



Participants, including Emily Nash of Emdogg Team from La Grande, embark on the 18th annual Eastern Oregon MS Walk, held April 23 in Heppner.

MS Walk cashes in with record fundraiser

Nearly four dozen walkers and one runner provided support during the Eastern Oregon MS Walk April 23 in Heppner.

Although the turnout was a bit smaller than past fundraisers for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Oregon Chapter, committee co-chair Barb Orwick said the event raised a record amount of \$13,444, with money still coming in.

Kim Southworth, of the organization's Oregon Chapter, shared about a new medication, ocrelizumab, which is the first drug to be approved for progressive MS. She said it could be available in 2017. Southworth was impressed with the continued success of the walk in Heppner.

Committee member Nancy Gochbauer and other volunteers provided sandwiches, fruit and beverages for the participants. In addition, the Portland Walk MS chapter donated fruit, chips and bagels. Deli meat was donated by Heppner Family Foods and The Barn. Other food and condiments were donated by members of the Heppner United Methodist Church, Tillamook Cheese and the Shared Ministry of All Saints Episcopal and Hope Lutheran churches.

Local sponsors included Bank of Eastern Oregon, Community Bank, Gregory Smith & Company, Miller & Sons, Morrow County Grain Growers, Devin Oil Inc., Frederickson Farming LLC, All Saints Episcopal Church and Hope Lutheran Church.

Event organizers were pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm of this year's participants.

"Without the support of our committee, volunteers, those who donated and all the participants of the walk/run, we could not have this special event," Orwick said. "It was a good year."

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease that affects the central nervous system. It can manifest with a variety of symptoms, including changes in sensation, visual impairments, muscle weakness, coordination problems, speech difficulties, fatigue and pain. In severe cases, people with MS can experience impaired mobility.

For more information, visit www.walkms.org.

Inland Northwest Musicians honor young artists

Four young musicians took top honors in the Inland Northwest Musicians Young Artists Competition.

Held March 6 at Hermiston High School, 17 participants vied for cash awards and a chance to perform with the Inland Northwest Orchestra in concert. Division winners during the 16th annual event included Nathan Hu, Jason Zhuang, Katherine Moon and Geoffrey McKay. In addition, an honorable mention was awarded to Lindsay Armstrong.

Hu, a pianist from Richland, won the elementary division with his performance of the first movement of Mozart's "Concerto in F Major." He is a fifth grade piano student of Holly Hart.

Zhuang, a seventh-grade violinist from Richland, won the junior division. He performed the first movement of the Kabalevsky's "Concerto in C Major." He studies violin with Sherry Danielson.

Moon, a pianist, won the senior division with her performance of the third movement of Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor." She is a high school sophomore from West Richland and studies piano with Leonard Richter at Walla Walla University.

McKay, the winner of the young adult division, is from Richland. He performed the first movement of the Haydn "Trumpet Concerto in E flat Major," accompanied by his father, Bill McKay. Both father and son have performed previously with the Inland Northwest Orchestra as guest artists. Geoffrey McKay is a college junior and studies trumpet with professor John Harbaugh at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

A soprano, Armstrong gave an outstanding performance of Rossini's famous aria, "Una Voce Poco Fa." She's a senior at Walla Walla University and studies voice with Christine Janis.

Jackie Wood, a member of the piano faculty at Whitman College, and R. Lee Friese, Inland Northwest Musicians music director, served as adjudicators for the event. Alice Massey of INWM was the event chairperson. The competition was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Hermiston and the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition.

All of the division winners received cash awards. In addition, Zhuang, Moon, McKay and Armstrong were selected to perform during opening concerts of the 2016-17 Inland Northwest Orchestra season.

Formed in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians provides an atmosphere to support musicians in developing their talent. For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.



Officers for 2016-17 were installed March 15 with Hermiston Emblem Club No. 215.

Hermiston Emblem Club installs officers

Hermiston Emblem Club No. 215 recently installed officers for the 2016-17 year.

They include Lil Smith (past president), Carol Goin (marshal/corresponding secretary), Jean Clark (supreme president), Sheryl Goin (president), Michele Dickmeier (junior past president/chaplain), Maureen Donnelly (supreme marshal), Rickie Hokanson (first guard), Angel Smith (past president/treasurer), Denise Johnston (first assistant marshal), Jan Kraack (recording secretary), Maxine Rice (financial secretary), Teresa Moncrief (vice president), Coyla Bedord (state past president/past president), Serena MacPherson (chairman of trustees) and Nancy Brown (state past president/past president).

For more about the Hermiston Emblem Club, contact Dickmeier at dickmeierdm@gmail.com.

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton

APRIL 19, 2016

LOWE — Sandra L. Lowe and Travis D. Lowe of Union; a boy, Keller Duane Lowe.

APRIL 20, 2016

FERNANDEZ-COLLIER — Teddy L. Collier and Jennifer Fernandez; a boy, Malcolm James Fernandez-Collier.

ROWLAND — Ember E. Aichele of Pilot Rock and Martin K. Rowland of Bend; a boy, Haven Reese Rowland.

APRIL 21, 2016

SUTHERLAND — Natasha F. Conrad and Butch P.E. Conrad of Pendleton; a boy, Roy Anthony Rosebud Sutherland.

APRIL 26, 2016

BERNDT — Samantha A.A. King of Pendleton and Ryan C. Berndt of Tacoma, Wash.; a boy, Ramsey Zane Berndt.

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

APRIL 20, 2016

FUENTES — Stephanie M. Almaguer and Oscar A. Fuentes of Hermiston; a boy, Romeo Amor Fuentes.

APRIL 21, 2016

MONTOYA — Kayla L. Montoya and Adrian E. Montoya of Stanfield; a boy, Elias Adrian Montoya.

Pet of the Week

Lil Bit

Lil Bit has been waiting a long time to find his place in the world. This older gentleman has seen a lot of change in his life, and is ready to find a permanent family to love and be his own. Lil Bit is a darling, affectionate boy who feels overwhelmed in new situations. Loud noises and lots of commotion tend to scare him, so a quiet home with adults only would probably be the best fit for him. He is a gentle soul who likes to hide in boxes and curl up in blankets. He loves to be pet and brushed, and when he begins to feel comfortable he will happily roll over for belly rubs! He has lived with other cats and seemed to enjoy their company. Lil Bit has been waiting patiently for his person to come, if that person could be you, ask to meet with him today. We're sure you won't regret it.

Studies have shown that people with pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks.

Anonymous Pet Lover

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Amanda Jacobs at 541-278-2683