

BMCC jobs tour planned

The Blue Mountain Community College Regional Jobs Fair will take place on Thursday, May 4, from 6-8 p.m., at the Pendleton Convention Center.

This is the first year that BMCC will begin alternating this event between Pendleton and Hermiston. Last year approximately 600 prospective employees visited the fair.

Employer representation at the jobs fair comes from all over the region, not just the Hermiston area. However, some of the new larger employers in Hermiston will be represented on May 4. Sykes Enterprises, Two Rivers Correctional Institute, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Hermiston Foods, Bi-Mart, PGG, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Continental Mills, Agri-Northwest, East

Oregonian and Umatilla County Sheriff's Department are just some of the local employers that have signed up to date.

Community members and students of all ages are welcome to this free event. It is suggested that people come dressed appropriately if they are interested in employment, and it might be a good idea to bring a resume. However, the setup will be informal, with employer representatives at tables in the Convention Center, available to answer questions or hand out information. It will not be a formal 'interview' type situation.

For more information about the Jobs Fair, or if you are an employer interested in participating, call Leslie Beard at 278-5933.

Vandalism can cost money, lives

In February of 1996 in Tampa Florida, an eight-ton truck loaded with phosphate collided with a white Camaro in front of a local cafe. The stop sign at this rural intersection lay face down by the side of the road. The three 18-year-old friends inside the car died. Chances are, police said, they never knew what hit them.

Three individuals responsible for removing the stop sign now face 15 years in prison for conviction on three counts of manslaughter.

This is an extreme case. But it could happen in Eastern Oregon, according to an Oregon Department of Transportation news release.

Removing or vandalizing signs cost taxpayers money and lives could be lost. Motorists depend on signs for direction; when signs are removed accidents could occur.

In recent months, sign vandalism and removal has occurred near Cove and Heppner. Near Cove, two stop signs and three directional signs were pushed over and pulled out of the ground. This past weekend a stop sign on Highway 321 near Heppner was pulled out of the ground and stolen. On Highway 300 almost 30 delineators (site posts) that run along the side of the road were run over. Several of the posts ended up leaning towards traffic. If hit, the signs could result in damage to a grill or windshield.

Every year ODOT spends thousands of dollars to replace signs that are damaged or removed. For example, in 1997, District 14, which extends south to McDermitt, Nev., north to John Day and west to Burns, spent over \$17,000 replacing

stolen or vandalized signs. In 1996 the cost was over \$35,000.

Region 5 sign crews replace signs because of vandalism, removal, accidents, construction, or worn out reflectivity. Signs have a life expectancy of 10 years, which is erased very quickly by a can of spray paint or one shotgun blast. The cost per square foot for a stop sign is \$8.44; custom signs are \$13.73; and freeway signs are \$15.46; the average freeway sign, 20 feet by 8 feet, costs \$2,700. Replacing signs because of vandalism or removal just adds to the amount sign crews already spend on a yearly basis.

The Oregon Department of Transportation is distributing a video presentation to middle schools and high schools in Eastern Oregon that packs a powerful message, according to the release. The videotape, called "Danger Signs", explains the consequences, financial constraints and safety issues involved with the removal or vandalism of road signs.

The videotape is available from the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA). Filmed mostly in rural Virginia, the presentation includes interviews and actual news footage of sign vandalism cases from across the nation. The video explains the penalties associated with those actions, what other areas of the country are doing about these crimes and what citizens can do to help prevent sign vandalism.

"The video provides some very important information," said Dan Knoll, public information representative for ODOT Region 5. "We hope schools will help deliver the message."

Student awarded scholarship

Cargill has awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Justin Nelson, a 2000 graduate of Heppner High School.

Nelson, son of Charles and Lisa Nelson, plans to study agricultural business management at Oregon State University next fall.

Each year, Cargill's Scholarship Program for Rural America awards \$1,000 scholarships to 250 students from families who derive at least 50 percent of their income from farming. Students are selected based on financial need, academic achievement and involvement in extra curricular activities.

The program is administered

by the National FFA Organization; however, students need not belong to FFA to receive a scholarship.

Cargill also supports a Community Scholarship Program for students in communities where Cargill has a business presence. The two programs combined provide \$500,000 in scholarships to high school seniors planning to enroll in accredited post secondary education institutions.

Cargill is an international marketer, processor and distributor of agricultural food, financial and industrial products with some 82,000 employees in 59 countries.

MC Behavioral Health awarded grant

The Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs announced that Morrow County Behavioral Health has been awarded the Enhancement of Parenting/Family Drug Abuse Prevention in Oregon Counties, Tribes and Communities Grant.

Behavioral Health Services has agreed to sub-contract this grant to the Morrow County Public Health Department. This grant will serve to enable the Public Health Department to enhance the existing Pre-Natal/Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Program.

The Public Health Department will attend formal training to prepare them to use an intensive curriculum known as the

"Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program." This program has received great compliments in its ability to reduce drug and alcohol abuse, not only in the mother, but also in the infant child as he or she grows older. This program is also known to reduce child abuse and neglect. In this program the family is assisted in learning how to care for their child including nurturing, maintaining safe environment, appropriate discipline and maintaining the family's health.

This grant provides this program an additional \$20,000 to increase the amount of families seen.

SWCD, weed board to meet

A regular board meeting of the Morrow SWCD/Weed Advisory Board will be held Tuesday, May 9, at 6 p.m. at the Pettyjohn Office building in Heppner.

Agenda items include: manager report; Watershed Council update, Oregon State

Weed Board Grant update, SB 1010 Committee, OACD Area 8 Chair, 2000-2001 Annual Work Plan; partnership reports: NRCS (EQIP, CRP), FSA, ODF&W, County Court; weed report.

The public is invited to attend.

Commission to meet

"The monthly meeting of the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families will be held on Tuesday, May 9, at the Morrow County Family Service Center in Heppner, from 7-9 p.m.

The main topics of discussion

will be teen pregnancy prevention and 0-3 planning.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

For further information or for special accommodations call 676-9675.

Memorial Day dinner planned

The Heppner Senior Center Board is sponsoring a Memorial Day Dinner Sunday, May 28, at the St. Patrick Senior Center.

Formerly, this dinner was traditional, offering visiting families and local people an occasion where they could meet and visit with old friends

and relatives. Initially it was hosted by pioneer families and later by several organizations.

"We are seeking to restore this valuable tradition and asking local people to let out-of-town folks know that this dinner will again be offered," said a spokesperson.

Chronicles seeks historical photos

The Morrow County Chronicles committee is now working on this year's issue. Included in the publication will be historical pieces about the evolution of the ranching and wheat industries in the county.

"The committee values the use of pictorial history, as well as written history," said committee member Doris Brosnan, "so

would be pleased if individuals would share pictures that show any facets of either of these two industries."

Anyone willing to let the Chronicles publish their photos is asked to take them to Twice upon a time..., the book store in Heppner, to be copied. Photographs are needed before the end of May.

Irrigon plans giant pumpkin contest

Gardeners can compete for prize money at Lewis and Clark Heritage Day in Irrigon on October 15.

The Irrigon Chamber of Commerce will pay 25 cents per pound for the largest pumpkin weighed in at the event. "Dill's Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Seeds", famous for growing pumpkins exceeding 1,000 pounds, are available for anyone interested in participating in the Giant Pumpkin Contest.

Kids are invited to participate and the largest pumpkin.

weighed in by a child 12 years of age or under will also win 25 cents per pound. Second place pumpkins in both adult and kids' divisions will win 15 cents per pound.

Giant pumpkin seeds, rules for the contest and registration forms are available at the following locations: Irrigon--Bank of Eastern Oregon, Kegler's Sentry Market and American West Properties; Boardman--Boardman Chamber of Commerce.

For more information call the Irrigon Chamber at 922-2888.

Beef industry educates about ag

They stormed into Portland like a battalion of soldiers with a mission. Armed with a sack full of beef, ranching equipment and a will to educate Portland's youth, 30 beef industry volunteers swarmed the city of Portland during the Oregon Beef Council's 18th annual school Beef Blitz on April 6.

Representatives from the Oregon CattleWomen, Oregon State University, Young Cattlemen, Oregon Beef Council, Agri-Business Council and Farm Bureau volunteered a day out of their busy lives to participate in the Beef Blitz.

The volunteers visited 14 Portland area middle and high schools, teaching over 50 classes and reaching over 1,400 students.

The volunteers taught home economics and health classes. They demonstrated a beef recipe for "Spicy Confetti Joes," discussed their ranching lifestyle and displayed ranching equipment and beef by-products.

Kelsey Richelderfer, a senior at OSU, made it a family event by joining with her mother, her little sister and two Sherman County 4-H Club members to teach five classes at Newberg High School. Richelderfer said that they enjoyed the day so much that, next year, she would

like to get her aunts and grandma involved.

Martha Bronson, a CattleWoman from Junction City, volunteered at her first Beef Blitz over 16 years ago. "The Beef Blitz is a good program," said Bronson. "Whatever we put into it, the cost and the time, it is well worth it. I think the one-on-one talking with students is the most important part."

Thomas Barnett, a freshman at OSU, visited Cedar Park Middle School in Beaverton and was surprised to find out how little the city kids knew about agriculture. "I learned that the kids in the city live a sheltered life when it comes to the ag industry and beef in general," he said. "By the time we finished teaching the class, I think the kids had a better understanding where beef came from and why we love the industry so much. I think they went away with a better appreciation for it."

The project was funded by beef producers through their \$1-per head checkoff.

The Oregon Beef Council's mission is to enhance the image of the beef industry and to increase opportunities for profitability through promotion, education and research, according to a release.

Explosion of color expected

The spring wildflower season is upon us and the staff at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is issuing a wildflower alert for the Painted Hills, near Mitchell.

After last year's disappointing flower display, the recent weather seems to be favorable for a spectacular display this spring.

The Painted Hills are well known for the numerous yellow flowers of chaenactis and bee plants that line the many gullies of the red and gold hills. The peak of the display is expected toward the end of April, or early May, this year.

For the latest information on

the Painted Hills display, call the monument wildflower hotline at 541 462-3961.

List Your HOME Or Other PROPERTY on the INTERNET

Call Dave Sykes (Licensed Agent) 676-9228

Arts on the edge display open

The public is invited to attend Arts on the Edge, a non-juried show of work by amateur and professional artists from eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington.

Arts on the Edge is presented by the Arts Council of Pendleton, hosted by Port of Morrow, and located in the new Riverfront Center at Boardman.

The opening reception, featuring a judge's critique by Lee Musgrave, curator of contemporary art at Maryhill Museum and the Bram Bratta

performers, is May 5 from 5-8 p.m.

Exhibits are available for viewing Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until May 25. There is no charge to view the exhibits.

Directions to Riverfront Center are as follows: take city of Boardman Exit (#164) from Interstate 84 and go north on Main Street; go across the railroad overpass and turn right on Marine Drive; Riverfront Center is approximately one mile on the left.

W.C.C.C. Golf

WCCC Ladies' Play Tuesday, April 25

Low gross of the field: Jan Paustian.

Low net of the field: Jackie Allstott.

Least putts of the field: Carol Norris.

Flight A: low gross Dana Reid; low net Luvilla Sonstegard.

Flight B: low gross Sherrie Stahl; low net Betty Christman.

Flight C: low gross Della Heideman; low net Lorraine Montgomery and Loa Henderson.

KP: #4 and #6 Jan Paustian.

Births

Kevin Altamirano-a son Kevin was born to Maria Carillo and Jose Altamirano of Boardman on April 14, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz.

Julio Arturo Bernal-a son Julio Arturo was born to Andrea Chairez and Fernando Bernal of Irrigon on April 17, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz.

NEW CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES IN HEPPNER

Dr. Rebecca Cannon D.D.C. is expanding her chiropractic practice in Heppner to two days a week, beginning May 2. Hours are 8-10 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday. Please call for appointments, 676-5449.

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