

Bank of Eastern Oregon awards \$5,000 in scholarships



Arthur Ekstrom

Blair Keithley

Sara Peck

Kyle Huddleston

Bank of Eastern Oregon has awarded 10 \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors through its Agricultural/Business Scholarship Program. This is the 13th year the bank has offered this program, giving away over \$38,000 during that time.

This year's awards went to Kyle Huddleston, Blair Keithley, Arthur Ekstrom, Sara Peck, Erica Moore, Whitney Weedman, Lindy Jo Black, Ree Armstrong, Haley Hueckman and Ashley Mund.

Kyle Huddleston, Heppner High School, was head organizer of the annual veterans ceremony, volunteered as a 4-H camp counselor, held the teen captain title in Colt Basketball and was a representative for the Morrow County Parks and Recreation Board. He has volunteered many hours mowing lawns for St. Patrick's Church. Kyle plans to attend University of Oregon and will major in business administration and minor in international affairs.

Blair Keithley, Heppner High School, coached Colt volleyball and basketball and participated in the coat and dollar drive, canned food drives, and helped to set up a Red Cross blood drive. She also volunteered her time during the St. Patrick's Day Cruz-In. Blair is a member of the Oregon Trail Livestock and Kool Kitchen Kids 4-H Clubs and served as ambassador from 2002 to present. Blair plans on enrolling and studying business administration and management at Portland State University.

Arthur Ekstrom, Ione High School, played football and basketball during his high school years, was a youth group member, and a volunteer fire fighter. He is a member of the National Honor Society, enjoys working on motor vehicles, riding motorcycles, and hunting. He has been

awarded numerous math, technical, and skills awards, and has gained work experience at IRT, L.L.C., Morter Farms, Neiffer Farms, Swanson Ranches, and Greenup Custom Spraying. Arthur plans to attend Eastern Oregon University and major in agricultural business management, with a minor in crop and soil sciences. Sara Peck, Ione High School, participated in many canned food drives and service trips in the Ione Youth Group, was a member of beef and horse 4-H clubs, National Honor Society, and International Club. She was team captain for basketball and volleyball, played tennis and participated in track. Sara plans to attend Eastern Oregon University and will major in agricultural business management and minor in crop and soil science.

Erica Moore, Riverside High School, served as senior class vice president, was ICA Youth Rally representative, coordinator of SOLV, member of National Honor Society, leadership class, and Pep Club, and was nominated to represent the state of Oregon at National Young Leaders Conference. She also served as varsity tennis captain. Erica volunteered her time as wrestling statistician, Head Start Day Care, Sam Boardman Elementary carnival, the Watermelon Festival, high school dance committees, and Red Cross Blood drives. Awards and honors in photography, geography, language arts, science, foreign language, math and reading have been added to her list of accomplishments. Erica plans to attend Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon, and she will major in business.

Whitney Weedman, Sherman High School, was varsity co-captain of the basketball team, participated in volleyball, and lettered in

track. Whitney was senior class vice president and an active member of OSSOM, 4-H food and swine clubs, and participated in FFA. She also volunteered as 6th grade camp counselor. Whitney plans on accounting and agricultural business classes at Linn Benton Community College and then transferring to continue her accounting and agricultural business education at Oregon State University.

Lindy Jo Black, Prairie City High School, was active as student body treasurer, was varsity volleyball captain and took MVP awards on both basketball and volleyball teams. Lindy Jo received citizenship awards from Prairie City High School and the FFA and has currently been chosen to serve as 2005 Grant County Fair and Rodeo Queen. Community service time has been spent helping to build stock panels and planting flowers at the fair grounds, helping youth clip steers, gathering firewood for the elderly, SMART reading, National Honor Society blood drives, and assisting in the Canyon Mountain Dump Site cleanup. Future plans include attending the University of Idaho, majoring in agri-business and animal science and staying active in the collegiate FFA program.

Ree Armstrong, Grant Union High School, played on the golf and basketball teams. She was a member of the National Honor Society, drama club, honor band and pep band, served on student government, was OSSOM treasurer, and took numerous awards in FBLA competitions. Community service includes peer mediation, the Lunch Buddy Program, PEP, and STARS. Ree is affiliated with the John Day Church of the Nazarene. Future plans include majoring in business administration with a minor in accounting at the Northwest Nazarene University.

Haley Hueckman, Grant Union High School,

played volleyball, basketball, and track. Haley served on student government. Community service included the Lunch Buddy program, peer mediation, Red Cross blood drives, baseball announcing, and food basket drives. She was a member of STARS, PEP Coalition, PEP Teen Radio, and junior PEP leader. Haley served as youth board member on State of Oregon Commission on Children and Families of Grant County and volunteered for numerous community fundraising activities. Ree looks forward to attending either Boise State University or Albertson College of Idaho, and will major in marketing and minor in graphic design.

Ashley Mund, Monument High School, was active in volleyball, basketball, golfing, FFA, 4H, student council, class government, and served as school yearbook editor. Ashley volunteered at the Missoula Children's Theatre, served as chair for community service and Red Ribbon Week. She also volunteered on Senior Tuesdays at the Senior Center and participated in numerous fund raising activities in the community. Ashley plans on attending either Eastern Oregon University or Oregon State University, and will major in agricultural studies and minor in business.

BEO Bancorp is a holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon which operates 11 branches in six eastern Oregon counties. Branches are located in Arlington, Ione, Heppner, Condon, Irrigon, Boardman, Burns, John Day, Prairie City, Fossil, and Moro. Bank of Eastern Oregon also operates a mortgage division, loan production offices in Hermiston and Ontario, and offers brokerage services thru BEO Financial Services. The bank's website is www.beobank.com.

Hedman wins horseshoe tourney

Tim Hedman, Heppner, won the double elimination singles' horseshoe tournament held at the Elks Club picnic. The tournament began at Anson Wright Park Sunday but was carried over to Monday night at Hager Park in Heppner because of rain.

Hedman and Kelly Fox, also Heppner, won the double elimination doubles' tournament.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Executive Director

Wouldn't one think it a safe bet that this is the only Chamber where UPS leaves a vat of bull semen, and the executive director gets to deliver it? You just never know what you may find when you walk through the Chamber of Commerce. Then again, it is about business diversity.

Why would I mention this? After reading some articles about local economy statistics and the absence of specific industry data, and then attending the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance meeting in Heppner, both enforced the uniqueness of eastern Oregon. Though we do not all fit in the same box, we can work together for greater leverage at the state level by coming to agreements and sharing them with lawmakers and voters. The rewards are endless.

During the Alliance meeting, Judge Laura Pryor challenged attendees to view the dozen Oregon maps with counties identified. Each of the twelve maps had different divisions of regions according to the department represented. There are: ODOT regions, Community Solution regions, Tourism regions, Housing regions, OECD regions, Community Services regions, Regional Investment Boards, and the list goes on with none having identical boundaries. Many counties are divided on these maps. This is not a very efficient or organized way to do business.

Could we, Pryor ask, divide the state into regions consistent for all of the entities involved? What a refreshing challenge. Wouldn't one think that it would be much easier to bring people together and find solutions if this were the case? The benefits of easily identifiable regions would make functioning together so much easier. Think on this. If the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance can make this happen, there will be no stopping them.

Related to progress: "If you can't tell which specific industries your economy is invested in, it is difficult to analyze progress towards economic goals." Sometimes we forget this as we work to attract jobs to this area. Sometimes we try to be too much like the metropolitan areas. Then, on the other hand, sometimes we are just too darned independent to come together to make the changes we need to make. Are we overlooking what may be right under our noses? Whether we grow depends a great deal on the concentration of our work force in growing versus declining industries. Who are we? What do we need? What products do we have for creating jobs?

In the meantime while we contemplate and discuss these ideas, the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance is on the right track. Because of their persistence, there is now an Office of Rural Policy in Salem. Never forget that unified voices do count. Salem is beginning to realize that if Eastern Oregon is not healthy, the State of Oregon is not healthy. Finally.

Heppner Chamber members will be taking a tour of the county OHV Park on Thursday, June 23. Sixty permits were issued there over Memorial Day weekend and 120 visitors circled the campfire that night. Cattle are content grazing there while people have good family experiences. The only trouble, according to Judge Tallman, is that cattle have become so accustomed to ATVs that ranchers can't round them up on a 4-wheeler; it takes a horse.

Julie Watkins earns degree

Heppner native Julie Watkins graduated from Portland State University on June 11 with a 4.0 grade point average this term and a 3.65 accumulative grade point average. She received a bachelor of applied science in child and family studies with specializations in early childhood education and families in society.

Julie is in Heppner working for the U.S. Forest

Service this summer in range and fire. This is her third summer with the Forest Service. She hopes to get a job in her field this fall.



Julie Watkins

Julie is the daughter of Gary and Barb Watkins of Heppner.

Music camp deadline nears

The Oregon East Symphony announces its first deadline for registration for its annual summer music camp, to be held at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton from July 25-29. Tuition for campers who register by June 30 is \$110.

The music camp runs from Monday through Friday, from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., includes lunch, and offers classes and ensembles for musicians from first grade through adult. The large ensembles offered are Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Beginning Choir, Chamber Choir, and Jazz Band.

Faculty include Kenneth Woods, musical director and conductor of the Oregon East Symphony conducting the symphony orchestra; Michelle Giansante of Portland conducting the string orchestra; Lezlee Flagg of Great Falls, Montana, conducting the beginning choir; Michael Frasier of LaGrande conducting the chamber choir, and Margaret Mayer of Pendleton conducting the jazz band.

Registrations are accepted until the day of the camp, with tuition increasing to \$125 for registrations postmarked by July 15 and to \$140 for on-site registration.

Contact the Oregon East Symphony for registration forms and more information at oes@uci.net, 541-276-0320, or go to www.oregoneastsymphony.org for complete information and registration forms.

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