

Theater group to present AIDS program in Boardman



Teatro Milagro, the Portland-based bilingual touring theater group, working with the Oregon State Health Department and Morrow County Health Department, will present its all-Spanish AIDS awareness production, "En Este Valle de Lagrimas" on Saturday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Boardman Grange Hall.

After the performance, health officers will discuss in more

detail the issues surrounding the syndrome, the virus, and answer questions from the audience.

The play is free to the public. Presented in the format of the novela, or Spanish soap-opera, and written completely in colloquial Spanish, the play uses the story of a migrant worker and his family to illustrate the different possible modes of infection. He encounters some corrupt characters, bringing peril to himself and his family.

Stokes Landing, Irrigon, plans dinner

Game night and dinner has been planned for Friday, June 27, at Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon.

Dinner, at \$3 each, will be held from 5-7 p.m. Card and scrabble

games at \$1 each will begin at 7 p.m.

The dinner menu includes fried chicken, potato salad, cake and ice cream.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Area students learn about watersheds

Area students have been learning about stream dynamics, riparian restoration, computer technology, and other topics during this initial year of the Natural Resource Consortium Watershed Education Program.

A natural resources consortium, comprised of the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District, Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development, has been sponsoring the program with funding from several sources. Grantors include Public Power Council, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Bonneville Power Administration and Oregon Department of Education. A variety of partners has also been supporting individual projects, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, J.R. Simplot, The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Teachers in local schools throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties have been receiving assistance to further develop or establish natural resource education projects as part of their curriculum. The Umatilla Basin Watershed Council has provided funding for teacher training, equipment, and logistical costs. Luise Langheinrich, the council's coordinator has been actively involved with this program. Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development has provided Brian Wolcott, a "RARE" intern from the University of Oregon, as a part-time project staff person.

Wolcott and Langheinrich have been locating materials, equipment, guest speakers and training opportunities for the teachers' projects. Sam Pambrun, director of professional and technical education for Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District, has received a technology grant to provide Internet access, software and training for the participating schools.

Teachers have been using this support to develop career related projects for their students, said a NRCWEP news release. Teachers have also been making use of the agency contacts, materials, equipment and training opportunities for their projects. Examples of projects include surface and groundwater studies, riparian restoration, native plant nurseries, aquatic macro-invertebrate studies and resource mapping. The types of classes involved range from grade school to high school math, science, agriculture, English and social studies classes.

The classes are reporting on their projects using an Internet home Page, which is being developed as part of the grant received by ESD at <http://bbs.nclack.k12.or.us/pambrun/nrshome.htm>

Planning is underway for next school year and a continuation of existing projects and several new ones is expected. For more information contact Langheinrich, 541/278-8022; Brian Wolcott, 541/278-3831 or Pambrun 541/276-6616.

Teachers currently involved in the program include Glenn Zollner at Heppner High School and Dale Holland at Ione High School.

Baking contest enters 42nd year

The Oregon Wheat Growers League cake baking contest began in 1956 at the Gilliam County Fair, where contestants brought their favorite cake to be judged. The contest was expanded to other county fairs the following year. In 1964, the rules changed, and all contestants now prepare the same recipe.

Last year, all but two of Oregon's county fairs were participating in the contest, which is also held at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.

The county fair season opens in Oregon on July 10, the opening of the Marion County Fair, and that means it's also time for the cake baking contest sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

The "Oregon Potato Cake" was recently named the official cake for the 1997 OWGL state cake baking contest. Potatoes and walnuts join the list of recipes featuring "Oregon-grown" ingredients used in other OWGL contest cakes. Oregon soft white wheat cake flour is one constant ingredient featured in all of the cake recipes.

The cake baking contest, sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League, is held to increase public awareness of the wheat industry in Oregon and will be conducted at all of the state's 36 county fairs, as well as the Oregon State Fair.

Contest entry information is available at all OSU Extension offices and fair offices in each county. At each participating fair, the top three winners receive ribbons, and the first-place winner will receive a silver cake server.

In Oregon and the Pacific Northwest farmers grow mostly soft white wheat. Flour from soft white wheat is used to make cookies, crackers, pancakes, pizza dough, muffins, noodles and, of course, cakes.

The play was written by the theatre group's resident playwright, who also acts in the production, along with Hal Barton, Rebecca Martinez, and Pablo Vidal, and the direction is by Alima Zepeda-Olsen.

These performances have been made possible by The Oregon State and the Morrow County Health and Human Services. For more information, call 541/481-4200 or 503/236-7253.

Minster-Eilers reception slated

The community is invited to a wedding reception on Saturday, July 12, at 4 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall in celebration of the marriage of Crystal Leigh Minster, Ione, and Eric Branson Eilers.

Crystal is the daughter of Pam and Rick Minster, Ione. Eric is the son of Branson and Sharon Eilers, Coeur d'Alene.

Student selected for governors' school

The Oregon Governors' School (OGS) announced the high school students selected to participate in its 1997-98 program, which began June 22.

Local student Hilary Peck, sponsored by the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families, was chosen to attend the school. Peck, from Irrigon, is a senior at Riverside High School in Boardman.

OGS' two-part, year long pro-

gram "challenges youth to achieve their innate leadership potential through measurable service to their communities" said a OGS press release. Students begin the leadership and community service program at a three week residential summer institute held at Willamette University in Salem, and then participate in monthly "youth initiatives" in which they perform service projects while receiving ongoing leadership training.

Commission to meet

The Oregon Grains Commission will hold a regular commission meeting on Friday, June 27, at 8:30 a.m.

The annual commission budget hearing will also take place on this same date and location, beginning at 10 a.m. All Oregon producers of barley, triticale or rye are welcome to provide input at this hearing.

Commission meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to participate is invited to attend.

The Oregon Grains Commission complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting but who needs special accommodations, or would like to participate in a conference call meeting, contact the commission office 48 hours in advance at (541)276-4609, FAX (541)276-5753, or TDD (503)986-4762.

The 1996 Farm Bill has consolidated four conservation programs into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), creating a new approach to help private landowners solve natural resource priorities on their farm or ranch, says Janet Greenup, Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District manager.

EQIP combines the former Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP), Water Quality Incentives Program (WQIP), and Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program to streamline and improve federal conservation programs.

EQIP will provide a single, voluntary program to use to address serious soil, water, and related natural resource concerns, because program funds will be targeted primarily to identified priority areas, says Greenup. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) leads this now program while working with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to set the program's policies, priorities, and guidelines. The local conservation districts have also been very involved in the process, she said.

EQIP focuses on priority environmental concerns identified through a locally led conservation process. It is designed to utilize environmental benefits per dollar spent. It reflects the Department of Agriculture's commitment to flexible, effective, and voluntary conservation programs on privately owned lands.

EQIP is the department's largest conservation program on land in production agriculture, expanding an annual budget of

\$200 million nationwide. EQIP is authorized through 2002, and nationally, one-half of the funds are targeted to livestock-related natural resource needs while the remainder goes to other significant conservation priorities. At least 65 percent of the funds will be used in priority areas and up to 35 percent can be used for other significant statewide natural resource concerns in fiscal year 1997, Greenup said.

Farmers and ranchers who agree to address the primary concerns in the priority areas will be given preference for an EQIP contract. The program is limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production. The contracts can run from 5 to 10 years. Total cost-share and incentive, payments are limited to \$10,000 per person per year and \$50,000 for the length of the contract.

A sign-up period for EQIP will begin June 30, 1997. Local EQIP priority areas are the Lower Umatilla Basin in Morrow and Umatilla counties, Mission Creek in Umatilla County, and Bridge Creek in Wheeler County.

Sign-ups for these local programs will begin June 30 and run through July 3. State-wide priority areas available for Eastern Oregon are the Mid-Columbia Plateau and Salmon Habitat. The sign-up period for these areas begins June 30 and end on July 18, 1997.

The program is administered by NRCS and the Farm Service Agency with local guidance from conservation districts. For more information producers may contact their local USDA Service Center. Additional information is also available on the NRCS home page on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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