

Heppner's St. Pats party continues this weekend

East Oregonian

HEPPNER — After a two-year hiatus, Heppner is gearing up for a second weekend in a row as part of its Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration.

The fun uncorks with Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Festival. It is Friday, March 18, 7-11 p.m. at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building, 106 E. May St., Heppner.

Dan Burns 3-D Productions will crank things up with a DJ show featuring music, lights and fog. While youths are invited to attend, they must be accompanied by an adult.

There is a \$5 cover charge. Drink tokens are \$5 each, and food will be available for purchase from Upper Place Concessions. For more information, call the chamber at 541-676-5536 or visit www.heppnerchamber.com.

And closing out the book-end weekends is 8 seconds of quick action at a time during the 2022 Coastal Farm & Ranch Challenge of Champions Bull Riding. Tour Stop No. 3 is Saturday, March 19,



Dan Burns 3-D Productions/Contributed Photo

Dan Burns 3-D Productions will turn up the music and lights Friday, March 18, 2022, during Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Festival at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building, Heppner.

4 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, 74473 Highway 74, Heppner.

The rodeo event started more than a decade ago with a single hometown bull riding competition in Roseburg. It has grown since 2009 to include more than 15 different tour stops across five states.

Participants include professional bull riders from across the country, featuring

PBR and NFR qualifiers and finalists, top circuit qualifiers/finalists and collegiate rodeo athletes. In addition, junior bull riders also enjoy the opportunity to compete in a professional venue to further develop and showcase their skills.

For more information or to buy tickets, which are \$18 each, go to www.cctbullriding.com. For questions, call 360-967-2337.

Hermiston students enjoy big wins at chess tournament

Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — Hermiston students had a big day at a recent chess tournament, according to chess club volunteer Delia Fields.

According to Fields, who is also the Hermiston School District librarian, highlights of the Feb. 26 Region 23 Chess for Success tournament included excellent play from a young strategist, as well as a trio of high schoolers who took big victories to earn their way to the state competition next month in Portland.

Beau Neddo, a second grader at West Park Elementary, played well, scoring 4.5

points in the five rounds of match play to become the top Region 23 player for grades kindergarten through fourth grade.

Baker City had several students score well, and third grader Sylvia Rich was the top player for Region 24, scoring 3.5 points. Baker City had the winning elementary and middle school teams. Neddo will represent Hermiston elementary youth on April 9 when other individual qualifiers from other regions meet at the Expo Center in Portland for the statewide competition.

The older local contingency will be three Hermiston High School players

who each scored four points in match play on Feb. 26 to wind up in a three-way tie for overall Region 23 grades 9-12 champion.

There is no team option at the high school level, so the stakes are high for the players because usually only one overall regional champion gets to advance.

Sophomores Luke Gray and Elijah Robinson and junior Pride Shelley will play at the state contest for two days, April 8 and 9, because for the high school division match play is divided over two days, three matches on Friday and two matches on Saturday.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Lions Club digs in with Mo's chowder sales

HERMISTON — For those with a hankering for Mo's Original Seafood & Chowder, you don't have to take a road trip to the coast.

The Hermiston Lions Club is holding a fundraiser to make some extra clams. And through that effort, they are bringing Mo's to Hermiston. To enjoy some delicious food — and support the club's scholarship program for graduating seniors in Hermiston, Boardman, Echo, Lone, Irrigon, Stanfield and Umatilla — orders must be placed by March 22.

The Mo's Clam Chowder Base, which provides five 10-ounce servings (\$15/quart), has a 3-week shelf life in the refrigerator and can be frozen for up to three months. Other menu items include homemade bread (\$6/loaf), garlic cheese butter (\$6/pint) and marionberry cobbler (\$25/8x8 pan).

Mo's, which got its start on the bay front in Newport in 1946, is known for its mouth-watering clam chowder. Just over a decade ago,

they rolled out a fundraising program of selling its clam chowder base to help support efforts of youth programs, sports teams, schools and nonprofit organizations. And when the global pandemic wreaked havoc on the restaurant industry, Mo's expanded the project — hitting the road to make deliveries across the state and beyond.

To place an order, call 541-567-8301, visit www.eclubhouse.org/sites/hermiston or search the club's Facebook page. Orders will be available for pickup March 30, 4-6 p.m. in the parking lot at West Park Elementary School, 555 S.W. Seventh St., Hermiston.

American Legion plans veteran information event

HERMISTON — Local veterans have an upcoming opportunity to learn more about preparing for their ultimate destination.

Sponsored by American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 37, "What You Need to Know Before You Go" includes such topics as estate planning and wills, death benefits for veterans

and mortuary information, as well as providing health tips. Professionals will be available to consult privately with veterans.

The free event is Saturday, March 19, 1-5 p.m. at Agape House, 500 W. Harper Road, Hermiston. Refreshments will be provided.

Veterans are encouraged to bring family members to assist with gathering intel on matters of concern. For more information, call 541-720-1815 or 541-571-5816.

Former TigerScot makes Wyoming Dean's List

LARAMIE, Wyoming — The University of Wyoming announced that Bryce Thul of Adams was named to the 2021 fall semester academic Dean's List Honor Roll. The former student-athlete is a 2019 graduate of Athena-Weston High School.

To receive the recognition, students must earn a GPA of 3.4 or better while enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours. Founded in 1886, the school is based in Laramie, Wyoming. For more information, visit www.uwyo.edu. —EO Media Group

VOICES

Getting the nudge I really needed

By ANN DUDLEY
Special to East Oregonian

I was a shy child, almost painfully so. But when I was 10, my mother came into my room one Saturday morning and announced that she thought it would be a good idea if I took some acting classes at the Portland Civic Theater.

The first class started in half an hour, so I better get hopping if I was going to do it. I had to factor in the 10-minute travel time, the getting there a few minutes early time, etc. That meant there were only a few minutes left for me to throw on some clothes and get in the car.

But before I jumped into high gear, I had a flashback of the last time I was in a show at the Firehouse Theater. I was 4, perhaps 5. I don't remember the play, but I do recall wanting to play the fairy. That role went to the pretty girl with long blond hair. Me? With the pixie cut? Got the role of alligator and I had to crawl around on my belly. I hated it.

I had a feeling that I didn't really have a choice about this offer. I'm not sure now whether it was my mom trying to get me out of my shell or assuaging her love of acting, theater and movies.

That was the start of eight years of acting lessons. Oh, and there was also ballet, tap and singing lessons on top of it. Turns out, while I may not have been very good at it (I was horrible at learning lines), a part of me really loved it. I made a lifelong friend and am Facebook friends with a few of my fellow childhood thespians and one of our acting coaches.

There are a few priceless moments from that era of my life that always come to mind when reminiscing about it.

In one production, I played a chorus girl in a western show. The costume didn't allow me to wear a bra (which I needed). During a change of costume from townsperson to chorus girl, my bra that I had worn as Townsperson Number One got caught up in the dress for Chorus Girl Number Five. While I was doing the can-can on stage, I looked down and saw my bra flapping along with me. I danced off stage, yanked the offending appendage off and rejoined the line-up, red-faced with embarrassment and my friend and fellow chorus girl laughing her head off.

I always hated wearing coats as a child, and I still am prone to not wearing them. In late grammar school, there was one that I particularly loathed. It was blue and made of a material that produced the sensation of being steamed alive.

When horsing around

ANYONE CAN WRITE

Nearly 40 years in the business have taught me that readers are bombarded and overwhelmed with facts. What we long for, though, is meaning and a connection at a deeper and more universal level.

And that's why the East Oregonian will be running, from time to time, stories from students who are in my writing class, which I've been teaching for the past 10 years in Portland.

I take great satisfaction in helping so-called nonwriters find and write stories from their lives and experiences. They walk into my room believing they don't have what it takes to be a writer. I remind them if they follow their hearts, they will discover they are storytellers.

As we all are at our core.

Some of these stories have nothing to do with Pendleton or Umatilla County. They do, however, have everything to do with life.

If you are interested in contacting me to tell me your story, I'd like to hear from you.

Tom Hallman Jr., tbhbook@aol.com

Tom Hallman Jr. is a Pulitzer Prize-winning feature writer for The Oregonian newspaper. He's also a writing coach and has an affinity for Umatilla County.

with some friends after school, one of the boys got a hold of my sleeve and there was a loud ripping sound. The sleeve was torn largely from its socket. For some reason, my mother decided to repair it using black electrical tape.

On the outside.

So now, not only was I wearing a coat I hated, but a coat ungracefully patched. Along the way, the coat disappeared. I had no idea what had happened to it. Five years later, I am in the audience for a production of "The Glass Menagerie." The girl playing Laura entered the stage. (A girl none of us particularly cared for. Perhaps we were jealous she got the coveted role or maybe because she was a snotty snob.)

I sank lower in my seat. "It couldn't be," I thought. But as Laura turned, I saw the tale-tell electrical tape patch job. My quiet humiliation and the thought that the girl who was playing Laura must never find out that that had once been my honest-to-goodness coat. The family in that play were supposed to be poor. From the wrong side of the tracks. The situation also played out in my head as to how it had come into the costume mistress' hands. I had most likely left it behind long ago during a class or rehearsal. I never claimed it. The costumer tucked it away, only to be brought out, perfect for the role it was in.

And yet, the most poignant and most significant of my memories, is also one of pain and personal triumph. To set the scene as it were, I had gotten a bit mouthy to my dad. This was in the late '70s, so think women's lib.

My father was old-fashioned. Once he sat down at the table, he wasn't getting up until he was through. That meant that my mom and I were the ones who were getting up when he deemed he wanted salt, seconds,

a napkin, fill in xyz.

One night I had had enough and most likely said he could get up and get it too, you know, or he could do more like help with the dishes. The next night he came home from work and announced that I would no longer be taking acting classes because my mom needed help around the house. My punishment for speaking up was to have the thing I loved taken away. I spent the next year after school and on weekends ironing. Ironing sheets, dish towels, his shirts, T-shirts and boxers, along with my own clothes. This was in addition to having always helped with the dishes and other housework as needed from a young age.

That is, until I got the call. It was the theater. The director of the children's production was calling. Someone in the cast had broken their arm and couldn't perform that afternoon. Could I replace her? I would need to go to the theater that morning, learn the lines and blocking and perform two shows that afternoon.

My fate was in my dad's hands. He relented and let me perform. I knew, though, that the only reason why I was permitted to fill in was because someone who was an authority, the director and the head of the acting school, thought I was good enough to do it.

So it was that I returned to the theater after a year's hiatus. I was able to take pride in the fact that I had been thought of, out of the blue, to step into a role, and then complete the run of the show the following two Saturdays.

I learned so much from those eight years. Most importantly, I learned about (and accepted without question) different lifestyles, personalities, friendship and camaraderie.

Thank you, Mom, for giving me the nudge I so desperately needed.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.EastOregonian.com

CHALLENGE OF CHAMPIONS VS. FOUR TOUR
Saturday, March 19
4:00-6:00pm
Morrow County Fairgrounds
General Admission
HEPPNER, OR

Tillamook Boardman
Hiring Event
Full-time Cheese Manufacturing Opportunities!
March 24th 9:30am-4:00pm
WorkSource Hermiston
950 SE Columbia Dr Ste B
Hermiston, Oregon 97838
Managers will be onsite conducting interviews!
We offer competitive benefits including tuition assistance, employee discounts, childcare assistance, 401k match, profit sharing, and so much more!
Tillamook.com/careers.html