

MCCOURY

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had a TV show, but McCoury said he grew tired of the hand-to-mouth living and wound up in the logging industry to support his family until making a musical comeback in the '80s. "Bluegrass wasn't all that popular then," McCoury said in an interview with the Chieftain. "There wasn't all that much work even with the television show. I get plenty of work now."

He has won more awards

than any bluegrass artist in history.

Unlike crossover musicians such as Ricky Skaggs, McCoury has never felt the urge to try the country and pop fields.

"I was bitten pretty hard by this traditional bluegrass sound when I was pretty young," he said. "When I heard Earl Scruggs and Bill Monroe, I never wanted to stray from that sound. I can't get over that sound they had in the '40s. They made the blueprint for everyone else to follow."

IF YOU GO

The OK Theatre is at 208 W. Main St. in Enterprise. Doors open at 6 p.m. with Caleb Klauder and Reeb Willms performing at 7 p.m. The Del McCoury Band performs at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and available at the Dollar Stretcher and Bookloft in Enterprise, Joseph Hardware in Joseph and M. Crow & Co. in Lostine. Online purchases can be made for a slight additional fee at eventbrite.com.

McCoury recorded an album and toured with a New Orleans jazz band for a time, which he enjoyed.

While McCoury has played the west side of the state and Bend, it's his first

trip to northeastern Oregon.

The bluegrass legend plays with two of his sons, which he says has increased the longevity of the group.

"Especially since they're good musicians," McCoury

said with a laugh. "I couldn't replace these two." Sons Ronnie and Rob McCoury play mandolin and banjo, respectively.

Despite his years, McCoury still possesses a fine tenor voice and has a good grasp on his falsetto.

"I'm pretty fortunate in that," he said. "The worst thing for my voice is talking. Not like we're talking, but trying to talk over the top of loud music — I try to avoid things like that."

The legend said he has no

plans to stop.

"I've tried to slow down, but I keep getting more and more work," he said with a laugh. "I'm fortunate, and I feel good yet. When it comes to getting around and singing, I don't have any trouble at all."

Brann said McCoury's appearance further legitimizes his dream of the theater becoming a mecca for musicians.

"This is another milestone performer coming to the theater," Brann said. "We couldn't be more excited to have him."

Barreto named to key position

State Rep. Greg Barreto, who represents Wallowa County, has been re-elected to serve as deputy leader of the Oregon House Republicans heading into the 2018 short legislative session.

Rep. Mike McLane, of Powell Butte, will once again serve as House Republican leader when the session begins Feb. 5, the caucus announced last week.

"We have an excellent leadership team in place headed into the February legislative session," McLane said in a statement. "I look forward

to working alongside them and the rest of my colleagues in the Republican caucus to restore some common sense to our state government."

Rep. Duane Stark, of Grants Pass, was chosen to take over for Jodi Hack as the Republican whip. Hack, originally from Pendleton, recently resigned from the Legislature to become CEO of the Oregon Home Builders Association.

Three assistant leaders were also appointed by McLane, including Sherrie Sprenger of Scio, Carl Wilson of Grants Pass and Cliff Bentz of Ontario.

Anti-bullying program coming to county schools

A nationally recognized program that challenges students to take care of each other is coming to Wallowa County Schools.

Jeff Evans will present the assembly, "No Bullies Allowed," at Wallowa, Joseph and Enterprise elementaries Tuesday, Nov. 28. He will finish his day with a magic show at 6:30 p.m. in Enterprise.

Evans has been performing magic professionally since 1998 and does more than 250 shows a year.

He uses magic, along with audience participation, story-telling and comedy in his anti-bullying presentations.

Class activity sheets are provided for teachers the day of the assembly to help integrate the material taught in the assembly.

Evans said students will discover how a positive attitude can transform confrontations into friendships and are challenged to "do something nice for someone." They also learn simple responses that keep them in charge of their emotions and discuss the difference between tattling and reporting.

Finally, students are challenged to be "upstanders," rather than bystanders and help put an end to bullying in their schools.



Courtesy photo

Jeff Evans will present anti-bullying programs at all three of the county's elementary schools and a magic show 6:30 p.m. Nov. 28 in Enterprise.

BULLYING STATS


- More than one out of every five students report being bullied.
- 64 percent of children who were bullied did not report it.
- More than half of bullying situations stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the student being bullied.
- School-based bullying prevention programs decrease bullying by up to 25 percent.
- The reasons for being bullied reported most often by students were looks, body shape and race.

SOURCE: National Bullying Prevention Center

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Gus Ramsden

This week's athlete of the week is Wallowa High School football star Gus Ramsden.



The junior, 17, recently garnered Old Oregon League first-team football honors on both offense and defense. Offensively, Ramsden was chosen for his quarterbacking skills and his defensive back skills earned the defensive honors.

Ramsden was chosen as player of the year for the league. He led the Cougars to a 5-0 league record and to the quarterfinals in the state's 1A football championships.


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