

Heppner gets 'cabin fever'



John Wambeke accompanies Eric Jepsen on the fiddle at last year's show in Ione. —Contributed photo

The variety show "Cabin Fever" is headed to Heppner soon. John Wambeke and friends will be staging the eighth annual version of the show on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 31, at 3 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School.

This year's concert is a combination of music and humor. Performers with local ties include Joe Lindsey, Cory Cooley, Luke Basile, Rick Drake, Eric Jepsen, and the Heppner High School choir.

The show was performed this past weekend to a sold-out crowd of 400 people in Hermiston.

Tickets for the Heppner performance can be purchased at the door, or in advance at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in either Heppner or Ione. The \$15 ticket price includes both the show and a catered Dutch-oven dessert.

For more info, search Facebook for "Cabin Fever Concert."

Rep. Smith honored by two Oregon associations

HEPPNER—Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) was honored last week with two prestigious recognitions. The first is from the Oregon Fairs Association (OFA), which supports Oregon's 36 county fairs. Also honoring Rep. Smith was the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA), an organization that is working to build Oregon's economy and support economic development.



Rep. Greg Smith

"It is an honor to be recognized by both of these associations for what we were able to accomplish during the 2015 Legislative Session," said Smith. "I am grateful to both groups and their members for their recognition and support."

Rep. Smith was recognized by OCAPA for his work on several policies during the 2015 Legislative Session, including the role he played in passing HB 3089. HB 3089 directs the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to conduct a study of the mineral resource potential of Eastern Oregon counties and report their findings to the Legislative Assembly. Smith says the bill is a positive step toward building a more robust mining industry in Oregon.

"Rep. Smith has demonstrated a strong commitment to the people of Eastern Oregon, especially the men and women work-

ing in the construction, construction materials, and mining industries. The industry continues to rely on Rep. Smith to protect those interests in Eastern Oregon. His commitment to economic prosperity to the region is without parallel. On behalf of the members of the OCAPA, we would like to thank Rep. Smith by presenting him with a small plaque acknowledging him as our Legislative Champion," stated Rich Angstrom, OCAPA President.

Rep. Smith was honored by the Oregon Fairs Association as their "Legislator of the Year" for his commitment to providing stable funding for OFA operations, including his efforts to secure an increase in funds for county fairs around the state.

"In Oregon we are blessed with strong support for county fairs," said Dan Dorran, 18-year Umatilla County Fair Board Member. "However, what we are really proud of are the few that not only support us but take action to help. Rep. Smith personifies this and more. He is a friend to county fairs in his district and throughout the state."

"I want to thank the OFA and OCAPA for this honor," responded Smith. "While recognition is appreciated, I do this because it is the right thing to do for our communities and Eastern Oregon."

Heppner holds Town & Country awards

Heppner Chamber of Commerce held its annual Town and Country Community Awards last Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner. The gala, sponsored by Invenery, LLC (dba Willow Creek Energy) and Northwest Farm Services and themed "An Evening with the Stars," attracted a large crowd that gathered to celebrate local heroes and community icons.

The evening began with a photo presentation, "Your Community on the Big Screen," designed by Dale Bates of CenturyLink and Sandy Matthews of Windwave Communications. Dinner catered by Pudding on the Ritz was followed by a welcome speech by Bill Kuhn. Also in the evening's lineup were a drawing for jewelry donated by Peterson's Jewelers, a word from the sponsors, and comments from local volunteer Jo Ann Burleson.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the award ceremony for outstanding community members. The following awards were given out:

Man of the Year, Jim Kindle; Woman of the Year, Kathy Turner; Youth Recognition, Patrick Collins; Citizen-Educator of the Year, Melissa Coiner;

NRCS releases first 2016 Water Supply Outlook Report

Oregon's statewide snowpack at 123 percent of normal

PORTLAND, Ore.— Cold mountain temperatures and copious amounts of precipitation joined forces in December to bring a welcome return of winter to Oregon.

According to the first water supply outlook report for the year—released last recently by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)—all basins in Oregon are experiencing above-normal snowpack levels.

Further, snowpack levels have already surpassed the peak levels of last year's snow season in all locations statewide.

Following a year of record-low snowpack, water shortages, fires and widespread drought across the state, water users and water managers are cautiously optimistic that a successful start to 2016 will enable drought recovery.

"This is the scenario

we had hoped for following last year's extreme drought conditions," said Melissa Webb, NRCS snow survey hydrologist. "The fall and early winter precipitation have started to fill reservoirs across the state that were heavily depleted going into the fall."

"Also, the snowpack that we have right now in the mountains is more than we had at any time last year, which is very encouraging."

Business of the Year, Adams Distributing (Tim and Terra Adams); and Lifetime Achievement Award, Joe Miller. Special recognition was also given to East Oregonian reporter Tammy Malgesini.

Man of the Year

"When he first came into my life I thought, 'What a nut!'" said one person of Man of the Year recipient Jim Kindle. "Little did I know he was a man of great depth and emotion."

When nominating Kindle, community members also pointed to his community-minded spirit, his ability to get things done, his humility and his good cheer. Kindle was recognized as a dedicated advocate for community youth, a member of the volunteer fire department, a member of the local Elks and Oddfellows lodges, and a regular volunteer at community events like the St. Patrick's Day celebration and the fair and rodeo.

"The citizens of Heppner, whether they know him or not, have all benefited greatly from his many contributions to the community," said presenter Ken Grieb of Kindle. "Whenever there is a project to be done or something to be fixed, he is usually there, spear-heading the mission

or contributing his time and effort to get the job done. There is always a smile on his face; always a joke and a laugh to be had when you are with him."

Woman of the Year

This year's Woman of the Year recipient Kathy Turner is called a "natural caregiver." Since moving to Heppner, she is credited with overseeing the \$1.2 million remodel of St. Patrick's senior center and using her "eye for design" to make the center homey and welcoming. Even after stepping down as manager, Turner continues to take care of the St. Patrick's apartment tenants, both during their time there and by checking in with them after they move away. She is credited with working many extra hours with no extra pay.

Turner was also recognized as a driving force behind the renovation of the senior center's dining room, being called a "master with a paint brush" and a "master at recruiting her friends to help." She also adds a touch of whimsy at Halloween, whether introducing trick-or-treaters to her pet spider or playing the role of fortune teller.

"She is the first responder in emergency situations, she is the assistant



Jim Kindle Kathy Turner



Patrick Collins Melissa Coiner



Joe Miller Tammy Malgesini



Tim "the Bread Man" and Terra Adams of Adams Distributing.

manager, janitor, and Jack of all trades," said Judy Bushke of Turner. "We are so fortunate that she chose Heppner for her home."

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Pipes skirl at Condon when Scots toast Robert Burns, heritage

The 19th annual Robert Burns Supper will be celebrated at Condon Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Condon Elks Lodge on Main Street.

The tradition of honoring the Scottish heritage of the greater Condon area dates back originally to the mid-1950s, when weekend-long celebrations feted the then-aging Scots, the first generation of immigrants who had come from the homeland and settled in and around Condon. The celebrations then drew Scottish families from miles around to honor those who had hailed from Scotland.

The celebrations, revived about 20 years ago, still draw a crowd of Scotsmen from region-wide to honor past generations and the traditions of the Old Country, including the poetry and memory of Scotland's beloved poet, Robert Burns. The celebration each year is planned on the Saturday nearest the poet's Jan. 25 (1759) birth date.

Pipers, drummers, and other participants are anticipated to come from Pendleton, Arlington, Redmond, Portland, Vancouver and



L-R: Bill Shelton, Carson, WA; Rick McCaul, Portland, OR; Condon Highland Guard Pipers. —Photo by McLaren Stinchfield

the Carson, WA area to help the Condon community celebrate its Scottish heritage on the 257th anniversary of the birth of "Rabbie" Burns. The celebration is in its 19th

year as an organized event, and has become a favorite wintertime diversion at Condon.

The event features lively music from the "Old

Country," a traditional Scottish meal of "haggis, neeps and tatties," and anecdotes from the annals of Scottish families who settled in the Greater Gillingham County area in the mid-to-late 1800s. Area families of Scottish heritage are encouraged to search through their family lore for diaries, notes, photographs and other memorabilia, and to share the information at the gathering.

Featured this year will be the Chase-Couture-Fatland families who are represented in the Condon area, and representatives of those families will provide brief histories of their lineage.

It is anticipated that Andrew Jamieson of Condon will rise to the occasion once again as "spokesman" for the popular poet, deceased now two and a half

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