

MILTON-FREEWATER



Contributed photo

Chickens are weighed in during the 2017 Milton-Freewater Junior Show. This year's Jr. Show is May 11-13, although some activities begin May 5.



Contributed photo

Participants are all smiles in the peewee rabbit showmanship during the 2017 Milton-Freewater Junior Show. The 2018 Jr. Show.



Contributed photo

Everyone dons costumes for the Animal Dress-Up Parade during the 2017 Milton-Freewater Junior Show. This year's event is May 11-13.

Jr. Show shines spotlight on youth projects

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

From raising animals, fiber arts and cooking to horticulture, photography and natural sciences, the work and talents of area youths is showcased during the Milton-Freewater Junior Show.

Activities surrounding the event kick off Saturday, May 5, and continue Monday, May 7 through Sunday, May 13. The Junior Show Grounds, at 84575 Highway 11, are located behind Bordertown Feed & Supply, Milton-Freewater.

With a focus on FFA and 4-H activities, it features animals, craft work and projects that are produced, raised and created by young community members. Some of the highlighted events include the Favorite Ensemble Contest, which is Thursday, May 10 from 4-8 p.m. in Towslee Pavilion. Activities gear up Friday, May 11 with livestock judging and showmanship beginning in the morning and the Petting Zoo opening at noon. The afternoon continues with

showmanship, conformation and home economics skills contests. A tractor driving contest is from 2-5 p.m.

The event crescendos Saturday, May 12 with showmanship throughout the day and 4-H presentations in the afternoon. The day closes out with a youth dance sponsored by the McLoughlin High School FFA Alumni at 8 p.m.

A church service around the flag pole is Sunday, May 13 at 8 a.m. The Animal Dress-Up Parade starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by the awards program. The Junior

Show Livestock Sale begins at 1 p.m.

A nonprofit organization, the Jr. Show's legal name is East Umatilla Junior Fair Association. Since its inception in 1954 there have been many changes — the first shows were held in conjunction with the Pea Festival at a location behind McLoughlin High School.

According to a history of the organization, the current grounds came about through a donation from Mrs. Stephens in 1973. Initially, the facility consisted of open

air and tents. Over the years, volunteers and supporters have enabled the Jr. Show to construct buildings.

The board of directors receives support from individuals and businesses. In addition, two major fundraisers are held each year — the Father/Daughter Dance in February and The Green Pancake Feed in March. The board graciously accepts donations and pledges to assist in the maintenance of the grounds and buildings.

There is no admission charge to attend the

Milton-Freewater Jr. Show. For more information, including a schedule of events and a link to make a financial pledge, visit www.mfjrshow.com. For questions, contact mfjrshow@gmail.com or 509-876-1796. In addition, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to Milton-Freewater Junior Show, P.O. Box 379, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

CHRISTINA: Has given away nearly 80 dresses

Continued from 1A

their warehouse to distribute to her local community.

When the Swafford family returned home with the dresses in tow, Athena's first exposure to Christina's new closet was an event in and of itself.

A visit to the trailer alleviated all sorts of obstacles that confront teenage girls trying to attend prom.

Dresses for a one- or two-time event can easily run hundreds of dollars, and finding good dresses can often take teens to out-of-the-way locales like Tri-Cities or Portland.

Additionally, plus-sized girls often have trouble finding a dress that fits.

"There were girls crying," Christina said about the initial round of fittings.

Weston-McEwen senior Mary Bagdon is Christina's friend and was one of the girls who wore an Abby's Closet dress to the prom.

Mary had worn one of Christina's dresses in the past, but for the most part, she reused a dress for formal events that she bought freshman year, which saves on costs.

For Mary, finding a dress in the trailer was an unprece-

dent opportunity.

"For the first time, I could get a dress without looking at the price tag," she said.

Christina estimated that 20 girls were wearing an Abby's Closet dress at Weston-McEwen's April 14 prom, which is a significant amount for a school small enough to hold its prom in the Vert Auditorium Club Room.

For its part, Abby's Closet is happy with its choice.

"I'm going to give (Christina) credit," Abby's Closet co-founder Sally Egbert said. "We hit the jackpot when we chose her for the scholarship."

Similar to Christina's project, Abby's Closet was founded in 2004 when Egbert's daughter Abby was looking to put her old prom dress to good use as she was leaving for college.

Abby's Closet eventually grew to a nonprofit that's donated more than 60,000 dresses in its lifetime.

Its big event each year is the Abby's Closet Prom Gown Giveaway, an April event at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland that gives away a dress to each girl who shows up with a high school ID.

As a part of her scholar-

ship duties, Christina showed up to choose a dress of her own and cut the ribbon at the event.

But Christina stuck around after the opening ceremony ended, changing out of her strapless blue gown and helping other girls find a dress to their liking.

Egbert also liked that Christina not only distributed dresses to Weston-McEwen girls, but also to students in the surrounding area.

The whole situation inspired Abby's Closet to expand their operation and deliver dresses to communities that are well outside the Portland metro area.

This year, the newly established "Spreading the Love" program donated hundreds of dresses to other rural communities such as Roseburg, Klamath Falls and Vale.

The dress donations have also inspired the Swaffords to maintain their efforts at making prom accessible.

Christina's mother Mindy plans to use the remaining donations from Abby's Closet and new donations the family's received since then to continue lending out gowns to the community.

Mindy said she's also



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Of the 100 dresses Christina Swafford received from Abby's Closet, she gave away nearly 80 to area high school students.

heard that there's a need for boys formal wear and covering prom expenses in general, and she's willing to help out with it, too.

Although she is moving to McMinnville to attend Linfield College in the fall, Christina said she has already volunteered to bring the next batch of Abby's Closet prom dresses to Eastern Oregon next spring.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

CAMPAIGN: \$6.6M raised so far by leaders in race for governor

Continued from 1A

Shafer has spent almost \$17,200, including \$1,550 with Meadow Outdoor Advertising, The Dalles, for a billboard; just shy of \$1,900 with Outwest Printing, Milton-Freewater, for mailings; and nearly \$2,900 with Pea Ridge Embroidery, Hermiston, for yard signs.

Givens has spent \$12,816, most of that on local media ads, with more than \$6,100 for radio and broadcast and about \$4,500 in print. That includes \$3,027 with the *East Oregonian*.

He has plenty of signs out, but most are from past campaigns.

Givens and Shafer have raised and spent more than the three candidates racing for the other Umatilla County commissioner seat.

Commissioner George Murdock has total contributions of \$8,075, including his own \$5,000 loan. He has spent almost \$3,600, not quite half of that for ads with the *EO*. He also spent \$1,000 for radio and TV spots and \$840 with Creative Signs, Pendleton.

Challenger Tom Bailor has reported total contributions of \$1,420 and

expenses of \$1,123. His largest donation is \$250 from retired teacher Sally Sundin of Walla Walla, who for years has demanded county commissioners do more to curtail drug addiction. Bailor has paid \$615 to Pendleton businesses Creative Signs and DG Gifts & Screen Printing for signs and buttons.

Pullen has yet to report any finances, although he has several yard signs and some banners on display.

The contest between Rob Collins and Mike Breiling, both of Pendleton, for the open Circuit Court seat in the 6th Judicial District has evolved into the most expensive local race. Collins has raised \$16,475, Breiling \$23,549, and each includes loans of \$15,000. Collins has spent almost \$5,500 for broadcast ads, about \$4,200 for signs, and \$1,234 for *EO* ads. Breiling has spent \$20,255, with almost \$11,000 for broadcast ads and \$3,805 for brochures from Vista Print, a Boston company.

Meanwhile, information shows Gov. Kate Brown has raised more than \$4 million in her re-election campaign, while Republican Knute Buehler has raised more than \$2.4 million.

COMMUNITY BRIEFLY

Echo sets citywide yard sale

ECHO — Bargains will be spread all around Echo during an event this weekend.

The Echo City Wide Yard Sale & Flea Market is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at George Park and beyond. Multiple vendors and yard sales will be located on Dupont and Bridge streets as well as yard sales all around town. Maps will be available.

For more information, contact Brie at wildbleuyonderdesignco@gmail.com or stop by 200 W. Main St., Echo.

Dahlia Day blooms in Boardman

BOARDMAN — Refreshments, door prizes and demonstrations on planting, cutting, fertilization and watering are featured during Dahlia Day in

Boardman.

The free event is Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at T & C Flowers and Melons, 450 Laurel Lane, Boardman. Bulbs will be available for purchase and a lucky winner will receive a surprise.

For more information, call 541-248-9031.

Sale benefits hospital auxiliary

HERMISTON — A selection of books, toys, gifts, games and unique items will be offered during the Spring Collective Goods sale at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

Hosted by the Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary, the event is Wednesday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday, May 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sale will be held in Conference Room No. 1 at the hospital, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Money raised from the sale will

be used towards medical equipment purchases for Good Shepherd and scholarships for local students who are studying the field of medicine.

For more information, contact June Rosenberg at juner1942@gmail.com.

IMAC serves Saturday breakfast

IRRIGON — The Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center offers a home-cooked meal.

The fundraising event is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

For more information, call Peggy Price at 541-567-3806.

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A COMMISSIONER WHO IS DEDICATED, ACCOUNTABLE AND FULLY ENGAGED

What are observers saying about what Commissioner Murdock has brought to Umatilla County in his first full term?

On the subject of energy & commitment:
"He models what he expects from employees - he's among those who open the Courthouse in the morning and among those who close it in the evening - every day."

On the subject of accessibility:
"When I drop by the Commissioner's office, I can count on Commissioner Murdock being there."

On the subject of knowledge & experience:
"It's not easy helping lead 300 employees and balancing an \$80 million budget. Commissioner Murdock came to the position with decades of experience and it shows in the current state of the county."

On the subject of past performance:
"Commissioner Murdock made a positive difference at the Intermountain ESD, the Pasco School District and at the East Oregonian. It shouldn't be a surprise that Umatilla County has benefitted from this experience."

On the subject of making the most of tax dollars:
"Taxpayers don't want public agencies that whine about not having enough money. Rather, they want those in charge to function effectively and efficiently and provide a stable level of programs and services. Commissioner Murdock is the chief budget officer for the county and he is proud of the fact the county balanced next year's budget on February 6."

VOTE GEORGE MURDOCK ON MAY 15 & HELP KEEP UMATILLA COUNTY MOVING FORWARD

Current Umatilla County Commission Board Chair George Murdock has earned a second full term in office

Paid for by Committee to Re-elect George Murdock, County Commissioner. 191 NW Johns Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801

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