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Local youth sees brighter future following Challenge **Program**

Joe Jones completes five-month course, receives GED and enlists in Navy



Joe Jones with his graduating class from OYCP (he is holding the flag in front) and with Heppner rancher, Jack Meligan, his mentor throughout the program.

By David Sykes

A couple of years ago was heading down a path all too familiar. He'd dropped from his sister Sibbea and

talking about it (Oregon after more paper work, the National Guard Youth Chal- 18-year-old arrived at the lenge Program, OYCP) a Bend, OR facility in July year or so before I entered," Jones recalls. Located in youth considered "academically at risk," those who are failing in school, not attending, or those who described as non-traditional live-in school that operates like a military academy.

According to the web site, OYCP is guided by military principles of structure and self-discipline, "hands off", tough love, caring and disciplined approach to instill values to train and instruct cadets. earn a high school diploma,

I didn't really want to go to lockers and cleaning their

says. "Then I got interested encouragement and help "My sister first began OYCP?" He said yes and of 2017.

The school and living Bend, and designed for quarters are located on a former military base, and upon arrival he was grouped together with 60 other youth into a platoon. They lived in have dropped out, OYCP is pods together and followed a regimented lifestyle of discipline, cleanliness and school work. In addition to daily inspections of their living quarters, the cadets wear uniforms, are in bed by 9:30 p.m. (taps) and arise with the staff utilizing a (reveille) every morning

Jones says a typical day would go something like this: up at six, get dressed Graduates are eligible to and off to morning colors. Come back, eat (typical a GED or school credits breakfast of eggs, bacon upon completion of the and hot cakes), go back to the living quarters and work "I was skeptical at first, on organization of their

a military school," Jones rooms, then start classes at eight. "We studied math, Heppner youth Joe Jones in what it was." With the English, science, you know the basic stuff," he says. He said the tests were hard and out of high school, lost his mother Liz he filled out the grades strict. Jones says job at the local market and the 20-page application it takes an 80 percent for as he says, "was down on and turned it in. After a a B and 94 percent for an my luck and feeling life was while, however, when he A. He says he scored well pointless." Then he applied didn't hear anything back, earning 100 percent much and entered a program that he "kind of gave up." Then of the time and ended up has begun to turn his life one day they called and number two in testing in asked 'do you want to go to his entire company. During this time the cadets would go to lunch and then at 3:30 it was time for PT (physical training). Then it was dinner at 6 p.m. and back to the living quarters for study time. The students were also assigned various jobs, his being answering the phones in the administration office. They also called their instructors sir

at all times. Another aspect of the school was the community service done in town. He says they spent 90 hours doing jobs like picking up garbage at the parks, directing traffic during community events and other service type jobs. Wearing their uniforms all the time, Jones says towns people would come up and ask him who they were.

During the five-month time he spent in the pro-

> -See CHALLENGE/PAGE THREE

Bank of Eastern Oregon float takes first in Great Green Parade



The Bank of Eastern Oregon's Leprechaun Kisses float took first place in the Merchant category of the 2018 Great Green Parade held Saturday on Main St. in Heppner. Community

District was first in the Irish Floats – Business category. Morrow County Health - Green category was the District took second.

Custom Vehicles category, anne Lindsay family took Morrow County Museum second.

Oregon Trail Library took first. James Bullock was second.

First in the Irish Theme Clan McAllister. Grand In the Antique and Marshal, the Joe and Le-

St. Pat's road bowling winners announced



The first place winner in the road bowling contest was the Bowl Roaders team consisting of Peter Wenberg, Nels Wenberg and Elliott Strouse with a score of 31. The second place team was **Team NO.** – Contributed photo

Anson Fairbank receives donations from play



'Searching for Meaning" cast members chose Anson Fairbank (#ANSONSTRONG) as the recipient of donations from the Fr. Condon play this year. Anson, a two year old suffering from leukemia, is the grandson of Jim and Monica Swanson of Ione. Additional donations for Anson may be made at Columbia Bank. Pictured is Sheridan Tarnasky presenting the \$1,040 collected from donations at the play to Anson's grandmother, Monica Swanson. -Contributed photo.

Local scholarships now open

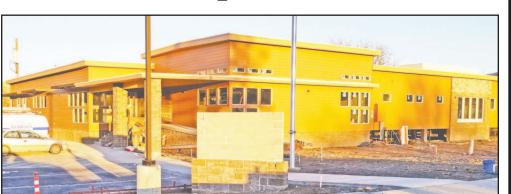
The South Morrow County Scholarship Committee will accept scholarship applications from Mar. 1 through 4 p.m. on Apr. 5. In Heppner, they may be turned into Ginger Bowman at Heppner High School and in Ione, Cathy McCabe at Ione High School or a counselor.

Criteria for a South Morrow County scholarship is as follows: the committee will award scholarships to a college-bound Heppner High School or Ione High School senior based on academic achievement, community involvement and financial need. Students must be continuing their education at a community college, trade school or four-year college or university. Applications will be accepted and awarded by the South Morrow County Scholarship Inc., board of directors using their "common local scholarship application" and must include a transcript and principal/ counselor evaluation form.

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust Committee, on behalf of the Del LaRue family, will accept scholarship applications from Mar. 1 through 4 p.m. on Apr. 5. Completed applications may be turned into Cathy McCabe..

The Coach Del LaRue Scholarship criteria is as follows: the Coach Del LaRue scholarship was developed in memory of Del LaRue, a long-time teacher and coach at Ione High School. LaRue had a passion for coaching basketball and track and loved seeing students set and achieve their goals. After retiring from teaching, he continued to coach track for 12 additional years. During this time he helped many student athletes achieve -See SCHOLARSHIPS/PAGE

Community Counseling Solutions to open March 21



The new building location for Community Counseling Solutions is scheduled to open for business on March 21. The open house is will be held on April 2 from noon to 2 p.m. It was previously reported in the G-T that they would not be moving until June. The editor apolo-

gizes for this error.

