank you to the two recent letter writers who were kind enough to warn the residents of Sisters of a looming danger. Finally, someone is courageous enough to speak up about what so many of us are afraid to even think about, let alone say.

"Be aware folks, they walk among us." Thank you, thank you for the warning.

Since childhood I have always been afraid of "them." So be careful when you go out at night.

I'm glad to see that others are also afraid of and watching for zombies.

Greg Pozovich

OKLAHOMA: Play runs three nights plus a Sunday matinee

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theater is never boring, and I've always had an interest in doing it," she said.

Stolasz is playing one of the lead female roles as Laurey. "I've found a lot of inspiration from Julie Andrews in 'Sound of Music,' just putting a southern accent to it," she said.

Stolasz is also learning the importance of getting out of your comfort zone and listening to your director about how to do those tough scenes.

"I just do what my director says when it comes to romantic scenes. As a main character with a love interest, I was a little worried about that, but I have been trying to find the nuances of the character and understand her and how to react in certain moments," she said.

Rachel Lilly, playing Aunt Eller, has really been understanding more of the balance that is needed to be able to be a lead in a full-scale show while balancing other things in life.

"Being a senior, a lot of us are in really hard classes and applying to colleges at the same time as being a lead in this very big show," she said. "It is fun to find a time to dig into the character that we are given, especially with limited time given that we are doing this during the school year, not the summer."

Dylan Rundle has enjoyed getting to view his role as a challenge, playing Hakim.

"I've enjoyed trying to become a scoundrel and I enjoy taking on the challenge of this character," he said.

Rundle has been figuring out ways to interact with the audience to fool people and let them in on his scheme.

This is Ted Stolasz's first full-scale show as a part of the Sisters High School choir. He plays Will Parker in the show.

"I thought it would be fun

just to audition for it and try and do it," he said.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the cast and directors of the show have faced many challenges, but in the end, they believe these challenges will help them produce an even better show. There has not been a rehearsal since the start of the process where 100 percent of the cast has been present, due to some being out for one reason or another.

"It has really been a challenge of communication and having the people that are gone have to jump into rehearsal and blocking after not being there," said Johnson.

"We've all really had to step up and communicate more with our castmates to be able to put the show together," said Beaver.

Beaver described some of the challenges of acting on stage while having to wear a mask: "It really makes you aware of what scene you are in because we are having to use body movements and expression in the eyes to get the emotion across," she said.

The actors have had to find other ways to express emotion and work together to form a cohesive scene without being able to use their entire face.

"We have come up with a clever way to do kissing scenes if we have to wear masks during performances," said Johnson.

The cast and crew will not know until the lead up to opening night if they will have to wear masks while

performing on stage or not.

"A lot is up in the air and uncertain right now, but we are just excited to be able to put on a show," said Johnson.

"We've all gotten really close in facing these challenges as a cast and having to really communicate and keep each other informed of what's being missed," said Beaver.

Johnson says there is "no better show to bring to the community of Sisters, especially after so long."

"It is a sort of love letter to the traditional Western show, and we are excited to be doing it," said Sasha Stolasz.

The entire Sisters High School choir is involved in the show, as the rest of the choir are chorus members and contribute to the community present in the show.

The entire choir and crew will work in after-school rehearsals for the next week with full tech and lights and will be starting full dress rehearsals at the start of next week.

"Oklahoma!" will be a run of three evening shows starting on Thursday, February 24, at 7 p.m.; Friday, February 25, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, February 26, at 7 p.m.; and ending with a matinee show on Sunday, February 27, at 2 p.m. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/ssd6.org/oklahomatix>. You can also get to the website by scanning the QR code on the poster on page 17.

Tickets are general admission so you will have to bring proof of purchase to the show. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for students.



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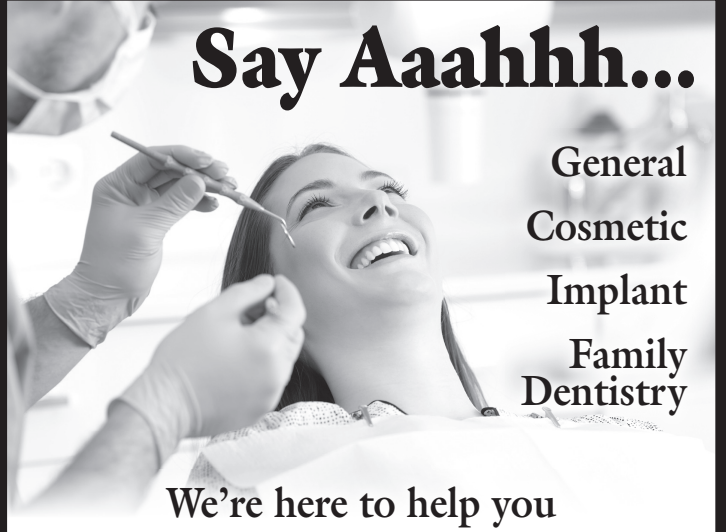
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