

Ione and Heppner FFA kick off FFA Week



Heppner FFA at a soils Career Development Event for FFA Week. The Career Development Event, or CDE, was only one of many activities planned for the week. -Contributed photo

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week.

The week-long tradition began in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer.

The first National FFA Week was held in 1948.

Today, FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, Washington's birthday.

National FFA Week is an opportunity for FFA members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA.

It's a time, say FFA members, to share with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.

Heppner and Ione have lots of activities planned for the week; see the school websites or the multiple posters around town for more information.



Top: The seventh-grade team of Matt Orem and Jake Heideman won the human hungry hippo game during the assembly. With a two-man team for each grade, one student had to push the other on a scooter while the other collected balls and balloons with a laundry basket (no hands) for points in this tournament-style game. Above: Ione High School staff participated in Teacher Ag Olympics as part of FFA Week. Competitors found a nut/bolt/washer in a tub of wheat and put it together, drilled in a screw, hammered a nail and sawed a log in a timed event. In first place was Steve Schaber, while second was Jim Raible and third was Sarah Crane-Simpson. -Photos by Erin Heideman

Application deadline for CSP fast approaching

The application deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is fast approaching, say local NRCS representatives. CSP applications are accepted all year; however,

farmers, ranchers and forest landowners should submit applications by March 13 to ensure they are considered for this year's funding. Applications received after that date will be considered

for future funding. Learn more about CSP and other NRCS Farm Bill programs online at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov or visit the Heppner USDA service center.

Heppner FFA receives Food For All grant to help fight hunger

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—The Heppner FFA chapter has been awarded \$2,498 as part of the FFA: Food For All program, the organization announced earlier this month. The nationwide program provides grant money to local FFA chapters to support year-long service-learning projects that address local hunger needs.

The Heppner FFA plans to help fight hunger by raising vegetables in the off-season with a hydroponics unit, which will allow chapter members to raise and donate vegetables to the Neighborhood Center.

The grant also provided funding to pay for the feed for the chapter's laying hens for this next year, which will help offset the costs associated with them. The eggs have been and will continue to be donated to

the Neighborhood Center to be distributed to people in the area who need assistance.

The third portion of the grant will allow chapter members to buy, raise and harvest two market hogs, which also will be donated to the Neighborhood Center at the conclusion of the project.

"The need for quality protein to be distributed is what caused us to think how we could help differently with a grant to help with the expenses for the projects," local FFA Advisor Beth Dickenson said. Community members who are interested in helping with the projects, or with any expertise they can offer to get the projects started, would be welcomed.

The FFA: Food For All Grants are sponsored by CF Industries, Elanco,



The Food For All grant will help the Heppner FFA chapter grow more produce like this to help fight hunger locally. -Contributed photo

Mainsource, Tractor Supply Company and Tyson as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The program provided nearly \$330,000 to FFA chapters in 39 states and the Virgin Islands. In addition, the FFA: Food For All grant program is part of the National FFA Organization's Feeding Our World - Starting at Home platform. More information about the program can be found at FFA.org/foodforall.

Local 4-H group has busy month

Submitted by club reporter Jake Lentz

February has been a busy month for Heppner's Grow 'Em & Show 'Em 4-H group.

With the club's first meeting on Feb. 1, the members were busy electing officers and making Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Willow Creek Terrace. The residents seemed surprised when the club members delivered the cards to them Feb. 13.

On Feb. 16 they took a field trip to Krebs Ranch, where they students learned about the lambing process.



Above: One Grow 'Em and Show 'Em club member holds a lamb while others take turns petting it during a recent trip to the Krebs ranch to learn about the lambing process. Below: Club members enjoy the sunshine during a trip to the Krebs ranch. -Contributed photo



Second annual agriculture, energy job fair March 4

Agriculture and energy industries, educational institutions and government agencies set for March event at the SAGE Center in Boardman

BOARDMAN—The second annual SAGE Center Agriculture and Energy Job Fair is set for March 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road in Boardman.

The event is open to the public, giving attendees a chance to visit with area food processors, utilities, farms, local government agencies, data centers and educational institutions about careers, education and job-seeking help.

Job fair participants can also learn more about the Boardman Community

Development Association's Home Buying Incentive Program. The incentive is \$5,000 toward the purchase of a primary residence in the 97818 zip code.

"This event gives people the opportunity to connect with the region's leading agriculture and energy industries to discover rewarding careers," said Kalie Davis, SAGE Center manager.

Local high school students and college students have also been invited to the fair to see careers available in their communities and

learn what kind of education they need to work in local industries.

Blue Mountain Community College, Walla Walla Community College, Perry Technical Institute, Oregon State University and Eastern Oregon University are also attending to provide information about educational opportunities.

For more information and a list of organizations attending, visit the SAGE Center website job fair page at www.visitsage.com or call 541-481-7243.

Applications being accepted for Young Artists Competition

Inland Northwest Musicians is accepting applications for participation in the 15th annual Young Artists Competition to be held Sunday afternoon, March 8, at Hermiston High School.

The competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists up to age 25

in four age divisions—elementary, junior high/middle school, high school and young adult. Cash awards will be presented to division winners, and some participants will also be selected to perform in concert with the Inland Northwest Orchestra in May.

Information and application forms are available online at www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com. The deadline for applications is Friday, Feb. 27. For additional information, contact Alice Massey at amassey@wtechlink.us or at 541-379-5564.

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Admission - Founders \$8.00
Standard entry \$10.00
With event glass \$15.00

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