

HEPPNER

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CREZ OKs purchase of new Boardman fire truck Increased Port of Morrow construction requires equipment upgrade

By David Sykes

In an effort to keep up with added fire protection demands brought on by the new construction at the Port of Morrow, the Columbia River Enterprise Zone approved purchase of a new 100-foot aerial fire truck for the Boardman Rural Fire District Monday. Fire Chief Marc Rogelstad brought specs and a financing plan for the new fire truck to the CREZ meeting, and said the truck



The Columbia River Enterprise Zone approved purchase of a truck similar to this one for the Boardman Rural Fire Department. The bigger, updated truck is needed to provide fire protection for the new industrial construction at the Port of Morrow.

is needed to fight fires at the new food processing plants and data farms being built at the Port of Morrow. -See CREZ FIRE TRUCK/ PAGE SIX

Music 'extravaganza' heads to Heppner



The choreographer works with Eastern Oregon University students in preparation for a previous year's musical. The musicals have become a tradition with EOU. This year's musical, the Then & Now Hit Shuffle, will be in Heppner Feb. 9. -Contributed photo

The Eastern Oregon University Music Department and Chamber Choir are bringing their winter extravaganza of singing and dancing to Heppner on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m. The performance will be held in the Heppner Elementary School gym.

Admission is by donation, and all proceeds will benefit the school music programs in South Morrow County.

A production of this type has become an annual event that has packed the concert hall in La Grande ever since it was first launched with a salute to the Beatles.

Since then, annual shows have featured music from the '60s, '70s and '80s. Now the gifted musicians at Eastern are taking on their biggest challenge yet, with "Then & Now Hit Shuffle."

According to EOU Music Professor Peter Wordelman, "The show covers a time period from black and white to color, from reel to reel to the iPod. If someone hits shuffle on their iPod, they get a little of everything. This concert has that."

Probably the oldest song to be performed is

"Sing Sing Sing" recorded in 1937 by the Benny Goodman Orchestra. The youngest song is "Some Nights" from 2012 by the indie pop band Fun.

The show moves fast, often pairing an older song with a new one, and in one section the music "shuffles" from "Rock Around the Clock" (a '50s tune) to "Locomotion" (a '60s tune) to "I Can't Dance" by Genesis from the early '90s, then to a '70s tune called "Play that Funky Music" by Wild Cherry.

The production involves about 60 singers, dancers and musicians. The event's choreographer and dance instructor is Catherine Herrmann-Kossi, formerly of La Grande and now working in New York City at the Broadway Dance Center, and dancing for Cecilia and Martha. The band is led by Luke McKern, a guitarist and electronic musician. Roger Barnes plays bass, Teun Fetz drums and Danny Bailey keyboards.

Heppner's performance is part of a mini-tour of Eastern Oregon, following three performances in La Grande on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Bank of EO announces sixth annual wrestling invitational

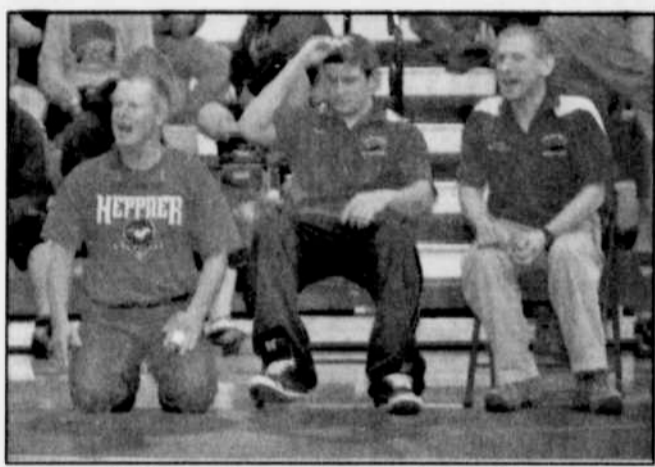
Heppner, OR—Bank of Eastern Oregon announces the invitees to Bank of Eastern Oregon's 2014 Invitational Wrestling Tournament to be held at Heppner High School on Feb. 8.

High schools scheduled to compete are Adrian, Crane, Culver, Enterprise/Joseph, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Irrigon, MacHi, Pine Eagle, Riverside, Union/Cove and Wallowa.

The competition begins at 10 a.m. and Bank of Eastern Oregon invites the public to come watch the athletes compete. Tickets can be purchased at the door, and concessions will be available.

Mark Lemmon, Bank of Eastern Oregon's Chief Financial Officer and Heppner High School wrestling coach, has been instrumental in organizing the bank's sponsorship of the event.

"The bank's management has been very involved in establishing this annual tournament and looks forward to the 2014 competition. The first five years of the event were outstanding and we intend the BEO Invitational to be a 'can't miss' tournament on every school's future schedule," said Lemmon. "We appreciate bank staff and local citizens who volunteer to help at the event or sponsor amenities; their



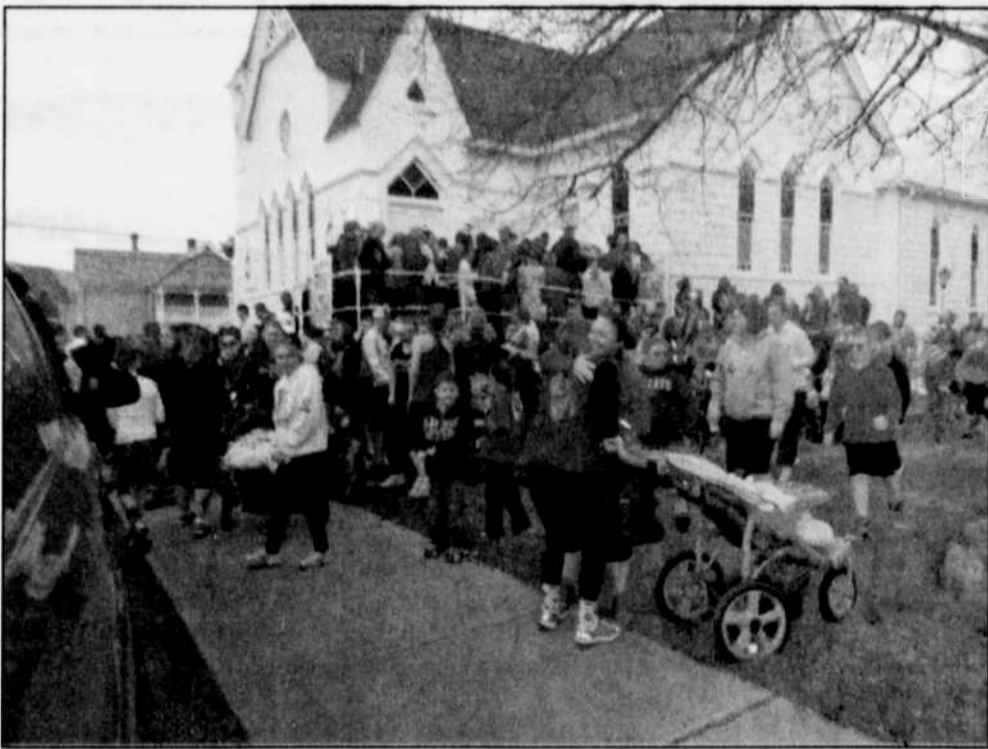
Heppner 2013 wrestling coaches Ken Bailey, Brian Lemmon and Mark Lemmon shout advice and encouragement during a match. The BEO Wrestling Invitational in Heppner is working to become one of the region's "can't miss" events on wrestling schedules. -File photo

help makes the tournament run smoothly!"

Anyone who would like to volunteer or who has any inquiries concerning

the event, contact Heppner High School's Athletic Director Greg Grant at 541-676-9138 or Mark Lemmon at 541-676-0224.

Remembrance walk/5k run planned for St. Pat's weekend



Remembrance walk/run participants greet each other as they gather for the event last year in Heppner. -File photo

By Andrea Di Salvo

On March 15, Friends Helping Friends will commemorate the sixth annual Remembrance Walk/5K Run while enjoying St. Patrick's Day celebration that weekend. The walk/run will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a social hour and registration beforehand at 8:30 a.m.

The event began in 2009, says coordinator Susan Hisler, as a yearly fundraiser in memory of home health and hospice nurse Donna Schonbachler. Schonbachler was considered a dear friend by many; she lost her battle with cancer in 2008.

Hisler says she was asked for several years to create a walk/run for St. Patrick's weekend but couldn't think of a good reason...and she certainly wanted a good reason to bring people out into the normally cold and blustery weather that weekend.

"Then Donna passed away, and a year later it was the perfect reason," she says. "This event exists because of what she instilled

in all of us; her enthusiasm, her excitement."

That said, Hisler says the event isn't only about Schonbachler's legacy. The committee that works on the event each year has worked to include the memories of both local residents and distant relatives, those who have passed and those who continue the fight.

"It's a true remembrance walk in memory of a lot of special people," says Hisler.

Friends Helping Friends strives each year to select a cause that would be near and dear to Schonbachler's heart, keeping recipients local and true to Schonbachler's legacy of giving back to health care and senior

citizens. Hisler says they haven't finalized their decision this year, but it will certainly be a local cause, just as past recipients have been. To date, approximately \$21,000 has been gifted through the event to local organizations such as Pioneer Memorial Hospital, PMH Home Health and Hospice, St. Patrick's Senior Center, and Willow Creek Terrace.

"Friends Helping Friends has spear-headed projects before to 'get the ball rolling' in funding large expenditures, one being the GlideScope purchased for the Pioneer Memorial Hospital emergency room two years ago," says another committee

member. "We're proud of how our community jumps in to help. We can make a difference."

The event boosts the welcome mat to the local St. Patrick's celebration with the social hour at 8:30 a.m. at Heppner United Methodist Church. The social hour, meant to start off a great reunion morning for families and friends, isn't all juice and power bars for the run ahead. All eats and treats are made by the Remembrance Walk committee.

"We don't get fed like this anywhere!" Hisler says one runner exclaimed last year.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Remembrance Walk/Run will proceed following a route of handmade green shamrocks. The one-mile walk route was designed to be easy and fun, traditionally beginning at the Methodist church and going up Main Street and past the old swimming pool before returning via Court Street and the elementary school. Hisler says participants may walk as much or as little of it as they like. However, shamrocks this year will be randomly placed, so participants may have to walk a little to find theirs.

Each shamrock sports a pink heart with the name, and sometimes a photo, of a remembered loved-one. For those who can't walk as far,

-See REMEMBRANCE WALK/PAGE SIX

Process underway for new county administrative buildings

The Morrow County Court has begun the process to build new office and administrative areas next to the Morrow County Courthouse on Court Street, Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman announced last week.

Toward that end, Tallman said Morrow County has purchased three lots north of the courthouse between Gilmore and Court streets in Heppner. The Conditional Use Permit process directed by the Heppner Planning Commission currently is waiting for information from the surveyor, Steve Haddock, for re-platting of the lots.

Tallman also said Wenaha Group will be bidding out contracts for demolition of the existing

buildings. In the interim, Heppner Fire Department has made arrangements to conduct fire and rescue training exercises on the lots with various county and city fire departments as time and schedules allow.

A design team has been appointed to determine building size and "footprint," or outline of the total area covered by the building, on the purchased property.

"This team will work with the architect firm to create designs to achieve this goal," said Tallman. "Public viewing and input will take place before the designs are accepted and made final."

Notice to citizens will be in the newspaper when these meetings take place later this spring.

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