

## Lexington Grange gatherings

Lexington Grange members met Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. and discussed upcoming activities, as well as scheduling some new events for the community.

Friday, Jan. 30, the Lexington Grange will host a fundraiser for Nadine Ball as she undergoes cancer treatment. The evening will include a \$5 soup dinner at 5 p.m. with bingo to start at 6 p.m. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to Ball. Donations will be accepted.

Also coming up is the Fireman's Breakfast during the St. Patrick's Day weekend. Lexington Grange members will be serving up breakfast starting Saturday, March 19, at 7 p.m. and will continue on into the wee hours of the morning for St. Patrick's celebration goers.

The Lexington Grange is a part of a nationwide, nonprofit fraternal organi-

zation with programs for family members of all ages.

The Grange organization has long been a grassroots, nonpartisan advocate for agriculture, rural issues and American values.

Community Granges like Lexington Grange serve local needs by volunteering and making their hall the social center of the community.

Lexington Grange members meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the group is invited to stop by and check it out, or find out more by visiting <http://lexgrange726.wix.com/grange>.

If interested in becoming a member or needing to rent a large space for a social event, contact the Lexington Grange by email, [lex.grange726@gmail.com](mailto:lex.grange726@gmail.com).

## Ione library to present genealogy class

The Ione Public Library will host a free beginner's class on basic genealogy, "How to Get Started in Genealogy," on Monday, Jan. 18, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the library, 385 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ione.

Presenter Tammi Lien will teach attendees how to do research and use genealogy databases such as Ancestry.com (a free database for library patrons). Anyone interested in researching their family tree is invited to come with their questions.

## Host families needed for exchange students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with area high schools, is looking for local families to host boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 18 from a variety of countries, including Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy and Japan, to name a few.

ASSE says its students are "enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture while they practice their English." They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families. Host families welcome these students into their family, not as a guest, but as a family member, in order to give everyone

involved a rich cultural experience.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected based on academics and personality, and host families can choose their student(s) from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

To become an ASSE host family or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, call the ASSE Western Regional Office at 1-800-733-2773 or go to [www.host.asse.com](http://www.host.asse.com) to begin a host family application.

## EOU returns to college wrestling

HEPPNER, Ore. — On Monday, Eastern Oregon University (EOU) announced the re-establishment of the EOU Mountaineer Wrestling Program. Funding for the program includes a \$300,000 allocation from the Oregon State Legislature as a result of the work of Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner).

"Eastern Oregon is home to many wrestling champions both on individual and team levels," said Smith. "EOU is unable to attract these athletes who desire to continue wrestling in college. I believe wrestling will give EOU another tool for recruitment and help keep our youth in Eastern Oregon."

"Rep. Greg Smith has been a pivotal person in the effort to restart competitive wrestling at EOU," said Dr. Mike Clock, Chair of Restore College Wrestling Oregon Committee. "Over the past 17 years, teams from east of the Cascades

have won almost 55 percent of the team titles. Since the late '70s, there have been no geographically convenient opportunities for those young individuals to compete at the college level in Oregon."

During the 2015 Legislative Session, Smith worked with leadership and a group called Restore College Wrestling to find funding to reactivate a wrestling program at Eastern Oregon University, which is Eastern Oregon's only university.

Smith serves as Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction, which helps appropriate resources throughout the state.

Rep. Smith is also an avid supporter of wrestling programs throughout Eastern Oregon and the father of two-time state champion Ryan Smith.

## Lady Cards pull out victories for first week of league play

Ione played their first league games Friday at home, hosting the Condon/Wheeler Knights for full basketball action starting with JV boys' and girls' games. They finished the evening with the Cardinals' varsity games. It was an edge-of-your-seat evening with both teams playing very well. It was a physical matchup, and got quite exciting for everyone in attendance.

Ione JV girls won 31-28 over Condon/Wheeler Friday night in Ione. It was a great game for both teams.

The Ione JV boys played a great game but lost to the Knights 29-45.

When the varsity girls took the court, the Lady Cards did a great job of first keeping up and then passing the Knights, winning 56-50 in the action-packed game.

Finally, Ione's varsity boys fought hard, but were out-scored in the end, los-



L-R in white jerseys: Ione's Rachel Holland (32) moves to teammate Maggie Flynn (24) with Ivy Sandford (center) and Jessie Flynn (22) to make play to basket in Friday's game versus Condon/Wheeler. —Photo by Sylvia Sandford

ing 29-45.

Varsity girls' stats were unavailable at press time. Boys' stats are as follows:

**Ione v Condon/Wheeler**  
Alessandro Panozzo: RB 3; Donald McElligott:

RB 2, ST 2, Pts 2; Colton Hollis: RB 1, ST 1; Austin Carter: RB 7, Pts 7; Aaron Smythe: RB 3, ST 1, Pts 4; Wyatt McNary: RB 6, Pts 4; Jason Juarez: RB 9, Ast 2, Pts 12; Tyler Carter: RB 1.

The Ione Cardinals travelled to Sherman County Saturday for their second league games of the season. The Huskies hosted the Cardinals for some fast-paced basketball. The JV girls only played two quarters due to the host team's size, but the girls played a full varsity game, winning their second league game 51-40.

Ione's JV boys almost pulled out a win against Sherman Saturday. It was a great game, and time simply ran out before they could sneak past the Huskies.

The Cardinal Varsity

boys' team played the Sherman County Huskies in an exciting game Saturday; they played hard but couldn't pull out a win for their second league game of the season. The Cardinals lost 43 to Sherman County's 83.

Boys' stats are as follows:

**Ione v Sherman County**

Danny Doherty: Ast 1, Pts 2; Alessandro Panozzo: RB 2, Ast 1, Pts 2; Donald McElligott: RB 2, Ast 1, Pts 4; Colton Hollis: RB 1, Ast 1, ST 2; Austin Carter: RB 3, ST 1, Pts 14; Logan Burrett: RB 1, Pts 1; Aaron Smythe: RB 3, Ast 2; Wyatt McNary: RB 3, Ast 1, St 1, Pts 2; Jason Juarez: RB 4, Ast 1, ST 4, Pts 14; Nestor Ramirez: Pts 2; Tyler Carter: Pts 2; Sergio Marin: RB 2.



L-R: Ione's Colton Hollis (11) and Donald McElligott (10) run alongside teammate Austin Carter (center with ball) as he is swarmed by Huskie players in Saturday's league game. —Photo by Sylvia Sandford

## Wheat Foundation scholarship offered

Pendleton, OR—The Oregon Wheat Foundation will provide up to 12 scholarships for high school seniors whose families are members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

The scholarship is also open to students who work part-time for grower members and students whose

family members are employed by OWGL members.

The scholarship requirements include an essay on any topic related to the wheat industry and a summary of the student's school and community involvement.

One \$1,000 award will

be made to a qualifying student from each of the participating counties, which include Morrow, Baker, Gilliam, Klamath, Malheur, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wasco.

In addition, up to two awards will be made in the Willamette Valley counties and one in the Central Or-

egon counties.

Application forms are available from the Oregon Wheat Growers League website at [www.owgl.org](http://www.owgl.org) or by contacting scholarship coordinator Marilyn Blagg at 541-276-7330 or [mblagg@owgl.org](mailto:mblagg@owgl.org). All applications must be post-marked by Feb. 1.

## NRCS plans local work group meeting

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be hosting a meeting at the USDA Service Center on Jan. 26 at 1 p.m. to discuss and gather input regarding the natural resource opportunities and priorities across the county.

Their goal is to bring

together individuals with a variety of expertise and knowledge, allowing NRCS and others to "build on our collective successes while focusing our efforts to make the greatest impact with our available staff and funding."

NRCS staff say they need help to identify where the best investments can be made to address natural resource problems, share the work that has already been done in the county, and have participants share their vision for what the county

will look like when these natural resource concerns have been solved.

Anyone who is unable to attend this meeting but would like to provide input, contact the NRCS at 541-676-5021 x113 or e-mail [kacee.lathrop@or.usda.gov](mailto:kacee.lathrop@or.usda.gov).

## Planning commission seeks volunteers

Morrow County has announced it is looking for a volunteer to represent Heppner on the Morrow County Planning Commission. Planning Commissioners serve four-year terms; the current term to be filled will

end Dec. 31, 2019.

The planning commission usually meets once a month, alternating between Heppner and Boardman locations.

Duties include approving land use actions,

maintaining the county's subdivision and zoning ordinance, and working with the county court to manage the county's land use comprehensive plan.

Heppner area residents

interested in being on the commission should submit a letter of interest to the Morrow County Court, PO Box 788, Heppner OR 97836, by the end of the day Jan. 25.

## Red Cross has urgent need for blood donations to prevent winter shortage

*Local opportunities to give this month in Ione, Heppner*

YAKIMA, Wash.—The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood and platelet donations to prevent a shortage this winter. Busy holiday schedules in November and December contributed to about 1,700 fewer blood drives held across the country compared to the two previous months, which has resulted in about 50,000 fewer donations and reduced the blood supply.

Donation appointments can be quickly and easily scheduled by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Morrow County include:

—Ione: Jan. 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ione High School, and

—Heppner: Jan 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St Patricks Parish Hall.

"A decline in the blood supply after the winter holidays is not uncommon, but it can be replenished when generous volunteers roll up their sleeves to help save lives," said Neil To-

suntikool, donor recruitment director for the Red Cross Pacific Northwest Blood Services Region. "We encourage our generous donors who are eligible, as well as new donors, to make an appointment to give blood or platelets and help ensure blood products continue to be available for patients. Every two seconds a patient in the U.S. needs blood."

January is National Blood Donor Month, which has been observed since 1970 with the goal of increasing blood donations

during the winter—one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood and platelet donations to meet patient needs. In addition to winter bringing busy holiday schedules for many regular donors, severe winter weather can cancel blood drives, and seasonal illnesses, like the flu, may cause donors to be temporarily unable to give.

Donors of all blood types are urged to make an appointment; the Red Cross must collect about 14,000 donations every day to meet patient needs.

**Deadline: Mondays  
at 5:00 pm**