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Dinner-at-the-Cemetery Players perform "The Palace"

Infamous playwrights Doris Brosnan and Sharon Harrison orchestrated yet another outstanding theatrical success with the performance of "The Palace" by the Dinner-at-the-Cemetery Players on Saturday, June 12, 2010.

Critics raved about its authenticity, humor, and historic value.

Set accents by Babette Wall greeted attendees as they entered the "Palace Hotel" doorway created by Dave Fowler - the lighted stairway, the period wall cut-outs, the gas-lights wall border. And her costume creations were once again outstanding.

The set design brought the historic Palace Hotel dining room to life, replete with formal table settings, flowers, antique teapots, and white linens. While anticipating the performance, 130 diners were treated to an exquisite bread pudding with ice cream and caramel sauce.

As the lights dimmed, the backstage voice of Jack Meligan took the audience back in time when Heppner was a bustling Victorian/western community comprised of a variety of occupations, characters, hard working folks, and those who dreamed big. Many passed through the lobby of the Palace Hotel, operated by a kind, mellow William Von Cadow (Bill Kuhn) and his very controlling wife Margaret Van Cadow (Lea Mathieu). She especially exercised her spousal authority when Miss Molly (Nancy Gochner) was strutting about; however, Sheriff Noble (Cliff Green) eliminated that problem as he escorted Molly off to jail.

A stellar performance was given by Dan Van Schoiack as George Weathers, an elocutionist who had traveled all the way from Portland. Van Schoiack brought the house down with his heartfelt and dramatic performance of a Creation reading from Genesis, due in part to the antics of the Three Gossips having tea beneath his line of vision. Myrtle, Margaret, and Ophelia, played by Janet Greenup, Sheridan Tarnasky, and Brooke Sweeney, respectively, were in the spotlight throughout the play as history unfolded, partially as



Pictured are cast members of this year's Dinner-at-the-Cemetery Players' performance of the "The Palace." -Contributed Photos

they discussed events and people. It should be noted that their varieties of millinery were hats of the late Ilene Kilkenny. Elocutionist Dollie K. Sperry (Cara Osmin) swayed through the audience, greeting guests, and performed an eloquent recitation of a melodramatic reading. Joe Lindsay, playing musician Dan Lindsay, entertained with another song he had written, capturing the pulse of the Willow Creek Valley.

Those patrons imbibing at the Palace Bar were served by Irish bartenders Dave McAtee (Larry Lutchter) and Borchers (Gary Prophet). Some historic dialog, as well as confrontations and a scene in which Claude Herron (Jason Hanna) has his ear bitten off by Matt Hughes (Cam Sweeney), depicted actual events of the late 1800's. Contributing to bar activity and topics of the times were Walker (Marty Brannon), Frank Kilkenny (Ron Bowman), Pat Kilkenny (Steve Rhea), Frank Kister (Brian Kollman), and Joe Carty (Tim Dick-

enson.) One of the questionable characters checking into the Palace was Diamond Ed (Daye Stone, who proved he is well qualified to become a repeat performer), as he presented his business cards advertising sales of the finest in Chicago clothing. A young man (Larry Palmer) disputed the \$6 per-week hotel bill. Father Kelly (Gerry Condon) was a hit in his black cowboy hat, as was his sidekick Pastor Brown (Keith Price).

Throughout the evening performance, the audience was struck by the similarities of Heppner then and now. "What comes around, goes around," if you will, from taxes, politicians, transportation, and water systems, to locating new industry. History was well researched by the writers and truly brought to life by the performers and the narrator. A smooth flow of scenes with actors quietly moving through the audience created anticipa-

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HEPPNER

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BEO Bancorp "not for sale"

BEO Bancorp answers legal notice by Community Bancshares

"BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, are not for sale," said President and CEO Jeff Bailey. "The legal notice that Community Bancshares has posted recently in local newspapers addressed to the Federal Reserve Bank is surprising. It is highly unusual to see such a speculative legal notice, when there is not and will not be an agreement between the parties," continued Bailey.

Previous correspondence between BEO

Bancorp and its shareholders revealed a rejected formal offer by Community Bancshares in late April. "This decision to reject the offer followed polling of a large number of BEO Bancorp shareholders who unanimously urged us to reject the offer," said Bailey. "This rejection was communicated through our legal counsel to Community Bank. It is obvious that Community Bank simply does not want to take no for an answer. Our bank has been staunchly independent

for over 65 years and we will do whatever it takes to maintain our independence. Frankly, the continued overtures are a waste of resources and time. I would think they would spend less time trying to limit competition and more time tending to their own business. I again reiterate, Bank of Eastern Oregon is not for sale," concluded Bailey.

For further information on the company or to access internet banking, visit the website at <http://www.beobank.com>.

Jerry Archer to assume Ione School District principal duties

By April Sykes

Incoming Ione School District Principal Jerry Archer, present for the June 21 ISD Board meeting Monday night, told the board that he would officially be on the job June 28. Archer, from Pendleton, will replace current principal/superintendent Karl Ostheller. Ostheller, whose last day will be June 24, told the board that he has been hired as principal/superintendent for a school district north of Olympia, WA.



Jerry Archer

ISD Board Chair Joe McElligott said that the district had 35 applicants for the position and conducted four interviews before hiring Archer as principal. The job was previously a combination superintendent/principal position. The district has hired Umatilla-Morrow ESD's superintendent Dr. Mark Mulvihill to assume its superintendent duties. ISD already contracts with UMESD for many of the district's financial and educational processes.

At the meeting, the board opted to postpone or change a "softfall" project following a sole bid for \$169,700 from Knerr Construction to complete the project. Five other companies declined to proffer a bid on the project. The project consists of installing a protective material under playground equipment, which is required by code and would thus affect the district's insurance liability unless changes are made. Board member Anne Morter commented that

the cost of the project has "exponentially increased any time we talk about it. I just don't think we can justify spending \$170,000." Other materials, such as sand or rubber mulch, were not deemed viable options. The district may opt to dismantle the playground's swing sets or cut out some of the asphalt which is too near the swings until a permanent solution is agreed upon. McElligott suggested that the project be rebid in the spring. "The problem is that we have safety issues on the playground now," added board member Lisa Rietmann.

Also at the meeting, the board approved a \$4,114,825 budget for the 2010-11 school year and appropriated the following funds:

-General Fund: \$1,234,072 for instruction; \$924,218 for support services; and \$45,500 for fund to fund transfers for \$2,233,790 in total general fund appropriations and a \$370,000 unappropriated ending fund balance;

-Special Revenue Funds: \$388,909 for instruction; \$81,574 for support services; \$105,376 for enterprise and community services; \$10,000 for contingencies;

-Debt Service Fund: \$251,576 for bond payment;

-Capital Projects Fund: \$668,000 for facilities acquisitions;

-Housing Fund: \$5,600 for support services;

-Total appropriated: \$3,744,825;

-Total Unappropriated: \$370,000.

The board also approved a resolution imposing taxes at the rate of \$4.0342 per \$1,000 assessed value for operations and in the amount of \$270,497 for bonds.

In other business, the board:

-heard a capital project update from Randy Henrichsen, project manager, Willamette ESD. Henrichsen reported that the following projects have been completed: classroom addition, high school windows, high school lab tables and eyewashes, high school and cafeteria entry doors and bollards, pool and deck resurfacing, electrical and mechanical refurbishment, lighting upgrade, high school heating, ventilating and air conditioning, high school and shop roof replacement, gym modernization, high school wood trim, repair of cafeteria tables, replacement of high school boys' and girls' restroom sinks, classroom automation, elementary school acoustic upgrade and replacement of elementary school carpet. The board opted not to proceed with additional baffle for the elementary school acoustic upgrade. Henrichsen told the board that roof upgrades to the principal's house and wood shop may extend into the fall and deemed completion of the softfall project more critical. Board member Bink Ramos, however, expressed concern that the roof on the principal's

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Betty Gray named 4th of July grand marshal

The 4th of July committee, unbeknownst to Betty Gray, one of the group's prominent members, has selected her to lead the Ione celebration this Independence Day as the Grand Marshal.



Betty Gray

Betty is considered a volunteer extraordinaire and promoter of Ione by her friends. She has served on the Ione City Council for a number of years, including approximately 9 of them as mayor. During her tenure she kept hours at city hall, shepherded the water quality, storage, and service projects along with numerous other matters. She was, and still is, very active in networking our community to numerous private, county, state, and federal resources. She and her late husband were very involved with the creation and placement of our "Welcome to Ione" signs at both the east and west

entrances to town. She has a tireless pride and spirit for our community, our school, and its residents. As referenced above, Betty is a pivotal member of the 4th of July committee and presently serves as the Vice President for Ione Community Agri-Business

Organization (ICABO). She is an active member of the Ione Topic Club, and a driving force in the Ione Booster Club. She has served on the Parks and Recreation, and Needs and Issues Committees. She heads up one of South Morrow County's greatest events for our youth population in the Morrow County Youth Fishing Derby. Betty is an active reader for the Smart Reading program and steps in as a substitute teacher for Creative Care Preschool. She was a Sunday School teacher at the Ione Community Church, currently sings in the choir and serves as a

Deaconess. Recently she was instrumental in getting Ione's Hall of Fame off the ground and is very active in the committee and annual dinner.

There are numerous other activities and achievements this letter can't capture, but one of Betty's greatest qualities is making certain people receive the proper thanks and recognition for their achievements. While the committee can not thank her enough for what she does, they would like to try by recognizing her as Grand Marshal for Ione's 2010 Independence Day celebration.

"Our community is fortunate to have Betty Gray," stated a spokesperson. "Betty is supportive to virtually any project that needs to be done or group that needs support in our caring and loving community."

The parade begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 4, on Main Street.

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