

Ione summer reading kicks off next week

The Ione library summer reading program will kick off next Monday, June 13, with a free presentation of "Vladimir Goes for Gold!" a play presented by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company. The play will take place at 4 p.m. in the Ione Community School cafeteria and is open to all ages.

Sponsored by Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) and the Ione Public Library, the presentation takes the audience on an Olympic adventure with Vladimir Cashewinski, champion badminton player and

sole athlete from the tiny People's Republic of In-surgistan. The night before his big day competing at the modern Olympic Games, Vladimir has a dream that takes him to ancient Olympia, where he meets the Olympic herald and teams up with the audience to explore the first Olympic Games.

Registration for Ione's Summer Reading Program will follow the presentation. For more information, visit the Ione library website at www.ionepubliclibrary.com.

Ione church plans VBS

Shake It Up vacation Bible school will be at Ione Community Church June 13-16. Bible school will be from 5-7:30 p.m. Monday and from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The program will begin later Monday because children are encouraged to participate in the library's presentation of "Vladimir Goes for Gold" at the school cafeteria beginning at 4 p.m.

Graduates from kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to attend. Dinner will be served each night.

All family and friends are invited to come at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, to enjoy a hot dog barbecue and program presented by the children.

Local Catholics to take part in pilgrimage

Members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Heppner and St. William's Catholic Church of Ione will participate in a pilgrimage to the cathedral in Baker City, OR on Friday, June 10.

The pilgrimage is in recognition of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. The group will

meet for an hour of prayer, penance and Holy Mass beginning at 11 a.m. A no-host lunch will follow, tentatively at the Sumpter Junction Restaurant in Baker City.

Car pool arrangements can be made by contacting Daniel Van Schoiack at 541-676-9971 or danielrvan@yahoo.com.

Neighborhood Center accepting donations

The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County is now taking food, clothing and household item donations. Many improvements have been made to make the center more functional and organized, and the community is invited to come and check out the new layout of the store.

The center is open Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The food pantry closes daily at 4 p.m. The center is located at 441 N Main Street in Heppner.

News from Hardman Community Center

On June 5 at 9 a.m., a small group of volunteers met to work on the dining room ceiling of the Hardman Community Center. Bob Allen and his boys had cleaned out the attic over Memorial Day and tore out the old(est) ceiling, and Scott Smythe had been able to get in during the week and inspect the beams and shoot them with a laser level.

Smythe found the community center had about a two-inch sag in the middle but that some of it was caused by the fact that the stringers put up to hold the previous "new" ceiling weren't actually fully attached to the beams, so the first order of business was to screw all the stringers down tight. Sam Martin Sr. and Smythe got about two-thirds of the way through.

Mel McDaniel and Tom Wilson began prepping the wall—pounding in nails—for the drywall that will go on after the ceiling is finished, and then McDaniel started putting up the plywood on the ceiling. Meanwhile, Bob Allen fixed the water pipe that had broken over the winter under the building, so Sylvia Allen and Claudia Smythe could start cleaning up the kitchen and the pantry—they say they got the countertops and the pantry done with some help from Judy Stevens after lunch.

The group's next workday will be on June 19 beginning at 9 a.m., when they hope to get the rest of the stringers screwed in and the plywood on the ceiling, and the kitchen cupboards cleaned out, relined and everything washed and stored

in totes so they don't have to rewash every item every year. Other tentative workdays this summer are: July 10, August 7 and Sept. 11.

At 1 p.m., everyone took a break for a pot-luck lunch. There were not enough members present for a quorum, so elections were postponed until the next meeting, but a moment of silence was held for Rhonda Wright, who passed away this winter and was largely responsible for getting the hall listed on the National Register. Bob Allen gave an accounting of the donations taken in over Memorial Day—the hall was open whenever someone was working in it—and reported that they sold quite a few t-shirts and hats.

Claudia Smythe gave the treasurer's report and an update on the projects that had been slated for 2015.

Four projects were completed—wainscoting, photo retagging, history book digitized and outside handicap access.

Seven are in progress or pending approval—ceiling trusses, the bar, purchase of a printer, upstairs cleaning, installing drywall in the dining wall, the ceiling and donation of books for genealogical research.

Nine have not been started or are not feasible at this time—of those, two to four may be doable this year depending on time—the railroad hutch redone, photo digitization, labeling and photographing the antiques, and painting the handicap door.

Andrea Shaw, the professional grant writer who is donating her time to the Community Center, was



Mel McDaniel gets going on the ceiling in Hardman Community Center. -Contributed photo

present and said that she had applied for 32 grants and that seven are still pending. She would also like to start a GoFundMe campaign, but will need a quorum of the board to proceed, meeting time TBA. No other specific information on grants or the campaign is available at this time.

The west end residing cannot be completed without a large, nonmatching grant, as the group does not have the manpower (they say their workforce isn't getting any younger), the time (for those few who are able to scramble around on scaffolding) or the funds. They say they expect it will be a long process to find a grant that fits.

The next general meeting has not been set at this time. It has been suggested for the evening of June 19 at 5 p.m. and will include a remembrance for our local saddle maker. Members may send dues to Hardman Community Center, c/o Claudia Jo Huston Smythe, Secretary, 48284 Hwy 207 S, Heppner, OR 97836 or they can be paid at the next meeting.

In other news, Rick McDaniel finished the bottom of the bar over the winter and Claudia Smythe stained it over Memorial Day. It can't be sealed until they get a more dust-free environment. Also, there are still a couple of pieces of trim that cannot be matched with their current technology, but members say they think they are close enough to call



Before and after the bar renovation. -Contributed photo

it five projects completed. Mel McDaniel found the back bar in his shop in the old store at Hardman and has it in the saddle shop.

Correction on farm worker housing story

In a story about a proposed new farm worker housing development planned near Boardman, and printed in last week's Heppner Gazette-Times, it was incorrectly stated that the planning commission at its last meeting approved a zone change for the project. This was incorrect. The planning department recommended approval of the zone change; however, the planning commission did not approve it at that time, but instead held over its decision until its June 28 meeting.

The decision to hold over was based on a request from a member of the public who attended the hearing and asked that the record be held open for additional time, in order to submit more information. The planning commission will meet Tuesday, June 28, at 7 p.m. at the Bartholomew

Building in Heppner, at which time it is expected to make its decision on the rezoning. At this hearing no new written or oral testimony will be accepted and the planning commission will deliberate and then make a recommendation to the county court.

The zone change from Space Age Industrial to Exclusive Farm Use is being requested in order to clear the way for a proposed new housing development planned for construction on Tower Road near Boardman and capable of handling between 200 and 800 seasonal farm workers. The new housing project, which will consist of 36 three-bedroom units, is to be built on 66 acres currently owned by the City of Boardman but that is being sold to nearby Threemile Farms.

"Threemile Farms is looking to increase the use

of organic farming practices," the application said about the project. "Organic farming is a much more labor intensive process and requires the use of a larger workforce." The documents also stated that Threemile plans to use the Farm Worker H-2A Visa Program to employ the additional 200-800 workers on a season basis.

Application for actual construction of the hous-

ing project has not been dealt with by the Morrow County Planning Commission; however, the rezoning would clear the way for the project since farm worker housing is an allowed use in an agricultural zone. Also part of the application is a request to extend sewage lines from a nearby Port of Morrow sewage treatment lagoon system across Tower Road, to serve the new housing project.

Middle schoolers invited to free summer tech camp

PENDLETON—Middle school students—looking for something fun to do this summer?

The InterMountain ESD is offering a free summer technology camp for middle school students from June 20-24. The purpose is to offer fun activities centered around technology. The camp is Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Sunrise Middle School in Pendleton, but is open to students in Morrow, Umatilla and Union counties. There is adult supervision

all day and lunch is included every day—and it's free. The camp is for students who are finishing sixth, seventh or eighth grade during this past 2015-2016 school year.

Transportation is being organized so students will be able to travel to Pendleton through free bussing from Boardman (stops at Umatilla High School and Stanfield High School).

For more information and to register, please visit <http://step.imesd.org> or the IMESD website at www.imesd.k12.or.us.

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BURNING BAN

Effective June 15, 2016, the Fire Chief of the City of Heppner is imposing a CLOSED SEASON for open burning based on local fire safety concerns.

This burning ban is for the City of Heppner. A reminder that open burning also includes a "burn barrel."

The closed season will remain in effect until further notice this fall as per ORS 478.960.