

Concert to be held in Ione

Willow Creek Symphony will be performing a free concert in Ione on Sunday, Dec. 5 at the high school gymnasium.

Willow Creek Symphony is part of the Inland Northwest Musicians family. Under INWM, are the Willow Creek Symphony, Willow Creek Singers, Inland Northwest Orchestra and Inland Northwest Chorale. Music director and conductor of INWM is Lee Friese.

Friese, founding conductor of INWM, said a goal of the company is to bring the finer arts to small, rural communities.

The local Ione event is being sponsored in part by Thrivent of Valby Lutheran. Bank of Eastern Oregon, a new corporate sponsor, also helps defray performance costs. Other support comes from Morrow County Tipping Fee, Morrow County Grain Growers and Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op.

All four groups are always looking for new talent to join the group. There is no cost to be a part of the group, but general music and instrument knowledge is required. For those interested in more information on concerts or on how to become part of the group, contact Inland Northwest Musicians at (541) 966-6649.



Lee Friese, music director and conductor of Inland Northwest Musicians

Christmas Tree permits now available

Christmas tree permits are now available at all offices of the Umatilla National Forest and at several local vendors by this Thanksgiving holiday weekend. One Christmas tree permit is required for each tree cut. Permits can be purchased for \$5 each. There is a limit of one tree per household, although you can purchase permits for your friends, relatives and neighbors.

Douglas fir and Englemann spruce are the most popular trees, though Ponderosa pine and lodge pole pine make unique and fragrant alternatives. Permits are valid on Federal Forest Service lands only and do not authorize tree cutting on private, State or other federally managed lands.

Permits and Forest maps can be purchased during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, at the Supervisor's Office in Pendleton and at the four district offices in Ukiah, Heppner, Walla Walla and Pomeroy, WA. Permits may also be purchased locally at Heppner Chevron.

Regulations for cutting Christmas Trees on the Umatilla National Forest:

- Wrap the permit around the tree trunk, between limbs and snap or connect ends together.

- Keep the permit on the tree while in transit.

- Cut your tree at least 50 feet away from the road.

- Clean up any trimmings or limbs and leave stumps no higher than 10 inches. It is illegal to "top" a tree.

- Cut off any green limbs left on the stump (can be used for greens).

- Maximum height of tree to be cut is 14 feet tall.

- Do not cut on private land, in wilderness areas, designated campgrounds, active timber sales or existing tree plantations.

- Do not cut trees within 200 feet of Bluewood or Spout Springs Ski Areas, summer home sites, Tollgate Work Center or Forest Service guard stations.

- Christmas tree cutting in the Tollgate Area on the Walla Walla Ranger District can be challenging after Dec. 1, when most Forest roads close for the winter. After Dec. 1, snowmobiling or snowshoeing will be your only access into areas off Hwy. 204.

- Christmas tree cutting on the Pomeroy Ranger District is prohibited on Park and Cook Ridges

and in the Lick Creek area, which includes Sheep Creek, Cabin, Capehorn and Mud Springs ridges. For more information call the Pomeroy Ranger District at (509) 843-1891.

Helpful Hints:
-Carry your trees carefully out of the woods. Dragging the tree will rub off needles and bark.

-If the tree is too big to transport in the trunk of your vehicle, wrap it in canvas to prevent wind damage.

-Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water. Replenish water frequently.

-Store your tree in an area protected from the wind, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.

CBEC announces photo contest winners

Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op announces the winners of its second annual Photographic Contest. The competition was open to all member/consumers of Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op. The winners were announced at the CBEC annual meeting held in Heppner on Thursday night, with the winning photos on display. Three places were awarded, with \$50, \$35 and \$15 awarded accordingly.

First place was awarded to Karen Wolff of Heppner, whose photo revealed a remote distribution line reflecting the setting sun's light. Second place was Roberta Conley of Fossil, for a nicely composed picture of the Wheeler County Courthouse and third place went to Cory Cooley of Heppner, for his photo of a rainbow touching down on the main CBEC transmission line between Lexington and Heppner. CBEC appreciates all the participating consumers who submitted photos for consideration.

Heppner Garden Club to meet

The Heppner Garden Club meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Senior Center.

The meeting will be the club's annual Christmas party. Participants are asked to bring canned goods for the canned goods drive for the Heppner Neighborhood Center. They are also asked to bring a dessert for the party.

NEACT to meet in December

The North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) will hold its next meeting on Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 Headquarters, located at 3012 Island Avenue, LaGrande.

The NEACT, comprised of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, helps identify and prioritize transportation-related projects in the five-county area. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The general public is invited to attend.

Among the topics on the agenda is an update on the Draft 2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Public Meetings held Nov. 8. An update on the prioritization of potential

Transportation Enhancement (TE) funded projects, plus information on the TE and Bike/Ped programs will also be given. Other presentations will include information on various Union County projects, transportation safety issues, travel challenges of Interstate-84 and an update on the recent Oregon Transportation Commission meeting.

Time has been set aside early in the meeting for comments from the general public. To schedule time on the agenda at future NEACT meetings, please contact the NEACT secretary, Glenis Harrison, at (541) 963-3179.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the OTC to help address all aspects of transportation. More information about ACTs is available at the ODOT website at www.odot.state.or.us/otc/ACT.htm.

Washington guitar maker has Morrow County roots

Mike Conklin, 42, formerly of Ione, son of Rudy and Jackie Bergstrom, now of Oaksdale, WA, has taken up the hobby of making guitars and is turning it into a business. His guitar making also brought him a feature article in the Nov. 19 issue of the Capital Press out of Salem.

Working as the manager of a grain cooperative, Conklin has learned many business and marketing skills that are helping him turn his hobby into a business that one day may overshadow his day job.

Deciding to try something different than just collecting guitars, Conklin became interested in making guitars after reading in magazines and seeing references to certain guitar makers and their unique designs.

Having always been

involved in playing music, creating instruments is another way Conklin is able to further his interest. He is also finding that as music soothes the soul, so does making the instrument.

Conklin's guitar label is called Marlee, after his wife. Now every guitar he makes is marked with the Marlee label.

Besides making guitars for personal use, Conklin has branched out into selling them. He has asked several professional musicians to play his guitars for feedback and a few have found themselves buying a Marlee.

Even though Conklin is new in the business, his good business sense, along with his love of creating his instruments is hoped to bring about a lasting quality to the Marlee label.

"B" Ponies lose by one to Pilot Rock

By Larry Palmer

The "B" Ponies took the show on the road as they traveled to take on the Rockets in Pilot Rock. In the first quarter, it was all Rockets as they took an 8-2 lead. However, the Ponies regrouped in the second quarter and lassoed a 16-10 advantage.

In the second half, the Ponies came out snorting in the third as they played even against the Rockets, maintaining a 24-18 lead. In the fourth, the Rockets ignited as they outscored the Ponies 13-8, leaving the game with a Rocket win of 31-30.

The Ponies were led by Brent Eckman with 10 points, Jared Huddleston canned nine, Drew Johnson blanked in six, Tomas Elguezabal put in four and Luke Young hit for three. Other contributors were Justin Key, Grant Smith and Zach McCall.

Heppner 2 14 8 30
Pilot Rock 8 2 8 13-3

"A" Ponies defeat Rockets

By Larry Palmer

The "A" Ponies led the Rockets to an early meltdown as they stole the show from the home team, busting out to an 11-7 first quarter lead. Then they cinched the defense tighter as they had a 21-11 halftime advantage.

The second half wasn't any kinder for the Rockets as the Ponies really put the clamps on and kept the Rockets out of the books in the third, while hitting for 13. The fourth saw the Ponies ease up a bit as the scoring was about equal and the Rockets couldn't muster much against the Ponies defense.

All the Ponies scored in the books, with Spencer Palmer leading with 15 points, along with 13 rebounds. Following in points was Josh Shank and Dalton Wellman with six points each, Jared Huddleston with four points, Sam King and Joe Pranger with three points each, Brent Eckman with two points and Braden Britt with one point.

Heppner 11 10 13 6-40
Pilot Rock 7 4 0 7-21

Grants help fund early literacy and learning

The Eastern Oregon Early Literacy and Learning League is the recipient of several grants to provide ready to learn opportunities for young children in Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Harney counties.

Contributions this year were PacifiCorp Foundation (\$5000), PGE Foundation (\$7500) and Wildhorse Foundation (\$10,000). Grant awards have been combined with matching funds from local libraries, community organizations, the Commission on Children and Families and the Oregon State Library's Ready to read grant program. Funds are used to expand early literacy programs and resources to children in family daycare homes, preschools, libraries, Head Start Classes and kindergartens.

Programs in Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties received \$55,000 earlier this year from the Oregon Community Foundation's John and Betty Gray Early Childhood Fund to increase the number of children and families served through parent education and literacy programs.

The Eastern Oregon Early Literacy and Learning League represents a five-county effort to expand and enhance readiness to learn services supporting language development and early literacy through collaboration and sustainable growth. Partners include Umatilla County Special Library District's "Take Off," Wallowa County Library's "Training Wheels," Child Care Resource and Referral's "Story Time Express" in Union County, Oregon Trail Library District's "First Steps" in Morrow County and Harney County Library's "Storytime on Wheels." The common mission is to help children become ready to learn, preparing them for school success and lifelong learning.

Christmas Tree auction coming soon

The annual Heppner Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree auction will be held on Dec. 2, with special help this year from Pioneer Memorial Hospice. Proceeds from the auction will be divided between Chamber and Hospice.

The tree auction will cap off an evening of activity that begins at 4:30 p.m., with the Christmas tree lighting on Main Street next to the post office. Pictures with Santa will be available at City Hall from 5-6 p.m., with the annual Light Parade beginning at 6 p.m. The auction will bring attendees back to City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Also during the evening, one tree will be raffled off. Ticket prices at one for \$1, six for \$5 and 30 for \$20. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber or at John's Place.

Trees will be on display beginning Nov. 23 at City Hall.

Community-wide Thanksgiving to be held

Everyone is invited to attend the annual community-wide Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Heppner Christian Missionary Fellowship on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. The meal will be served in a new location this year, the Heppner High School cafeteria.

Those wishing to help serve the meal or donate items may contact Joan McDaniel for more information at 676-5830.

We Print Envelopes
Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228

ABOUT THE HEPNER GAZETTE-TIMES NEWSPAPER

News articles

The Heppner Gazette welcomes news articles that are of interest to the communities of Ione, Lexington, Heppner and the surrounding area.

You can submit your article through mail, fax, email or bring it to our office (see below under how to contact us).

There is no charge for news articles, but if the article is a moneymaking activity for a person or business other than a non-profit or community service organization, it must run as a paid advertisement.

Advertisements

There are several different types of advertisements in the Heppner Gazette.

Display ads are the boxed ads that run throughout the newspaper and are charged for by the amount of space. The larger the ad the more it cost. Photos and graphics may be used in display ads.

Classified, or want ads, run in the section near the back of the newspaper and are charged by the number of words in the ad.

Business directory ads are boxed ads at a discounted rate. You must agree to run the ad unchanged (except for minor corrections) for a minimum of three months.

Legal notices. The Gazette is the legal newspaper for various public entities and is able to satisfy publishing requirements for Morrow County.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7)

Photos

The Gazette welcomes photos to run with news articles. We accept either black and white or color photos and they can be returned. We also accept digital photos. Email or bring the digitals to the office on a disk. We also accept digital camera "chips" to download the photos from your camera. Please contact us if you are unsure how to submit your photo.

Hours & Deadlines

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Advertisement and news article deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that week's paper. The newspaper publishes on Wednesday of each week.

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We Print Business Cards

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