

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Flora School Days offers online event for 2021

FLORA — The Flora School Education School Days event, the pioneer demonstration gathering held every June, will be offered online again in 2021, not in-person, due to the pandemic. The historic school building, which has been converted to a folk arts education site, is located at 80974 College Lane outside Enterprise.

The online rendition will make a schedule change from February's CANT (Crafting a New Tomorrow) and last June's viral productions. School Days Online 2021 will start Tuesday, June 1, and end on the usual time frame of Saturday, June 5.

The weekday presentations will be available to view June 1, through Friday, June 4, from 6-8 p.m. Each pioneer skill will be prerecorded, but each presenter will be live to answer questions on the skills presented. The Saturday folk arts will be live and once again viewers can ask questions.

Presentations will include tanning hides, smithing hinges, nails and cutlery, carving a bowl, wood cookstove use, nine-patch sewing by hand and machine, herbal gathering for food and more. Viewers may tune into the Flora School Education Center's webpage at www.floraschool.org to view the demonstrations.

For more information, contact the FSEC at 541-828-7010 or floraschool@tds.net. More information is also available on Facebook, Instagram and the FSEC's YouTube channel.

Joseph Center exceeds fundraising goal

JOSEPH — On Thursday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m., the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture began its capital campaign fundraising event in hopes of reaching \$50,000 to purchase and renovate the center. By 7:30 p.m., the center had raised just over \$80,000, with most of the donations coming from Wallowa County residents.

Combined with the match incentive offered by M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the evening's total ended up exceeding \$135,000, allowing the Joseph Center to realize its long-awaited goal of being able to purchase and renovate the building.



EO Media Group Photo, File

Brian Cook of Irrigon and his half-Percheron mules, Kent, Mary and Jean, provide a wagon tour of Flora that started at the historic Flora School during a previous School Days event. Flora School Days will be presented in an online format in 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions.

"We are beside ourselves with excitement," said Executive Director Cheryl Coughlan. "The dream of becoming a permanent home for arts and culture in Wallowa County is now a reality. I almost have to pinch myself to believe it!"

The Key to Our Future fundraising event, hosted by special guest Andy Lindberg, was upbeat and fast-paced with heart-warming moments, including youth testimonials, dedications made in memory of loved ones, and a video reminding viewers that art is everywhere in Wallowa County — if you look for it.

The "Art is Everywhere" video can be viewed at www.josephy.org/capital-fundraiser.

Prizes sponsored by local businesses helped incentivize giving throughout the event, including a Terminal Gravity growler every month for a full year and \$300 worth of pizza cards from M.Crow.

"This fundraiser was undoubtedly a success," said Development Director Kellee Sheeh, "but there's a lot of work ahead. Buying the building for the county means that we are all responsible for shaping how it grows. We need feedback from residents about what kinds of programs they want or want more of. That feedback will help determine the design of the building when we renovate and expand in Phase II."

"Even though we received grant funding," said Coughlan, "it's the people of Wallowa County who

came through for us in the end. They showed up and generously gave their hard-earned dollars. Now we can all reap the benefit for years to come."

Sing United seeks local musical talent

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — United Way has announced the first-ever virtual singing competition to come to the Blue Mountain region. "Sing United: Clash of the Blue Mountain Beats" will celebrate and recognize great musical talent in Walla Walla, Columbia, Umatilla, Morrow, Baker, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Harney and Malheur counties while helping local communities grow stronger through the efforts of United Way.

The virtual singing competition and fundraiser is for local bands and musicians. The grand prize winner will receive \$2,500, an opportunity for multiple live performances, and a private musician photoshoot. More prizes will be announced soon.

Money raised during tournament voting will support United Way of the Blue Mountains in their Successful Students; Healthy People and Thriving Communities; and Disaster Recovery programs.

"Over the last year, our area has suffered through many losses and hardships. We are thrilled to bring a virtual event to the Blue Mountains that we know will not only lift spirits during the course

of the competition, but will have an ongoing impact in our community," said Christy Lieuallen, executive director of United Way of the Blue Mountains, in a press release. "Throughout history, music has helped to unify and heal people. We hope Sing United will inspire some fun and friendly competition, all while boosting spirits and raising funds for our community, especially during this time of recovery."

Sing United will be organized in a single-elimination bracket tournament organized by a selection committee. Musicians/bands must submit registration for the tournament by May 10 at 8 a.m. The bracket and first round matchup dates will be announced soon after. The winner of each matchup is based on the number of votes in the United Way Sing United fundraiser. Each \$1 contributed counts as one vote.

For eligibility requirements, and to enter the tournament, musicians and bands can visit <https://www.uwbluement.org/sing>. Registration is open immediately.

Pendleton After School Program returns

PENDLETON — Pendleton Parks and Recreation and the Pendleton School District have coordinated to bring back the After School Program, an onsite resource for youths in first through fifth grades to have a safe, nurturing environment from the time school ends until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The After School Program is the product of a Pendleton Parks and Recreation Department, Pendleton School District, and Intermountain Education Service District collaboration to bring much-needed, after-school child care to the community. It debuted in the fall of 2019 with strong community support and enrollment.

The After School Program will have some slight changes to continue to follow OHA and Umatilla County Health Department COVID-19 guidelines, including weekly enrollment rather than daily enrollment. The After School Program started accepting registrations on Monday, April 19, at 8 a.m., with the first week beginning on Monday, April 26. Scholarships are available.

For more information, visit the Parks website at <https://pendleton->

parksandrec.com/parksrec, or call the office at 541-276-8100.

Wheat foundation awards scholarships

PENDLETON — The Oregon Wheat Foundation announced five \$1,500 scholarships awarded to qualifying high school seniors in 2021, representing five counties or regions. Students were evaluated based on academic record, leadership, community service and the submitted essays.

Local winners were Eva Martin of Ione Community Charter School and Tyler Spratling of Pendleton High School.

Martin, the daughter of Brent and Jill Martin of Ione, plans to study business at Oregon State University. She held leadership roles in FFA and earned the Chapter Degree, as well as a State Degree.

Spratling plans to study agriculture or teaching with an emphasis in science at Oregon State University this fall. He served as an FFA chapter officer during his high school career. He is the son of Tim and Kathy Spratling of Pendleton.

Other scholarship winners were Aubrina Melville of Enterprise, Colten Wright of Lost River, and Nathan Stout of Madras.

The Oregon Wheat Foundation annually awards up to 12 scholarships for high school seniors. Scholarship awards may be made to a qualifying student from each of the participating counties, which include Baker/Union, Gilliam, Klamath, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wallowa and Wasco. In addition, awards may be made in the Willamette Valley counties and in the Central Oregon counties.

Heppner FFA to hold plant sale fundraiser

HEPPNER — The Heppner FFA Chapter will hold its 15th annual plant sale fundraiser at Heppner High School on April 29 from 3-6 p.m., April 30 from 1-6 p.m., and May 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The plant sale will offer numerous varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers for sale.

This event is open to the public. All purchases support Heppner FFA.

For more information, visit bit.ly/heppner-ffa or search "Heppner FFA."

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