

Gorge museum sets firefighters' appreciation event

STEVENSON, Washington — A Firefighters' Appreciation Day is planned at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum.

Firefighting agencies throughout the Columbia River Gorge protect lives and property every day and the significance of their efforts showed clearly during the Eagle Creek Fire in 2017, said Rob Peterson, museum director. Fire districts from throughout the region plan to have personnel and vehicles at the event, which is Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at 990 S.W. Rock Creek Drive in Stevenson, Washington.

"We felt it was time to give the firefighters recognition they deserve," Peterson said. "We invite families of the Gorge to come and express their appreciation."

In addition to fire vehicles on display, Glenn Daman will present a video and discuss photographs he took of the Eagle Creek fire. In addition, he published a book, "Destructive Beauty, Eagle Creek Fire," which will be available for purchase. The museum also features a special exhibit of fire photos, which is on display through Dec. 31.

The appreciation day event is free, but regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, \$6 for youths ages 6-12 and free for those under 6. The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact 509-427-8211, info@columbiagorge.org or visit www.columbiagorge.org.

Right: Eagle Creek Fire taken from Fort Rains in the Columbia River Gorge. A Firefighters' Appreciaton Day event and photo exhibit is featured Saturday at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum in Stevenson, Washington.



Photo contributed by Damon Messersmith

Inland Northwest Musicians open 20th season

Concerts scheduled in Enterprise and Heppner

East Oregonian

The 20th anniversary season of the Inland Northwest Musicians will open with a pair of October concerts.

The Inland Northwest Orchestra will take the stage Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Enterprise Christian Church, 85035 Joseph Highway. The Inland Northwest Chorale will perform Saturday, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. at Heppner Elementary School, 235 Stansbury St. Both concerts are under the direction of R. Lee Friese.

The program for the orchestra concert includes "Irish Suite," which draws from familiar Irish folk tunes and provides a rich musical palette brimming with color and fresh invention; and "Russian and Ludmilla Overture" by Mikhail Glinka. An opera in five acts, it's based on the 1820 poem of the same name by Alexander Pushkin.

Also, "Clarinet Concerto in A Major" by Mozart will feature soloist Roger Garcia of Waitsburg, Washington.



Contributed photo

Clarinet soloist Roger Garcia of Waitsburg, Washington, is the featured soloist for the "Clarinet Concerto in A Major" by Mozart at the Oct. 13 Inland Northwest Orchestra performance in Enterprise.

Employed by the Walla Walla School District, Garcia is in his 29th year in music education. He's also the clarinet instructor at Whitman College and is an active adjudicator and clinician throughout Eastern

Oregon and Washington.

In addition to playing clarinet with the Inland Northwest Musicians, Garcia has performed with the Virginia Wind Symphony, the Walla Walla Symphony and the Mid Columbia Symphony.

The chorale program includes "Twelve Canticles" by Randall Thompson. The piece, which was Thompson's last composition, is based on 11 of his favorite passages from the Bible.

In addition, the chorale will perform "A Festival of Psalms" by John Ness Beck. It includes Psalm 24, identified as a Psalm of David in the King James translation of the Bible.

Both concerts are free, although donations are graciously accepted at the door. Receptions will follow each performance.

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians is committed to providing live musical performances to rural audiences. It fosters an atmosphere of encouragement and assists musicians in developing their talent.

Also, as part of the 20th season, a special celebration reunion concert is planned in June 2019, which will include a commissioned orchestral/choral piece. Additional details will be revealed at a future date.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

State cemetery commission will meet Oct. 25-26 in Pendleton

East Oregonian

The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries will meet in Pendleton Oct. 25 and 26 to discuss cemeteries and how to support them.

According to a press release, the commission will begin by holding its regular quarterly meeting from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 25. The commission is expected to discuss the promotion of historic cemeteries, the historic cemetery permit process, and planning for the next two years.

From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., the commission will hear a presentation on how communities connect to cemeteries through events like musical performances and historic portrayals.

"Cemeteries have a purpose for mourning and memorialization," the press release states.

"They also hold the continuous history of the community, the cultural trends over decades and preserved natural space."

On Oct. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the commission will host a workshop on how cemeteries can engage the community and build a core of supporters.

All events and meetings are free, and will be held at the Heritage Station Museum at 108 S.W. Frazer Ave.

Pendleton has several historic cemeteries, including Olney Cemetery.

Museum at 108 S.W. Frazer Ave.

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HERMISTON

Hermiston School Board meets four prospective members

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

The Hermiston School Board will decide how to fill its open position at the next meeting, after hearing pitches from applicants on Monday.

The board had five applicants for the position, which was recently vacated when longtime board member Jason Middleton resigned.

Kris Lerten, Mark Millard, Brent Pitney, Trish Rossell and Mike Todryk all applied for the position.

Four of the candidates (Millard was absent) answered a series of questions from current board members, ranging from their reasons for wanting to join the board, to what kind of relationship a board member should have with the community.

Some, like Lerten and Pitney, said they have children in the district, which has made them more interested in getting involved.

Pitney, who manages Knerr Construction, said he is on the board of the Homebuilder's Association, and has worked with the student-built homes program.

Lerten is a plumber at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, and said he has taken a teaching role with the inmates.

Rossell, who owns several small businesses in the region and has run the Hermiston Warming Station, said she wants to help others succeed.

"I come from a disadvantaged background," she said. "I feel like I'm a success story, and I'm interested in helping the next generation."

Todryk, a retired teacher and soldier, said he was a homeless high school student. He also has children in elementary and high school, and has spoken at several board meetings about trying

ing to get girls' wrestling implemented in the district.

The candidates spoke about the challenges they felt are facing the district, with all of them mentioning the growth of the student population, and increasing facility needs.

Todryk and Rossell also said they feel the schools over-test students, and said they'd instead like to see teachers have a bit more autonomy in their own classrooms.

Candidates also shared what they feel the day-to-day role of a board member should be.

Todryk said a school board member should have a feel for the pulse of the district and community, and know what's going on in the specific schools.

"There are two aspects — the education side and the community side," Lerten said. "I should have an answer for a community member, or be able to get it for them."

Board members asked the candidates how they would gauge whether their goals are being accomplished.

"There's statistical and anecdotal information," Rossell said, citing a presentation earlier in the meeting, where a staff member told a story of a family that had moved from another local district to receive services in Hermiston. "That's not going to be reflected in data, but it's good to hear."

Lerten said he would look carefully at graduation rates and attendance numbers as a measure of success.

Board chair Karen Sherman said they will make a decision at the board's Oct. 22 work session.

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