MCSD introduces new online school-at-home program

HEPPNER—The Morrow County School District has announced its new online school-at-home program available to all students in MCSD. Families may choose from one the many pre-approved curriculums. The district offers a combination of at-home classes and elective classes on campus, providing a good fit for some students.

An informational meeting to explain the program is scheduled in Heppner Monday, June 5, at 6 p.m. in the Heppner High School library. Meetings also are planned for Irrigon June 7 and Boardman June 8; both of those meetings will also be at 6 p.m. in their respective high school libraries.

Welcome to Heppner signs restoration done

A successful cooperative effort by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op (CBEC), Willow Creek Valley Economic Develop Group (WCVEDG) and Seth Moses Roofing resulted in the Welcome to Heppner signs east and south of town being rehabilitated and reinstated last week.

Seth Moses and his employees worked to restore the signs to mint condition. Funding for the work came from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone community enhancement fund and was distributed through a WCVEDG grant. The local match for the grant was provided by CBEC in the form of moving the signs to Seth Moses's shop and reinstalling them when the restoration was completed.

Sheriff's Report

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-A female in Irrigon reported to MCSO that another female spent money on her debit card, which she has since given back, and stole items and stashed them in her room.

-A female in Irrigon advised that an 11-year-old juvenile was confiding in her son his will to harm himself.

- An RP reported a retired deputy advised someone was going to hurt someone tonight at the Shell station. Unkown which shell station. MCSO made contact with male subject.

-MCSO was advised of a male in Irrigon assaulting a female; he pushed her down and took her purse. MCSO made contact with male but was unable to locate the female.

March 3: -RP in Lexington advised Morrow County Sheriff's Office that she noticed there was damage to her vehicle the day before. She believes it happened at either the hospital or in Biggs but she didn't know. Requested a deputy to come out so she could make a report.

- Sarah Mae Cook was arrested by Umatilla County Sheriff's Office on a parole and probation detainer for failure to report.

-A male on Hwy. 206 toward Condon reported that a package was stolen out of his mailbox at the intersection. The USPS worker that delivers their mail verified that she did deliver the package.

-MCSO reported that Clackamas Co. Sheriff's Office was requesting a warrant service attempt at a last known address in Irrigon for Ufernia Vanessa Lomas, 33, for Parole Violation/Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Assault IV.

-MCSO was advised that a cow dog had been hit on Hwy. 74/Ella Rd., bleeding from both eyes, thinks he fell out of a pickup.

-An RP in Irrigon stated that a large dog attacked the horse that the two children she was with were on it and the children went flying off the horse. The RP was bitten as well and it drew blood. She advised the dog belonged to a family on the corner, it had a harness on it. RP advised she was outside the residence of the dog owners.

-MCSO received a request for contact regarding an ongoing issue with juveniles "doing things" at the city park.

-An RP in Irrigon reported that she had been getting harassed on Facebook and once in person. RP advised the subject had been saying rude things and calling her names; she stated it started because they bloke up. RP requested contact in person.

-An RP in Boardman reported a burglary had just happened at her mom's friend's house. Boardman PD responded, arrested two and lodged them at Umatilla County Jail, and released one on their own recognizance.

-MCSO received report of someone possibly squatting in a fifth-wheel in Boardman.

March 5: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a criminal mischief complaint for Heppner City park; RP advised that the city park bathroom is really dirty and there were feces everywhere.

-An RP at Blakes Ranch, Heppner advised there was a foot of snow blocking the road and requested to be put in contact with road department.

-A person in Irrigon requested contact regarding a bike near an abandoned house on the corner.

Odd Fellows perform cemetery clean-up

A true Odd Fellow, Dan Brosnan, hard at work. -*Contributed photo*

On a sunny and hot May afternoon and evening, eight members of Willow Lodge #66 of the I.O.O.F. (Heppner Odd Fellows) met at the Hardman Cemetery to perform their annual Memorial Day clean-up chore.

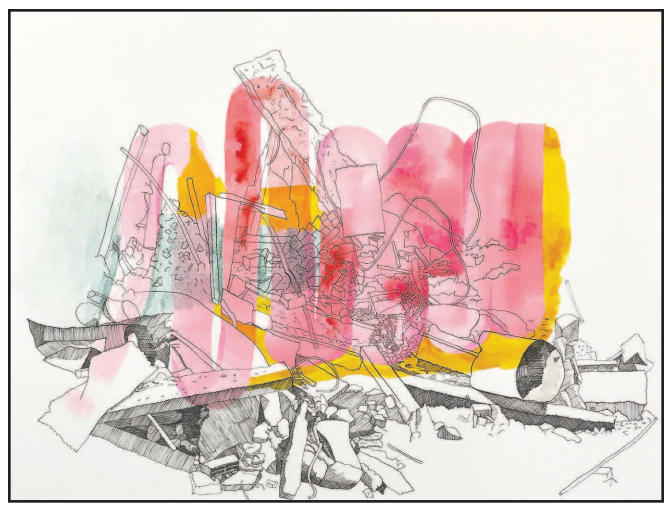
Lawn mowers, weed-eaters and a small tractor buzzed for several hours while the volunteers went about mowing, trimming and cleaning the grounds of the historic cemetery. Members helping were Dan Brosnan, Frank Osmin, David Allstott, Steve Rhea, Seth Moses, Shaun Cowett, Jay Keithley and Tom Wolff. Members donated their own equipment, fuels and time to get the grounds in top shape. Hearty refreshments were served when all the work was completed.

The Hardman Cemetery is under the care and maintenance of Heppner Lodge #66 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has graves dating from 1892 to the present. Several century-old grave stones have very decorative and unusual inscriptions, with many pioneer families interred there.

Art Center East features 'Figments' by Andrew Sykes, a fine-arts exhibit

By Sarah West, Community Outreach Coordinator, Art Center East

Art Center East has announced it will feature "Figments" by Andrew Sykes in the main gallery next month. "Figments" will open with a reception on Friday, June 9, from 6 – 8 p.m. and will be on display through July 28. This exhibition features Sykes's ink and watercolor compositions.



***Dwellings* by Andrew Sykes will be one of the pieces on display in "Figments" at Art Center East in La Grande beginning next week.** -*Contributed*

Andrew Sykes has always been interested in art. As a young child growing up in the small town of Heppner, OR, Sykes studied illustrations in books, exploring technique by copying what he saw. As his drawing practice developed, so did the seed of an idea: some people do this sort of thing for a living. He soon resolved to be an artist when he grew up.

"When I told my parents," Sykes recalled, "they looked at me very concerned."

But Sykes stuck with his interest, starting at Lane Community College in Eugene where he was first introduced to formal art instruction in foundational subjects like basic drawing and color theory. Sykes eventually landed at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting, printmaking and drawing.

Sykes lived in Seattle for a few years after graduating, working in graphic arts and web design while scoring the occasional gallery show, which helped him cobble together funds for more art supplies. He eventually left the big city to return to his home region, taking an opportunity to join his brother in managing the family's Pendleton print shop in 2006. Sykes has lived and worked in Pendleton since then, continuing to make and show his work in regional art centers and galleries.

Andrew Sykes

"The goal is still to be a professional artist," he says.

Instead of drawing from day-to-day life or even conscious imagination, Sykes seeks his inspiration at the margins of his mind—images that come to him in dreams or in a flash of unconscious thought, "Like a slide show." Sykes draws these fleeting, picture-like images from memory; the dreams he condenses into compositions that represent the mood and feeling they left him with.

Two pieces Sykes will exhibit at Arts Center East, *Destroyed City* and *Rebuilding*, explore the creative forces of chaos and order, both as tools for art-making, and for personal and societal development. These pieces were influenced, in part, by the work of Carl Jung, who wrote extensively about the construction and destruction of personal identity through interpreting the unconscious. *Destroyed City* depicts a pile of rubble over which Sykes painted a sine wave of red that reverberates with a curiously hopeful buoyancy, as if expressing the ulterior motive of destruction: to energize the next phase of creation.

"If you want to grow as an artist," Sykes explained, "you have to allow destruction of your habits, your lifestyle, your art." If anything, it's this idea that Sykes would like his viewers to walk away with: that destruction and rebuilding are a constant, daily process in which one individual moment is not the disaster or the triumph, but a part of a more meaningful whole.

Andrew Sykes will exhibit his work at Arts Center East through July 28. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Art Center East is located at 1006 Penn Avenue in La Grande. Hours are Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.artcentereast.org or call 541-624-2800.

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