Garden tour sprouts opportunities for women

P.E.O. Chapter DR hosts annual fundraiser

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

A variety of flowers and plant life provides an inviting sanctuary in the backyard of Michael and Jonette Atkinson. The June 8 P.E.O. Chapter DR 2019 Garden Tour includes the couple's Hermiston property.

Michael and Jonette Atkinson have created an outdoor sanctuary on their Bridge Road property. Calling it a work in progress for more than two decades, the Hermiston couple enjoys sharing their landscaped oasis with others.

Over the past 10 years, the Atkinsons have opened their yard to serve as the backdrop for a handful of weddings and numerous photo shoots.

"I like to have people over to enjoy it," Michael said. "I like to share it with others."

The willingness of the Atkinsons and five other Hermiston area residents to share their gardens will benefit P.E.O. Chapter DR. The 17th annual Hermiston Garden Tour raises money to encourage and support women in reaching their potential through education.

The tour is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People may visit the gardens in any order. The tour booklet, which serves as a ticket, is $15. It includes garden descriptions and directions. They can be purchased in advance at Cottage Flowers, 1725 N. First St.; Kopacz Nursery & Florist, 465 W. Theater Lane; Westwinds Nursery, 29957 Noble Road; or from P.E.O. members. Also, tickets are available Saturday at each garden.

While the Atkinsons have some help with maintaining their 2-acre property, both Michael and Jonette enjoy a hands-on approach in creating their blissful space. Jonette credits her father for her love of the outdoors and digging in the dirt.

"I love gardening," she said. "If I could, I'd be out here every day."

In addition to trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals, the couple also grows vegetables. Other features adding to the ambiance include a white picket fence, a chicken coop and Rattlesnake Ridge, a play structure for their grandchildren.

Other homes on this year's tour include the "Simple Elegance" of Kimber and Josh Burns. In less than a year, the couple has transformed their Southeast Banker Drive property into a lovely outdoor oasis. It offers contrasting views and a rock collection.

Shawn and Craig Lockwood highlight the sycamore trees in their "Eclectic Country" landscaping. In addition, their Southwest 23rd Street home includes whimsical and vintage items and the creative use of Rose Campia, which borders a basketball court.

A "Hidden Treasure" can be found at the Joy Lane home of Joann and Todd Chapman. The property offers eye-catching features, including a rock wall bordered by grasses and yuccas, a pair of fire pits, herb and vegetable gardens, beautiful potted plants and a palm tree.

The Northeast Gladys Drive home of Mike and Shelly Fricker has sprouted in two decades to include lilies, hanging pots and large ground pots. You won't want to miss their "Whimsical Way," which features wall art, birdhouses, garden figures and a rock fountain.

Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Michael Atkinson recently renovated Rattlesnake Ridge for his grandchildren. Atkinson and his wife, Jonette, look forward to sharing about their garden landscaping during the June 8 P.E.O. Chapter DR 2019 Garden Tour.

And, "Surprises in Store" at the South Edwards Road home of Carol and Larry Reuber features decorative trees, a variety of fruit trees, perennials and roses. Also, be sure to check out the statue fountain and surprises awaiting visitors along a meandering cement walkway.

P.E.O. members will greet people at the gardens and answer questions about the organization. P.E.O International (Philanthropic Educational Organization) started as a bond of friendship between seven women in 1869. It helps women by making education accessible through scholarships, grants, awards and loans. For more information, visit www.peointernational.org. For more about the garden tour, call Winnie Earl at 541-690-6381.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Helix fun run scores improvements

HELIX — Proceeds from the Helix Heart of the Country Family Fun Run/Walk has its sights set on providing improvements to the community.

Money raised from the fun run is earmarked to redo the community basketball court. In past years the event has funded a new park swing set, playground equipment, pool shade sails and new chairs for the pool.

The 2019 Helix Fun Run is Saturday with race check-in beginning at 7 a.m. at Helix Park. The race starts at 8 a.m. People are invited to walk, run or just join the fun. Distances include 1-mile, 5K and 10 K. The registration fee is $20.

The Helix School wood shop is creating trophies for winners of the age group categories. In addition, custom-designed event T-shirts will be available. Also, Andrae's Kitchen will be on hand for food purchases.

Also, in the evening the Helix Street Dance will feature music by Scott Wilson. The event runs from 6-10 p.m. at the corner of Solar and Concord streets. A no-host bar will be provided by Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery and a large barbecue menu will be available from Yeti Dog Food Truck.

A link for the fun run registration is available via http://heartofthecountry.itsyourrace.com. For questions, contact Breanne Parker at 541-805-4611 or breannechalmers@hotmail.com.

Ecology hike highlights East Moraine

JOSEPH — People are invited to participate in a guided hike and learn more about the unique landscape of the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake.

Presented by the Wallowa Land Trust, the program is led by Rob Taylor, a conservation ecologist, and Andie Lueders, a former wildlife biologist. Participants will experience outstanding views and will learn about how the landscape provides diverse networks of flora and fauna.

The East Moraine Ecology Hike is Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. There is no participation fee, but those planning to attend need to register in advance.

Donations are welcome, which helps support the Wallowa Land Trust. A nonprofit organization, its mission is to protect the rural nature of the Wallowa Country by working cooperatively with private landowners, Indian tribes, local communities and governmental entities.

For more information or to RSVP, contact info@wallowalandtrust.org, 541-426-2042 or visit www.wallowalandtrust.org.

Irrigon hosts weekly farmers' market

IRRIGON — The Irrigon Farmers' Market is now open for the season.

The market is each Saturday from 6-9 p.m. on the lawn located west of the library, 490 N.E. Main St. It will be open weekly through Labor Day weekend.

The market welcomes vendors selling fresh agricultural products and occasional home-crafted products. People are encouraged to help support the effort and come out and visit with your neighbors.

For more information, contact city manager Aaron Palmquist at 541-922-3047 or manager@ci.irrigon.or.us. Also, for a vendor application, search www.ci.irrigon.or.us. There is no vendor fee.

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