

Marching band a study in multitasking

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Marching band takes as much athletic focus as it does musical skill, with students spending hours on the field, memorizing complicated footwork as they play, and competing against other schools.

Last weekend, the Hermiston High School marching band faced off against 22 other schools in the “Cavalcade of Bands” competition in Pasco, which featured schools from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Hermiston finished 15th, and placed fourth in its division. Hermiston also received an award for “best brass and woodwinds” in their division.

“It was kind of exciting,” said Director Sean McClanahan. “It was the first time in a while that Hermiston has come home with an award. They’ve been working hard and made a lot of improvements in the last



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Members of the Hermiston High School marching band practice a performance routine on the baseball field on Tuesday.

year or two.”

McClanahan said the band participates in three or four competitions a year, as well as local performances,

such as Homecoming. He said the band has long competed with schools from other states, and was not affected by the district’s

decision to start competing against Washington schools.

“It’s kind of its own thing,” he said.

Each year, the band picks a performance theme, which includes a dance routine. This year’s theme is “Wired: The Rise of Artifi-

cial Intelligence.”

They start preparing two weeks before school, putting in 12-hour days at band camp, before scaling back to two-hour nightly practices during the school year.

McClanahan has a staff of about nine working with him — including teachers from around the district, and coaches from the Columbians Drum and Bugle Corps, based in Pasco.

Instructors from the Columbians help with choreography and visual design.

“They’ve definitely upped the level — it’s paying off,” said senior clarinet player Megan Baskins, who has been in marching band since she was a freshman.

Baskins said she, and most other marching band students, devote all their free time to music.

“When we’re not here, we’re working, trying to memorize music,” she said. “All of us love music, and we put in all this hard work to get to show others.”

BRIEFLY

Heppner boosters serve up steak, auction

HEPPNER — The Heppner High School Booster Club’s annual steak dinner and auction offers the community a chance to help support teams at the school.

The event is Saturday at the Heppner Elks Lodge, 142 N. Main St. The doors open at 5 p.m., dinner is served at 6 p.m., and the live auction starts at 7 p.m.

The steak dinner, which includes potatoes, salads, bread and homemade dessert, is \$20 per person. VIP tables may still be available by calling 541-561-0234. It features reserved seating, special table décor, two bottles of wine and wait service during the meal.

For more information or to make a donation, call Brandi Sweeney at 541-246-0358.

Columbia Grange hosts meals, flea market

HERMISTON — The Columbia Grange is hosting a fundraiser to help support community service projects, including giving dictionaries to third-graders, Pet Rescue, and the Hermiston Warming Station.

The event is Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the grange hall, 32339 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. It features an all-you-can-eat breakfast for \$6, lunch for varying prices, and a flea market and craft sale. Also, people can rent vendor space for \$8.

For more information, call Pat at 541-567-5706 or Clare at 541-278-0615.

Soroptimists offer scholarships for women

HERMISTON — Soroptimist International of the Greater Hermiston Area is offering two “Live Your Dream: Educational and Training Awards for Women” scholarships for women in our area who have been accepted or are enrolled in a post-high school educational or vocational program.

Applicants are sought from Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Two awards, one for \$1,000 and one for \$500, will

be awarded at the local level. The application of the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship will also be entered in competition for further awards at the regional and federal levels of the Soroptimist organization.

Applications are available online at <http://bit.ly/LYDAP>; by checking the community scholarships list on the BMCC website, www.bluecc.edu; or by contacting Deniece Derbyshire at 541-567-9409, 541-561-6728, dderb@charter.net or sigreaterhermistonarea@soroptimist.net for application and reference forms.

Applications and reference forms must be submitted no later than Nov. 15.

Polio survivor shares history of disease

HERMISTON — A polio survivor will share the history of polio and progress being made for its total eradication.

“Together, We End Polio,” which features Joan Toone, is Monday, Oct. 15 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Hermiston School District office board room, 305 S.W. 11th. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes dessert and a donation to PolioPlus. The event is hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Eastern Oregon.

Additional donations will be accepted and will be matched two-to-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. People can pay with cash, check or credit cards.

Garden club to harvest leaders

PENDLETON — An election of officers is planned during the upcoming Dirt Dabblers Garden Club meeting.

In addition, an exhibition by Judy Graham is featured, as well as a discussion about fall planning for spring projects. The gathering is Monday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. Also, in preparation for the November meeting, a wish list of items needed for Domestic Violence Services will be distributed.

For more information or to express interest in joining the club or board, contact Sue

Stefancik at slafleur53@aol.com.

Pizza fundraiser benefits Spain trip

PENDLETON — Abby’s Pizza is hosting a fundraiser for Pendleton High School’s Foreign Language Club Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. at 828 Southgate. The club, led by Kathryn Youngman, is planning an education trip to Spain.

Abby’s will donate 25 percent of all food purchases during the fundraiser to the club, both dine-in and carry-out orders, including pizza, breadsticks and garlic knots, salads and wings. Alcohol, gift card and non-food purchases are not eligible for the fundraiser.

For more information, contact Youngman at 541-278-9663.

Good Shepherd collects backpacks for homeless

HERMISTON — Community members who have gently used backpacks or want to purchase one to provide to those in need are asked to drop them off at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

The hospital’s education department is collecting backpacks to distribute during the Project Community Connect & Veteran Stand Down event Oct. 20 at the Pendleton Recreation Center. The annual event provides free information, personal hygiene supplies and other items for those in attendance. However, backpacks are seldom included in the donations, which makes it hard for many participants to keep or carry items from the event, said Jaime Crowell, a community health educator at Good Shepherd Health Care System.

Donations need to be dropped off by Thursday, Oct. 18 at Good Shepherd, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. For more information about donations, call the hospital’s education department at 541-667-3502. An article about Project

Community Connect/Veterans Stand Down will appear in a future edition of the *East Oregonian*.

McKay Creek Estates offers cognitive screening

PENDLETON — Have you or a loved one been a little more forgetful lately? Though memory loss can be a normal part of aging, it can also be a common symptom of a more significant memory disorder. If you or a loved one is exhibiting signs of cognitive decline, Prestige’s McKay Creek Estates, 1601 Southgate Place, Pendleton, is offering free and confidential cognitive screenings now through the end of November.

During the assessment, qualified professionals pose a series of basic questions designed to test a range of participants’ cognitive abilities. Each screening takes about 30 minutes, and participants do not need to bring any items or documentation with them.

The assessment is part of Prestige’s dedication to offering programs and resources to support and care for those living with Alzheimer’s and other memory disorders. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s is critical to making informed decisions for yourself or your loved ones.

To schedule a free cognitive screening at McKay Creek Estates, call 541-403-8820.

Morrow County planning meetings scheduled

East Oregonian

The Morrow County Planning Commission will hold its next public hearing in Heppner on Oct. 30, and will discuss a transportation plan, land partitions and a conditional use permit.

Two Morrow County residents have applied for a conditional use permit that would allow them to construct a home just west of Irrigon. Two residents have applied for a land partition, which would create two parcels of land for farming. The commission will also con-

sider adopting the Heppner Transportation System plan to apply to the Heppner urban growth boundary.

The meeting will take place at the Bartholomew Building in Heppner, at 110 N. Court St.

The last planning commission meeting, held in late September, discussed a transportation plan amendment, which proposed adding the Lexington Airport Master Plan to the Morrow County Transportation System Plan. This action will be considered at another public hearing on Oct. 24.

Hood River infanticide defendant transferred to Umatilla County Jail

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Infanticide defendant Debra Lee Jones of Hood River is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Jones, 61, was at NORCOR, the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility in The Dalles, along with her co-defendants: her wife, Rochelle R. Jones, 51, and a third woman, Donna J. Pilcher, 62. Umatilla County undersheriff Jim Littlefield said NORCOR staff requested

the transfer to the jail in Pendleton until Jones’ next court date. Jones arrived Thursday morning.

The state has accused the three women of running an illegal day care in Hood River where 4-month-old Cyrus Macioroski died. They face charges in Hood River County for operating a child care facility without state certification, first-degree criminal mistreatment, second-degree manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide.

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