

Student musicians harmonize for October treat

Seven students head to honor band, choir

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Grant Union student musicians presented a fall concert Oct. 27, which was a melodious treat for the crowd in attendance.

Music director Mary Ann Vidourek conducted a range of music, with the combined choir singing “Lightning” by Greg Gilpin, the junior band playing the “Star Wars Main Theme” by John Williams, and the senior band ending on a fun note, with the “Addams Family” theme song by Vic Mizzy which had the audience snapping along.

Megan Maxwell, a John Day resident, accompanied the choir on piano.

In other music news, the choir attended the Oct. 21 Ione Tri-Co Music Festival.

The event gave the choir the opportunity to harmonize with a larger group of students – the Grant Union choir has only one male member, so singing with more voices made the trip especially worthwhile, Vidourek said.

Seven Grant Union musi-



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

The Grant Union combined choir performs at the fall concert, led by music director Mary Ann Vidourek.



Performing with the other junior high band members are (back row) Caleb Dilley, left, Sierra Cates, Peyton Neault and Madison Spencer; (front row) Gabriel Torres, Levi Carpenter and Katie Allen.

cians have been selected for honor band and honor choir Nov. 9-10 in Hermiston, in-

cluding band members Chloe Bentz (flute), Sam Bentz (saxophone) and Samantha

Floyd (trombone), and choir members Devon Vargas, Nikki Jones, Tiana Allen and Avery Lenz.

Chloe Bentz and Annie Wall will take part in the Nov. 20-23 Western International Band Clinic in Seattle.

Last summer, Grant Union senior choir member Devon Vargas toured Europe with Kelsey Long (choir) and Marta Faulkner (band, flute), 2015 graduates, and Grant Union music director Mary Ann Vidourek as Ambassadors of Music.

The group, which included student musicians from 18 states in the U.S., performed in concert in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and France during the 16-day trip.

TOWN

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Kowing said they are also in the planning stages on making improvements at the town’s park, which include upgrading the play equipment and putting in a walking path.

The entire town underwent a transformation in 2009 with a safety and enhancement project that included new sidewalks, vintage street lamps, improved curb and storm drainage upgrades and brick paving along Main Street and the Highway 26 and 395 intersection.

The Silver Spur restaurant is under new ownership, effective Nov. 1. Dawnna Reed, Samitha Hollingsworth and Darrinn Manuel bought the restaurant from longtime owners Dale and Clay Finley. Only a name change is planned for the time being, to Racers Restaurant – Reed said they are NASCAR fans. Beyond that, the trio plan to just “gradually improve on Finley’s success,” Reed added, maintaining the same hours and menu customers have come to know and enjoy.

Anderson said, “We’re anticipating a great contribution to the community from the new owners, and also give thanks to Dale and her service over the years.”

He added the old Mt. Vernon Middle School property is owned by Oregon Telephone, who has been using it for equipment storage. As far as cleanup of the Mt. Vernon Motel, which burned in a Septem-

ber 2014 fire, Anderson said the city is in the legal stages of that effort.

The town boasts a spacious community center at the corner of Ingle and Cottonwood streets, which received a complete reconstruction nearly 10 years ago, and is the site of several functions and fundraisers. The Mt. Vernon Grange Hall a mile east of town also hosts several events throughout the year.

Mt. Vernon, which has a population of 525, Kowing said, is home to active community groups such as Cinnabar Mountain Rendezvous and the Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Guild.

The Rendezvous organizes such events as the annual Rendezvous weekend – with lumberjack contests and parade during Memorial Day, and a Halloween party at the community center. The Quilt Guild meets monthly at the Shiny Thimble Quilt Studio and hosts the annual Grant County Quilt Show each autumn. Members share their talents through goodwill activities in the community. In a recent endeavor, the group presented nearly 100 locally crafted

quilts to Canyon Creek Complex fire victims at a spaghetti dinner night out.

Just outside Mt. Vernon is Clyde Holliday State Park, one of only two Oregon state parks in Grant County, offering nearby day and overnight recreational opportunities along the scenic John Day River.

Anderson pointed out the town’s strong and active volunteer fire department, which is under the leadership of Chief Bill Cearns. The department holds several events annually including an Easter Egg Hunt in the park, and in November, a food basket drive for elderly folks in town and a holiday bazaar.

Anderson, who grew up in Prairie City, moved back to Mt. Vernon with his wife Carla, a Mt. Vernon native, in 1997. He is almost midway through his term as mayor, and previously served on the city council.

Mt. Vernon’s councilors include Mike Cearns, Wayne Saul, Eva Dougharity and Jan Lowry.

Anderson said, “We all work toward common goals and anticipate participation in good things for our community.”

Kowing, who has been the city recorder for 2-1/2 years, lives in Canyon City; unlike the mayor and councilors, Mt. Vernon residency is not required for her.

But, with as much time as she spends in Mt. Vernon, she said she feels a close bond with the town.

Anderson spoke highly of Kowing and the “excellent job” she does as city recorder.

“I can’t express how much the council appreciates her support,” he said.

City council meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month.

Mt. Vernon City Hall hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

For more information, call 541-932-4688.

BEO announces dividends and quarter earnings

Blue Mountain Eagle

HEPPNER – The Bank of Eastern Oregon, or BEO, announced the Board of Directors of BEO Bancorp voted to declare a \$.70 per share dividend for 2015. An increase of 16.7 percent over last year’s shares of \$.60

President and CEO Jeff Bailey said, “The dividend will be paid to shareholders of record as of Dec. 1, 2015, payable on or before Dec. 15, 2015.”

According to Board Chairman Gary Neal, “BEO Bancorp has paid a dividend 29 of the past 30 years. Dividends are a reflection of the financial stability and profitability of the bank. We are very happy to be able to provide this dividend to our shareholders.”

“The support of our shareholders, communities and employees have made it possible for us to succeed. We are pleased to be in a position to provide this dividend to our shareholders,” said Bailey.

Year to date earnings rose .6 percent in 2015 for BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon.

The bank announced consolidated third quarter earnings of \$761,000 compared to \$679,000 in 2014.

The bank also reported a 10 percent increase in total assets, to \$341.1 million.

Net loans of 282.1 million

were up 11.3 percent from the same period in 2014, while deposits increased 9.2 percent to \$301.3 million.

“Earnings for the quarter are strong when compared to last year and year to date numbers are slightly better than 2014. Growth in deposits, loans and assets are primarily attributed to the acquisition of Bank Reale earlier this year,” said Bailey.

Chief Operations Officer Gary Prophet said, “The Federal Reserve continues to hold interest rates steady. It will be interesting to see whether or not the Fed raises rates during fourth quarter or if they keep with the status quo.”

BEO Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which operates 13 branches and six loan production offices in twelve eastern Oregon and 1 eastern Washington counties. Branches are located in Arlington, Ione, Heppner, Condon, Irrigon, Boardman, Burns, John Day, Prairie City, Fossil, Moro, Enterprise and Pasco; loan production offices are located in Hermiston, Ontario, Pendleton, Island City, Lakeview and Madras. Bank of Eastern Oregon also operates a mortgage division, and operates the Pasco branch under the name of Bank of Eastern Washington.

The bank’s website is www.beobank.com.



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SUNDAY (3:30) 6:30
MON-THURS 6:30

THE PEANUTS MOVIE G
Snoopy embarks upon his greatest mission, while Charlie Brown begins his own epic quest back home.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:35
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

BURNT R
Bradley Cooper. A chef, who destroyed his career, tries to redeem himself by spearheading a top restaurant.
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SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

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