

Johnston following in former teacher's footsteps



Scott Johnston with his former teacher Pat Edmundson. -Contributed Photo

Scott Johnston, a former first grader in Pat Edmundson's class in Heppner, now teaches 3rd grade in Salem at McKinley School. Coincidentally, McKinley School is also the school that Edmundson taught at before moving to Ione and teaching in Heppner.

Edmundson recently visited Johnston at McKinley School and spent time in his classroom. Johnston took Edmundson on a tour of the school to see all the changes since she had taught there.

Edmundson is planning on returning in the spring for another visit.

Heppner District Ranger Tom Mafera has rescheduled the three West-End Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) public meetings in Fossil, Monument and Heppner that were canceled in mid-December due to adverse weather conditions. These public meetings are being held to review and discuss the five alternatives developed for the West-End OHV Project Area Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and are scheduled for: Wheeler County Family Service Center in Fossil on January 8 from 5-7 p.m.; Senior Center in Monument on January 12 from 5-7 p.m.; and Heppner Ranger District Office in Heppner on January 13 from 5-7 p.m.

"We'll start each meeting with a short pre-

sentation on where we are in the process and how we got here," said Ranger Mafera. "Then we'll review each alternative and discuss how the public's comments helped to guide us in alternative development. We'll also go over our timelines, the Draft EA 30-day public comment period, and leave ample time on the agenda for questions and discussion," said Mafera.

The Heppner District initiated the West End OHV project in response to the 2005 Travel Management Rule; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use. The rule calls for the designation of roads, trails and areas open to motorized travel to provide better opportunities

for sustainable motorized recreation and high-quality access for all users while protecting natural and cultural resources, increasing public safety and reducing effects on big game.

Designated routes for motorized travel are already in place on most of the Umatilla National Forest. The Forest's one exception is the 91,000-acre West-End OHV Project Area which is generally open to Class I and Class III OHVs for off-road travel. The West-End OHV Project Area is located on the west side of the Heppner Ranger District and includes all Forest Service lands west of Forest Road 22 (Morrow County Road 670/Grant County Road 3). No decisions will be made

concerning private or county lands.

"We've worked hard to ensure that those who use and value this area are involved in this process," said Mafera.

A copy of the West End OHV Project Area Draft Environmental Assessment is available at the District Office at 117 South Main Street in Heppner. The Draft EA is also available online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/projects/readroom/>.

More information about the West End OHV Project can be found on the Umatilla National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/> or by contacting Janet Plocharsky, Heppner District Planner at 541-676-2148.

New ATV rule announced for 2009

Effective January 1, 2009, ATV (quad) or off-road motorcyclists age 16 or younger, or an adult who supervises those riders, are required to complete the Oregon All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Education course before riding on public lands in Oregon. The online course is available now at: www.rideATVoregon.org.

After passing the course, riders receive an ATV Safety Education Card. Both the course and the card are free. The online course is available for riders to take at their own pace and is tailored to the places people ride - in the dunes, forest, or desert.

"This program is aimed at saving people's lives," said John Lane, Oregon Parks and Recreation ATV Safety Education Coordinator. "Accidents and deaths from ATV-related activities are tragic, but even more alarming is the number of children involved in these accidents."

From 1998 to 2003 the Oregon Trauma Registry recorded more than 1,200 injuries resulting from ATV crashes. ATV-related accidents rose 78 percent from 2001-2003, with more than 20 percent of ATV injuries occurring to children younger than 15.

2007 legislation required the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to phase in ATV Safety Education for riding on Oregon's public lands. Each year after 2009, older age groups will be required to pass the online test. By 2014, all riders regardless of age will be required to carry an ATV Safety Education Card while

riding.

"It is similar to driving a car - you want the other drivers to be as well trained as you are," said Lane. "Now, from the comfort of your own home, and at a time that works for you, you can become a safer rider and be better prepared next time you hit the trails."

In the last year, as of January 1, 2008, children 17 years or younger are also required to wear helmets with chin straps securely fastened, and children 15 years or younger are required to meet new "rider fit" guidelines. These guidelines, which include the appropriate brake, leg and grip reach, are described in detail at www.rideATVoregon.org.

This new law affects all riders using public lands in Oregon. Out of state visitors riding their own ATVs on public lands in Oregon are also required to carry an ATV Safety Education Card. Riders renting ATVs will go through a safety checklist with the rental company and be issued a temporary safety education card.

The safety course is not required if the vehicles are being used on land owned or leased by the owner of the vehicle, including farming, agricultural or forestry operations, or, are used exclusively for nursery or Christmas tree growing operations.

Riders who lack Internet access should contact OPRD at 1-877-7SAFELY (1-877-772-3359) for off-line testing options.

For more information about the new guidelines, go to www.rideATVoregon.org.

Wrestlers rumble in Boardman

The Mustangs put in a long day of wrestling Saturday at the Riverside Rumble in Boardman. The Rumble included 14 teams from all over Oregon and Washington ranging from 1A to 6A.

Jarred Miller finished the highest for the Mustangs, tying for third. After losing a close 4-2 decision in his first match to Kyle Law from 6A Liberty High School, Miller won his next four bouts by pin to set up a rematch with Law for third place and the consolation championship. However, since Miller had already wrestled the OSAA limit of five bouts per day, he couldn't make another legal mat appearance. Therefore the match and placement team points went to Liberty and both wrestlers were awarded bronze medals.

Grant Smith, John Nelson and Chance Day all advanced to the tournament semifinals before suffering their first losses and each would finish the day with three wins and two losses. Smith and Nelson won their next matches and a place on

the consolation championship mat. Smith injured his ribs in the process and had to injury default to finish fourth. Nelson lost in the consolation championship and also finished fourth. Day went on to win fifth place in a tough 4-2 decision over Briton Hansen of Riverside.

Seth Palmer also placed for the Mustangs. The freshman made it to the placing rounds in his second straight tournament and finished sixth, winning two of his five matches by pins.

The Mustangs took a total of 15 wrestlers to the Rumble that included eight freshmen. The young team has made a strong showing at the last two big tournaments, winning the trophy for the top 2A team in La Grande two weeks ago and finishing third among 2A teams in Boardman.

Also competing for Heppner were Zach Yocom, Cody Nelson, Andrew Bara, Dillon Lucher, Tyler Robinson, Conner Pappas, Wacy Coil, Garret Gibbs, Drew Brannon and Alex Fuentes.

Methodist Church makes donation to Neighborhood Center



Jonathan Enz, pastor of Heppner United Methodist Church, presents Janice Skaggs with a check totaling \$342.56 for the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center. The church donated the offerings received at its two Christmas Eve services and half of the receipts from its raffle of a model replica of the church. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

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ELK'S HOOP SHOOT

**Ages 8-13
Sunday, January
11
1 p.m. @ Heppner
High School**



**Also sign ups for Colt
Basketball**

BASKETBALL

Marriages

Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers has released the following report of marriage licenses issued:

-December 30: Ivan Leonardo De La Lima Claudio, 28, Boardman, and Lucila Navarro Garcia, 30, Boardman.

-December 31: Adrian Mendoza Garcia, 30, Boardman, and Elia Tapia Madrigal, 29, Boardman.

WANTED

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Elks Hoop Shoot to be held Sunday

The Elks Hoop Shoot will be held on Sunday, January 11, at 1 p.m. at Heppner High School. The Hoop Shoot is open to children ages 8-13.

Sign-ups for Colt Basketball will also be held at this time.

Have a News story or Photo for the Gazette? Email to editor@rapidserve.net