

EOLS

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Livestock Show in past years and said he is always impressed with how many volunteers and community supporters it has.

"I feel blessed to be part of EOLS," he said.

He also takes bulls to rodeos including those in Las Vegas, Calgary and the states of Idaho and Wyoming.

Cassie Miller, third vice president of the EOLS Association, hopes that this is just the start for freestyle bullfighting in Union.

"We would like to see it become part of the EOLS tradition," Miller said.

The freestyle bullfighting and Ed Miller Xtreme Bull Riding competition begin at 7 p.m. Thursday. Entrants in this year's Xtreme Bullfighting include defending champion Paul Coppini of Kuna, Idaho. Coppini, who also won the 2013 title, like Hamsher, said he likes coming to the EOLS because of its community spirit.

"It is a like a good family," Coppini said.

The cowboy speaks of his sport almost as if it were taking place in a dance hall.

"(Bull riding) is like a dance and (the bull) is leading," he said.



Observer file photo

Paul Coppini, last year's champion of the Ed Miller Xtreme Bull Riding, will compete Thursday night.

A successful bull ride lasts just eight seconds but don't tell that to Coppini.

"It seems like forever," he said.

The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union began this morning with a 4-H show and a dog show

and continues on Tuesday with the 4-H horse show at 9 a.m., the small animal show at 10 a.m. and the queen's coronation at 7 p.m. in the EOLS Clubhouse.

Wednesday events include the livestock weigh-in from 1 p.m. to

7 p.m. and the breeding goat showmanship and conformation event at 3 p.m.

Thursdays schedule begins with a Cowboy Breakfast at 6 a.m., 4-H and FFA conformation at 9 a.m., the 4-H and FFA judging contest

at 3 p.m., a carnival that runs from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the Ed Miller Xtreme Bulls and PRCA Freestyle Bullfighting beginning at 7 p.m. A calf scramble will be conducted during intermission of bull riding and freestyle bullfighting.

Friday has the most activities, starting with a Cowboy Breakfast at 6 a.m., 4-H and FFA showmanship at 9 a.m., the queen's luncheon at 11 a.m., the FFA awards presentation at 1 p.m. in the sale barn, the carnival from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., the EOLS main street parade at 2 p.m., a PRCA rodeo and pari-mutuel horse racing at 4 p.m., a 4-H awards presentation in the sale barn at 6 p.m. and a dance for adults at 8 p.m. in the EOLS Clubhouse.

Saturday events include a Cowboy Breakfast beginning at 6 a.m., the Livestock Auction starting at 8 a.m., the last day of the carnival which will be open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., the PRCA rodeo and pari-mutuel horse racing which start at 2 p.m. and a dance for adults after the rodeo in the EOLS Clubhouse.

The EOLS concludes on Sunday with the PRCA rodeo and pari-mutuel horse racing at 1:30 p.m.

For the full schedule of events and activities, visit www.easternoregonlivestockshow.com.



Photo Courtesy of Wildflower Lodge

Patty Hukari, who lives at Wildflower Lodge, plants flowers donated by La Grande Middle School.

FLOWERS

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The items sold at the LMS Plant Sale included 12-inch hanging baskets, 65 varieties

of annuals, 33 varieties of perennials, 35 varieties of vegetables and 15 varieties of herbs. All were grown from seed at LMS's greenhouse.

This year's sale was conducted at the greenhouse in mid-May. LMS has been conducting its plant sale annually for at least 25 years.

DANCE

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credentials begin with her study with Dance USA out of Warrick, New Jersey, as a young teenager for seven years, and then with the Portland Ballet Theater (now Portland Ballet) and the Portland Repertory Theater. She also earned a certificate as a dance and drill coach and adjudicator for Oregon.

While teaching at her La Grande studio, she taught in other venues. In 1981-82, she taught for the La Grande School District as a choreographer, working with the cheerleaders, marching band and gymnastics team. The La Grande High School principal, Dale Wyatt, told her they needed a dance teacher, so she took over the LHS dance team. Under her coaching, the dance team was eventually ranked one

of the top eight teams in Oregon, ranked in class 4A with the big schools. She also coached the EOU dance team for a few years.

"When I resigned from coaching the LHS dance team in 1998, I began teaching for the theater department at Eastern Oregon University, and all the while I was running my dance studio," she said. "Up until a few years ago, I was working for the theater department."

Thompson-Hendrickson has also helped choreograph a couple of plays at the Elgin Opera House.

"Every choreographer they have had there (in the past 10 years) are students of mine," she said — McKaye Harris and Caitlin O'Brien among them.

The list of success stories goes on. Some of her students have gone on to be yoga teachers, performers and dance instructors

locally and in Idaho, Seattle and Portland. One even performed with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Among the dancers guided by Beckie's Studio of Dance is Thompson-Hendrickson's daughter, Daisy Thompson Giddings.

"Both of my children were raised in my dance studio, so they were exposed to music, dance and art their entire lives. Daisy, a former Portland Trail Blazer dancer, went off to become a professional dancer who danced all over South America and went to school at University of Texas."

Her son, George Thompson, a professional musician and graduate of Eastern Oregon University, has traveled all over the world. He designed music programs for kids with autism and even worked for "Sesame Street." In 2005, he was named one of the top 10 singer-songwriters

RAVENS

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2005, according to ODFW.

The sage grouse population in the Baker Priority Area for Conservation (PAC) — an area east of Interstate 84 extending to near Richland — is estimated at 248 birds as of 2018, according to ODFW.

Researchers have found that when raven densities exceed 0.46 birds per square kilometer, the nesting success for sage grouse is reduced.

Recent surveys in the Baker PAC estimated raven densities exceeding that level, at 0.52 birds per square kilometer.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service's draft environmental assessment that examines the potential effects of ODFW's proposed project, the estimated raven population in the Baker PAC is 708. If ODFW killed 500 ravens in the first year, the raven density would drop to 0.15 per square kilometer.

ODFW's goal would be to maintain that raven density during the second and third

years of the three-year project.

The number of ravens killed in the second and third years would depend on the estimated raven density, which the agency would estimate by surveying the birds across the Baker PAC.

According to ODFW the purpose of the project, which would be done in collaboration with Oregon State University, is not to eliminate ravens from the area but to reduce their numbers to a level that, based on research, reduces the potential threat to sage grouse.

The agency is proposing to attract ravens with chicken eggs injected with a poison that targets ravens and other corvids (which include crows and magpies).

The poison was chosen because it is lethal to those birds but only moderately toxic to raptors and some other birds with almost no effect on mammals, Dennehy said.

Baker County has in the past several years paid Wildlife Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to kill ravens, as well as

coyotes, that prey on newborn calves on county ranches.

Last year, for instance, county commissioners approved \$13,000 to pay Wildlife Services to kill ravens and coyotes.

Ranchers say ravens sometimes peck the eyes out of calves soon after they're born.

Although the federal Migratory Birds Treaty Act requires ODFW to obtain federal permits to kill ravens to protect sage grouse, the law does allow counties to kill ravens to reduce predation on livestock, said Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at ODFW's Baker City office.

Wildlife Services has used poisoned chicken eggs to kill ravens in Baker County, and elsewhere in Eastern Oregon, to protect livestock, said Patrick Smith, the agency's district supervisor in La Grande.

Smith didn't have any statistics as to how many ravens the agency has killed in Baker County.

Smith said the poison injected into the chicken eggs breaks down rapidly and does not pose a threat to animals that might eat ravens.

studio's summer programs will take place June 7 and June 17, between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the studio. Summer camp will begin the week of June 10, and a five-week summer session will start the first week of July. For more information on class hours, cost and registration, call 541-805-8317.

ers in the nation.

"So those are my children," she said proudly. "Because of choosing to raise them in this beautiful community, they went on to do beautiful things with music and dance."

Her children will perform together at the studio's Spring Recital on June 6 in the LHS auditorium. The recital begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for teens and adults and \$8 for kids 12 years and younger.

Today the studio's staff teaches about 75 students, many of whom will be dancing at the Spring Recital. Thompson-Hendrickson welcomes the community to support their Spring Recital with their attendance and join in celebrating 40 years of dance education in Union County. The proceeds of the event go to the studio's financial assistance program for dance students.

Registration dates for the

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