ELGIN

EO Media Group file photo

The Eagle Cap Excursion Train take makes a brief stop on one of its fall runs out of Elgin. The 2018 season opens with a special Cinco de Mayo Train May 5.

ALL ABOARD

TRAIN RIDE OFFERS PASSENGER FUN

Eagle Cap Excursion Train announces 2018 season

East Oregonian

The Eagle Cap Excursion Train normally kicks off each season with its Mother's Day Brunch. However, with May 5 landing on a Saturday, they are beginning the season early.

Passengers can celebrate the Mexican holiday with a train ride and meal. The excursion train is partnering with La Grande's Cinco De Mayo Restaurant to provide an authentic Mexican meal, along with decorations and a festive atmosphere.

The ride departs Saturday, May 5 at 11 a.m. from the Elgin Depot. It will return at approximately 2:30 p.m. Passengers can choose from a beef, chicken or vegetarian meal. The cost is $70 for adults, $65 for seniors over 60, and $35 for youths ages 3-16. The provides a scenic trip through The Wallowas, designated as one of the 7 Wonders of Oregon.

The popular Mother's Day event is Sunday, May 13 with a 10 a.m. departure time. The cost is $80 for adults, $75 for seniors and $40 for youths.

EO Media Group file photo

A member of the Gold Rush Bandits shakes down passengers during a special trip of the Eagle Cap Excursion train out of Elgin. The 2018 season opens with a special Cinco de Mayo Train May 5.

The trip offers a variety of breakfast and lunch entrées, salads, fruit and pastries from Chuckwagon Sisters of Joseph. Mothers will receive a corsage and memories of the day to keep for a lifetime.

Ed Spaulding, volunteer engineer and president of the Friends of the Joseph Branch, the nonprofit organization that manages the excursion train, said the 2018 season will be busy with 19 scheduled trips.

Other highlights, Spaulding said, include a Wine & Chocolates Train (June 2), which features wine tasting from Echo Ridge Cellars, paired with chocolates from Arrowhead Chocolates of Joseph; a wine and cheese trip (Sept. 29) with Copper Belt Winery of Baker City and Umapine Creamery of Milton-Freewater; and the new Seeking Bigfoot Train (July 28), which offers Sasquatch fun and presentations by a guest expert.

"There is an increasing amount of interest in the Bigfoot legend. People are fascinated by stories that go back centuries, about a giant primate in the Blue Mountains," Spaulding said.

Also, the infamous train robberies always draw carloads of passengers who love the added fun and excitement. Bandits on horseback board the train and leave with glittering gold. The Gold Rush Bandits will ride June 16-17, Oct. 6 and Oct. 13. Also returning in the fall is a trip designed for shutterbugs. It features a workshop led by photographer Eric Valentine. It features special stops to allow photographers off the train for run-bys — providing excellent views of the train as it passes.

To read trip descriptions and buy tickets, visit www.eaglecaptrainrides.com. Tickets can also be purchased through Alegre Travel at 1-800-323-7330.

BRIEFLY

Film shares greatest story of circus

BOARDMAN — Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, step right up for a viewing of "The Greatest Showman."

Inspired by the story of P.T. Barnum, the film follows the visionary who rose from nothing to create a mesmerizing spectacle known as the "Greatest Show on Earth." After 146 years, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus ended its run in May 2017. The circus featured exotic animals, flashy costumes and death-defying acrobats.

Starring Hugh Jackman, the film will play Friday at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday at 2:15 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The PG-rated flick also features Michelle Williams, Zac Efron, Rebecca Ferguson and Zendaya. Admission is $3 and includes a bag of popcorn. Bottled water and concessions are available for cash purchases.

For more information, call 541-481-7243 or visit www.visitsage.com.

Bowling tournament benefits The Arc

HERMISTON — If bowling is up your alley, you're invited to participate in a tournament fundraiser to benefit The Arc Umatilla County.

The event is Saturday at 6 p.m. at Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. The cost is $125 per 5-person team, which includes two games, shoe rental and door prizes.

A nonprofit organization, The Arc advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They offer activities to help in connecting the community and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities.

For more information about the bowling event or to become a lane sponsor ($50), contact Kristi Smalley at 541-571-0997 or smalleys@eotnet.net. To learn more about The Arc, call 541-567-7615 or visit www.facebook.com/arcofumatillacounty.

Outdoor sale benefits Agape House

HERMISTON — A parking lot sale offers a chance to purchase reasonably priced items and help support Agape House programs.

You name the price for knick-knacks, clothing items are five for $1 and furniture is as marked. The sale is Saturday from 8-11 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. In case of inclement weather, the sale will be held indoors. Donations are welcome through Friday.

Agape House serves individuals and families in need. For more information, to volunteer or make donations, call 541-567-8774.

STANFIELD

Former police officer picked for council seat

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Stanfield City Council has appointed Ralph "Butch" Parrish to fill a vacancy on the council.

Parrish, who is the office manager for the Boardman Police Department but lives in Stanfield, will replace councilor Pam McSpadden, who died in February.

City manager Blair Larsen said Parrish has a "pretty good history with the city" through a number of roles, including as a former Stanfield police officer in the 1990s.

In 1994, Parrish was injured in the line of duty after he stopped to help the then-Stanfield police chief with an arrest and the suspect managed to get into the front seat of a cruiser and run Parrish over, breaking his spine and leaving him confined to a wheelchair.

After the city put out a call for city council applicants, Parrish threw his hat in the ring along with David Clark, Scott Challis and Blaine Braithwaite. Larsen said Parrish and Clark were both present at Tuesday's city council meeting and answered a series of questions from council members before a vote was taken and Parrish was appointed.

Parrish said after years of working in municipal law enforcement he is curious to see the "other side" of the equation in sitting on the council, and excited to have an opportunity to serve the community where he was born and raised.

He said he liked the idea of being appointed to a partial term to get a feel for the job and for the town to get an idea of whether he fits what they are looking for, before deciding whether to run for another term. He said he is trying to come into the position with a blank slate and an open mind.

"I'm a very approachable person, and I consider myself to be a fair individual," he said.

He will be officially sworn in during the May 1 city council meeting and will fill out the rest of McSpadden's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2020.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Woman recovering from two-vehicle collision

East Oregonian

A Umatilla County woman is recovering from her injuries after a two-vehicle collision outside Hermiston sent her to the hospital.

Ellan Hampton, 25, was involved in a crashed into a stopped semi truck at the intersection of Feedville and Canal roads on April 11. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office said Hampton had some stomach pain and slight bleeding from the head, and was taken to Good Shepherd and then flown to Kadlec Regional Medical Center.

Sgt. Adam Gregory said Hampton was treated for some internal injuries, and has been released.

Hampton was the only person inside the vehicle, Gregory said.

Gregory said the driver of the semi truck was not injured, and the cause of the crash may have been inattention or speed on Hampton's part.

Air National Guard set to conduct demolition training

BOARDMAN — People in the Boardman area may see, hear and feel vibrations from explosions as the Oregon Air National Guard conducts demolition training Thursday and Friday.

The routine training for the Oregon Air National Guard 142nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight from Portland will take place during daylight hours April 19-20 in a central section of the Naval Weapons System Training Facility outside Boardman.

"Dust clouds, smoke, audible detonations and ground vibration may result from these operations," according to a news release. "Safety and fire suppression precautions have been taken to ensure operations pose no threat to people or property."

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