

HEPPNER



50¢

ODOT to begin repaneling sand shed Lone Elementary dance team performs



No, it's not the Easter Bunny. Daniel Martinez, Pendleton, (pictured above) a member of the Oregon Department of Transportation bridge crew, shows the "bunny" suit that ODOT workers will be wearing when they begin to re-panel the ODOT sand shed near the Willow Creek Waterpark in Heppner this week.

ODOT had originally let a bid to have the shed sandblasted and painted. But, when the company discovered that they would have to remove lead paint from the shed, they withdrew from the job. John Fleming, ODOT regional safety manager, said that the company would have had to do ground testing and set up containment screens if they were going to sandblast and paint, which would be prohibitively expensive.

Instead, Fleming said, ODOT decided to replace the metal panels on the shed. By replacing the panels, ODOT will reduce the risk to the community and the project will be considerably less expensive, he said.

Fleming said that tests indicate that the lead present in the air around the shed and in soil samples at the drip line and along the fence line are all below acceptable EPA standards. The same tests will be conducted again when the project is completed. Lead levels will also

be monitored while the project is underway by placing small tubs containing water inside the fence line and on each side of the shed. If lead particles are discovered present in the water, then ODOT will put tarps over fences and try to prevent the particles from getting in the nearby pool and outside the area. Workers on the project will be required to wear the Tyvek protective wear and masks, but will not have to wear respirators because of the relatively low levels of lead. Workers are also required to have blood tests before and after completion of the project.

Wes Caine, assistant bridge foreman, said the crew, which is from Pendleton, planned to get started Tuesday, but snow and rain caused a delay. He said that they are prohibited from working on such a project in the event of snow, rain or wind because of the possibility of lead in the runoff or blown in the wind. This project will also be interrupted midway for a prior commitment. "We don't look forward to these jobs," said Caine, "but we do them right." He added that his crew enjoys working in the Heppner area. "It's a nice place. We've always gotten along well with the people here."

Fleming said that anyone with questions may call him at 541-963-1334.

Candidate's Forum slated April 15

A candidate's forum will be held on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. at the Morrow County School District Office in Lexington.

The forum is sponsored by the city of Ione, the Ione Community

Agricultural Business Organization (ICABO), the town of Lexington and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Everyone is invited to attend and ask questions of the candidates.

Note'able Event to be held this Friday

The first annual Morrow County "Note'able Event", an evening of entertainment provided by violin, fiddle and guitar students of Peg Willis, will be held Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m. upstairs at the Heppner Elks building.

Students from Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Condon and Pendleton, ranging in age from four to adult, will perform. Suzuki violin students will perform as a group. Fiddling will be jam session style with some solo performances, some small group performances and some with all the musicians together. The Pick 'n' Bow Company of Pendleton will play.

The performance will benefit the new swimming pool in Heppner.

Old Time-Fiddlers plan fiddle show

The 11th annual Blue Mountain Old-Time Fiddle Show will be held in Irrigon on Saturday, April 25 at Stokes Landing Senior Center.

The show will feature a variety of old-time music at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, call 922-4399.

All systems go for MS Walk and Roll



Merilee McDowell, local MS Walk & Roll chairperson

The 1998 MS Walk & Roll, Rain or Shine is fast approaching. Everyone is invited to bring friends and come out for some fun and exercise, while you support an important cause.

The walk will take place this Saturday, April 18, in Heppner, beginning at 9 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church.

"Having several members of our family, including our son, who have multiple sclerosis, we realize the importance of the research funded by money from the MS Walk," said Aloha DeSpain, co-chair for the Heppner MS Walk & Roll. "Hopefully, it won't be long before more helpful treatment is available."

The MS Walk & Roll, Rain or Shine, sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, will be held in 18 sites throughout the state of Oregon and Clark County, Washington. Funds raised in this event will be used to provide local services for the more than 5,200 people in Oregon and Clark County who have multiple sclerosis, a disease of the central nervous system. In addition, a portion of the funds raised will support research aimed at finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis.

Walkers will start the 5K and 10K walks at All Saints Episcopal Church and finish in the same location. The 5K walk is wheel chair accessible. Rest stops with refreshments will be provided for walkers every few miles. Lunch at the end of the walk will be provided by community churches.

For information on how you can register or volunteer for the MS Walk & Roll, Rain or Shine contact Merilee McDowell at 676-5238 or the Oregon Chapter office at 1-800-FIGHT MS. Brochures with registration material may be picked up at grocery stores and other businesses in Heppner, Lexington and Ione.

Human remains found near Heppner

Human remains, believed to be very old and possibly Native American, were discovered at the edge of a stream bank near Heppner on Wednesday, April 8. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a call from a citizen reporting that they had found what appeared to be human remains in an isolated location approximately 15 miles east of Heppner.

Mike Rowell, while walking his dogs, passed by an eroded creek bed and saw a skull on the edge of a stream bank. Ross Westberg was also at the site, and they called the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. A deputy who was dispatched to the scene found a human skull and bones in a creek bed. The bones had apparently been unearthed by spring run off

waters. A preliminary investigation suggests that the remains are very old and possibly Native American. The scene was secured for the night and arrangements were made for representatives of the Umatilla Indian tribe to come and check out the scene last Thursday, April 9.

With the assistance of the Oregon State Police, Julie Longenecker of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, a cultural resources technician and faunal remains specialist and Jeff Van Pelt from the tribe's Cultural Resource Protection Program responded to the scene to examine the remains.

The investigation as to the source of the remains continues as of press time Tuesday.

Blame it on El Nino



Whether or not we can blame it on El Nino, 1998 has 1997 beat. Heppner area residents awoke to snowfall Tuesday, April 14, making it hard on budding flowers. Last year, snow fell on April 4.

Tree planting planned for April 25

The Heppner community volunteer tree planting event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25, starting at 9 a.m. There will be 55 trees and 110 shrubs to plant in downtown Heppner. "This should just revolutionize

the downtown area," said Gary Marks, Heppner city manager.

Volunteers are asked to meet in front of the Heppner Post Office, and bring shovels. Planting will last until it's done.

For more information or to help, call Marks at 676-9618.

Bowl-a-thon funds keep increasing

The Strike Out for Kids" bowl-a-thon has now received more than \$800 for their cause.

The event, sponsored by the Heppner and Condon Elks Lodges and at Heppner's Willow Lanes, was to raise money for

kids with visual, hearing and speech impairments.

The proceeds go to the Elks Children's Eye Clinic at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland and the Meadowood Springs Speech and Hearing Camp near Pendleton.



Ione dance team members.



Ione dance team performs to large crowd.

The Ione Elementary School Dance Team performed recently for an enthusiastic crowd. The 21-member troupe, under the direction of Adrienne Swanson and Erin Crowell and assisted by Katie Garrett, danced to the music of "Men in Black" and wore, appropriately, black outfits and sunglasses.

The highlight of the season was performing at halftime at the district basketball championships in Hermiston earlier this year.

Swanson and Crowell, both students at Ione High School, began the group because they had been members of a similar group when they attended grade school. "It was a lot of fun and we wanted the girls to have the same oppor-

tunity that we had," Swanson said.

The girls, who range in age from 5-11, are students at Ione Elementary School in grades K-5. Members of the group are: back row-Adrienne Swanson, Alyssa Rietmann, Barbara Holland, Kimberly Morris, Erin Crowell; third row-Miranda Hunt, Mary Samson, Stephanie Holland, Rachael Larson-Key, Ashly Grams; second row-Whitney Meulink, Amber Patton, Kayla Teague-LaRue, Emily Rietmann, Jenny Griffith, Abby Key, Amanda Roland; first row-Teonna Vandever, Brianna Peterson, Stefanie Archer, Tiana Camarillo, Kaylee Palmateer; and front-Jordan Graff.

McCain listed in rodeo standings

Katie McCain of Condon is in 16th place in the Women's

Professional Rodeo Association world standings as of April 7. McCain has earned \$9,963.

Still room available for Canada bus trip

By Delpha Jones

Plans have been completed for the Morrow County Historical Society trip to Butchart Gardens in Canada. Anyone who has not signed up yet but wishes to go may still do so.

Call either 989-8189 or 422-7194 for room reservations. Organizers need to know how many rooms to reserve.

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