

Sidewalk Stompers at Music in the Parks

Jazz band serves as summer finale

The Sidewalk Stompers will perform at Music in the Parks on Monday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Irrigon Marina Park.

The Sidewalk Stompers are a traditional jazz band formed in 1997 in the Tri-Cities, WA area. The name Sidewalk Stompers says it all...the band is a small acoustic street band able to play anywhere and small enough to move from spot to spot, similar to New Orleans street bands. Occasionally, the band is augmented with a guest jazz pianist when a stage



Sidewalk Stompers

venue allows. The Sidewalk Stompers are strictly an off-the-cuff, extemporaneous group. Listeners

will recognize most of the tunes, which are 20s and 30s standards. "Nothing obscure, just a lot of great old tunes you haven't heard for a long time," says one band member.

The band is lead by Karl Walterskirchen. Karl moved to the Tri-Cities from San Francisco in 1993 to work at Hanford as a mechanical engineer. Originally from Missoula, MT, he started playing banjo with traditional jazz bands in the San Francisco area in the mid 60s. He played on and off at the famous Red Garter in San Francisco and played banjo with numerous San Francisco-style and New Orleans-style traditional jazz bands in the San Francisco area. After moving to the Tri-Cities, Karl played with the local Three Rivers Jazz Band before starting the Sidewalk Stompers.

The band plays for parties, winery functions, pubs, jazz clubs and jazz festivals. This year's ensemble at Irrigon will include trumpet, clarinet, banjo (or guitar), and jazz piano. This will be the eighth year the band has performed for the finale of the Irrigon/Boardman Music in the Parks program.

Eagle ceases to soar despite rescuer efforts

A young golden eagle has expired despite the best efforts of rescuers from Heppner to Pendleton.

The sick young eagle showed up at the home of Don and Jean Bennett this past Sunday. According to the Bennetts' daughter, Sandy Matthews, when the Bennetts found the juvenile golden eagle on their property, they opened the yard gate and turned on a sprinkler for it. It sat under the sprinkler until Steve Cherry from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) arrived.

One fact everyone noticed right away was that the eagle was fitted with a radio collar, which Cherry said was part of a monitoring project for a wind tower project in the area.

"One of the concerns regarding wind power is the impact on nesting golden eagles," Cherry explained. "To help understand the issues, wind power companies have hired consultants that do wildlife surveys."

Cherry said one method such consultants use is to radio collar birds, usually adults but sometimes juveniles, to gather data about where the birds nest, when they are in the area and how they use the landscape.

"If there were turbines put in this area, how would



Steve Cherry of the ODFW prepares to transport the juvenile golden eagle from the Bennett home to Blue Mountain Wildlife in Pendleton. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

it affect the birds and what is the potential for collision?" he said were the questions they sought to answer.

While ODFW doesn't place radio collars on the birds, they do work with such contractors and recommend the information needed to help minimize the impact when siting wind power projects.

Cherry transported the eagle to the Blue Mountain Wildlife rehabilitation center in Pendleton. The staff there did blood tests and determined the young bird was anemic...basically, Cherry said, it was starving to death.

Unfortunately, the story doesn't have a happy ending for the eagle. They gave the bird fluids and nutrients, but the eagle was too far

gone, and died despite the intervention of many caring people.

Cherry said it is not uncommon for young hawks and eagles to starve in the wild.

"When they leave nest and start hunting on their own, it's not uncommon for them to starve to death, because they have not learned everything they need to know from their parents," he said.

Cherry added that it was unlikely the radio collar had anything to do with the eagle's death.

"The transmitter is designed for that size bird, and it did not look like it played any part in the fate of the bird," Cherry said. "The reality is that there is a lot of mortality associated with things out in the wild."

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RODEO ENTERTAINMENT

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ing with her fiddle. Other rodeo royalty to be seen during this year's fair and rodeo parade include the Pendleton Round-Up court, Miss Oregon High School Rodeo Queen Lilly Sandford, Queen Maggie and this year's Grand Marshal, Richard Kinzer.

Rodeo entertainment will be at its finest during the show. Scott "Blaze" Logsdon will be the rodeo clown this year. He is most known for his impromptu dances, quick-witted humor and energy that just won't stop. A professional firefighter during the week, on the weekends his passion is to make others laugh and relax. This enthusiasm and family fun takes him from one rodeo to another.

A new event will be added to the rodeo this year...the Stock Saddle Bronc Riding will supply one more rough stock event. This is sanctioned through the Western States Ranch Rodeo Association. Rank horses are used but the cowboys ride in normal western saddles and do what they can to stay aboard.

"This is sure to supply some exciting watching during the rodeo this year," says a rodeo coordinator.

B Bar D will supply the stock this year, with animals they promise will push

the limits of skill even for the world-class competitors expected to ride during the performances.

These cowboys and cowgirls will be competing not only for hundreds of dollars in prize money but also for the All-Around Saddle, donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Two National Pro-Rodeo Association memorial buckles also will be awarded to the fastest riders in both barrel racing and calf roping. These buckles, the Mike Currin Memorial and the Janice Davis Memorial, are in memory of past local contestants from Heppner.

The last coveted award will be the Amateur Calf Roping saddle that was donated by the Morrow County Grain Growers for the Morrow County Rodeo show on Sunday. Each of these items is on display around Heppner; everyone is invited to stop by the various locations and check them out.

The committee has worked hard to expand the covered area and supply more room near the Spur 'Em Barn. The rodeo planners encourage everyone to enjoy time socializing, listening to music, dancing and enjoying a favorite beverage Thursday through Sunday.

The Three Quarter Short Band will be featured

Friday, while Rock N' Roll Cowboys will entertain Heppner on Saturday.

Rodeo slack will be held during the Murray wine and micro-beer tasting.

The weekend will close with the local Morrow County Rodeo at 1:15 p.m. on the August 19. Any interested Morrow County residents can compete on Sunday for prize money and awards. Go to mcorodeo@hotmail.com or call 541-676-9451 for more information.

"Fair and rodeo is a time to kick back and enjoy yourself without traveling a long distance," stresses on rodeo fan. "Enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones."

"Volunteers in the community dedicate large amounts of their time to bring this weekend to Morrow County and to celebrate local talents. This enables the public to enjoy some country entertainment at a reasonable rate."

General admission is \$10; VIP seats are \$12 pre-sold or \$15 at the gate. Handicap parking is available.

"Bring a friend, the kids or relatives and enjoy the 90th celebration of the Morrow County Rodeo. It truly has something for everyone."

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