

OK lands Grammy-winning cowboy group

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Scoring a major coup, the OK Theatre snagged renowned western music group, Riders in the Sky, for an April 23 concert at the venue. The group is the only act strictly dedicated to "western" or "cowboy" music to win a Grammy award. The group, in fact, won two of the awards in the past.

The four-man ensemble features "Ranger Doug," known as "the Idol of American Youth" or alternatively as "the Governor of the State of Rhythm," on guitar and lead and baritone vocals. He's also an accomplished yodeler.

"Too Slim" performs tenor vocals, plays upright bass, and is the resident wit of the group.

Woody Paul, "King of the Cowboy Fiddlers," sings both lead and tenor vocals and performs rope tricks.

"Joey, the Cowpolka King," plays accordion. In the past, Joey played with musical luminaries as var-



Courtesy Photo

Riders in the Sky will perform April 23 at the OK Theatre.

ied as Roy Rogers and U2. Joey is the newest member of the group.

The group played its first

show in 1977, and unlike virtually every major musical act, has managed to retain its original members.

Paul played with the group for a time in the '80s and re-joined the group permanently in the '90s.

Riders in the Sky have performed over 6,000 concerts, had their own TV and radio shows and have the distinction of being the only cowboy group that received and accepted an invitation to become Grand Ole Opry members. The group has received a number of music awards and is a Hall of Fame member of the Western Music Association. The group has no plans to retire.

Darrell Brann, owner of the OK Theatre, is excited about the prospect of hosting Riders in the Sky. It was he who had the idea of contacting the group for a show.

Brann grew up in Maine with parents who had a country western band and exposed him to the western genre of music. "I grew up with (Riders in the Sky) on TV in the '80s and '90s, and they were definitely a part of our life. I was always impressed with them," Brann said.

When Brann first acquired the theater over a year ago, Riders in the

Sky immediately crossed his mind as a desirable act to book. "I've been working on this for over a year to make it happen," Brann said. He added that the Lostine Tavern is co-presenting the event.

The band is an expensive act to book, but was willing to negotiate with Brann and eventually reached an agreement with him. "They're double Grammy winners and living legends, so to speak," Brann said.

With the cost and the effort to secure the act, Brann is confident everyone, including attendees, will walk away winners. "Anyone who comes will be thoroughly impressed and entertained as well." He added that even though he has not yet heavily advertised the event, a third of the tickets are already sold and he expects a total sell-out of the venue.

"This pushes our limits a bit, but it brings in something really worthwhile, and something we believe in," Brann said.

Circle 100 Club invites women to join at annual meeting

Circle 100 Club will hold its next "One & Only Annual Meeting" Thursday, March 19, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the conference room and cafeteria at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. Women interested in participating are asked to RSVP to the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation, 541-426-1913.

The club, now in its fifth year, is a giving circle of women from Wallowa County whose only requirement for membership is to attend the One & Only Annual Meeting and give a check for \$100.

"We want everyone to know you do not need a formal invitation to join," said Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation board vice president Saralyn Johnson. "And if \$100 is too steep, you can split the membership with a friend, and together you make one member."

About 50 women attended the first meeting in 2011, and word spread quickly about this new club, where nothing but a check for \$100 was required. "I love that you don't have to worry about being asked to bake cookies or make a centerpiece



Courtesy photo

The late Sharon Spriggs-Flanders was featured speaker at the 2014 gathering of the Circle 100 Club.

or man a booth at some event," said Kathy Drake, who has been a member since the first year. "It's just so simple."

The main business at the Circle 100 Club's annual meeting is to decide what to do with the proceeds raised. The purpose of the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation is to help improve and expand health care services in the community so foundation director Stacy Green works with the Founda-

tion board and chief nursing officer Jenni Word to look for appropriate projects to fund. "Our goal is to find something that will improve patient care and satisfaction, and provide a new service in the county that wasn't previously available," said Word.

The first year, the group donated \$10,100 to the chemotherapy and infusion therapy department, including paying for training for four nurses in

chemotherapy and investing in two more heated massage chairs to allow more patients to be treated at the same time. That helped expand the department and serve more patients locally. "We had one patient tell us that he would have refused treatment had he had to drive out of the county," said nurse Traci Frye.

The second year, proceeds reached \$13,000 and were invested in new equipment for the physical therapy department, to help patients better recover from strokes, injuries and surgery.

Year three, the request for support came from the imaging department, to invest in stress echocardiogram technology to allow ultrasounds of the heart to be taken during stress tests. This program will serve as many as 200 local residents annually who need this test, according to imaging director Sarah Johnson.

Last year, three choices were presented to the attendees at the meeting, and a state-of-the-art incubator for newborns and infants was chosen. A special presentation was made by

Sharon Spriggs-Flanders, who spoke of what she had learned about healing through her battle with ovarian cancer. Sadly, Sharon passed away just weeks later.

Local businesses to celebrate Quilting Day

Businesses in Enterprise and Joseph announced plans for a celebration surrounding National Quilting Day.

The National Quilting Association, Inc. began sponsoring National Quilting Day in 1991 with a resolution passed by members attending the 22nd annual meeting in Lincoln, Neb. National Quilting Day is celebrated the third Saturday of March. This year's official winning pattern, "Crooked Path," was designed by Dannie Bohannon of Harrisonville, Mo.

In Enterprise, everyone's invited to view quilts in the windows of the Litch Building on the corner of River and Main streets, Wild Carrot Herbs at 114 West Main Street and Deb's Apparel and Gifts located at 115 West Main. Quilts will be on display from Wednesday, March 19, through Saturday, March 21. Favorite Finds on Main antique shop will have an array of both vintage and new quilts on display, light refreshments will be served on Saturday and you may sign up to win an in-store gift certificate.

Cattle Country Quilt Shop in Joseph is also celebrating National Quilting Day on Friday and Saturday, March 20-21. They have added their own twist to the official pattern, called "Crooked Path," and have the 2015 quilt hanging in their shop at 203 N. Main Street, Joseph. For their "Crooked Path" quilt, they used bright springlike colored fabrics. Kits for the "Crooked Path" quilt are available at Cattle Country Quilts. During the celebration, quilters are welcome to stop by the shop and pick up a free copy of the



Courtesy photo

"Crooked Path" is the official pattern for National Quilting Day 2015.

official pattern, enjoy refreshments, and enter the drawing for door prizes.

Thank You

Those who knew Bob Evans remarked about his sense of humor and his smile. Our thanks to those who remembered him in your thoughts and prayers, your presence at his Celebration of Life, the beautiful cards and floral offerings, food, donations, and help. Special thanks to Red and Elsie Evans and Ardis Klages for your remarkable help, the Presbyterian Church, the staffs of the Wallowa Memorial and Grande Ronde Hospitals for all your care and concern for Bob. All has been greatly appreciated. May God bless you all, *The families of Bob and Colleen Evans*

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

THE FASHION SHOW!

Join us at the OK Theatre for a night of fun and help support the Joseph Public Library expansion!

Thursday, April 2nd
7:00 pm
 Social hour starts at 6:00 with libations provided by La Laguna
\$10 Per Person
 Please purchase your tickets in advance at the Joseph Public Library, OldTown Cafe, The Bookloft, or M. Crow

Fashions provided by Soroptomist
 Literary-themed show produced by the Joseph Public Library Expansion Committee

Thank You

The family of Berneice Hafer would like to thank you each and every one for your kindness during this time of loss. Your thoughts, prayers, memories of a life well lived, the food, donations and friendships have warmed us and helped us in every way. *Thank you!*

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