

CHALLENGE

-Continued from PAGE ONE

gram Jones did get breaks to see his family, but cell phones were not allowed. The staff would allow some television only if it was school related. "It seemed like a prison when I first got there, but I got used to it," he says of the rules and discipline. No one is forced to stay and can quit if they want. He says out of the 60 who started in his platoon, 46 ended up graduating on December 13, 2017.

Before Jones was accepted into the program he was required to have a mentor to correspond with the young person and help them through the process. Joe Jones grandparents, Dick and Sharon, asked their friend, Heppner rancher Jack Meligan, if he would be Joe's mentor. Jack gladly agreed, filled out his mentor application, attended a day of mentor training and went on to write letters, encourage and help Joe through the program. "I was very impressed with this and I would recommend it to anyone who is not sure what to do (about the direction of their life)," Meligan said. "It has been a real pleasure being his mentor and I am impressed with this young man and confident he will do well." Jack says he noticed a marked improvement in Joe's self-esteem when he went through the program. "They teach work ethic, organization and respect," Meligan points out.

The OYCP program is broken up in to two phases,

the 22-week residential phase, which Joe has completed, and then a 12-month active period when the cadets return to the community to implement goals, objectives, placement and post-residential activities developed while in the residential phase. Examples of placement may be returning to high school, going to college, starting a fulltime job or volunteer work, enlisting in the military, joining Job Corps, or a similar vocational interest.

For Jones he has chosen to enlist in the military and will start Navy boot camp at Great Lakes, IL in May. "I knew I wanted to enlist about a quarter of the way through the program," he says. He scored high, 82, on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, ASVAB, and says he wants to be an aviation diesel mechanic. His enlistment is four year active and four year inactive duty. Since he did not graduate from high school, dropping out when he was a sophomore, Jones had to get his GED first, before he could be accepted into the Navy, which he did.

On the time and effort he has put into the OYCP program, Jones has good things to say. "It was difficult and there were lots of challenges. I enjoyed the team work. It is one of the best things I have done in my life," he says. And quoting his platoon leader: "Pain is temporary. Pride is forever."

Heppner Ranger District offers summer job opportunities for local youth



Students retrieve fish while working a previous summer

The Heppner Ranger District is recruiting four students between the ages of 15 and 18 for summer employment in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Work can include noxious weed removal, fence removal and construction, trail maintenance, meadow restoration, campground

maintenance, slash piling, removal of tubing from tree seedlings and fire line construction around logged units on the Heppner Ranger District.

The program will last eight weeks beginning June 18. Youth are paid the Oregon minimum wage rate of \$10.25 per hour. No previ-

Chamber announcements and events

Starting Sunday, Mar. 18, 5:30-7 p.m., a 10-week class on Love and Respect sponsored by Heppner Christian Church. This class is entitled The Love she Most Desires and the Respect he Desperately Needs. The class will include videos, a book and supportive interaction. Cost is \$10 for the book and childcare will be provided (those needing childcare are asked to sign up prior to the class to ensure that there is enough help). For more information or to sign up for the class or arrange for childcare, please call Ray at 831-578-6451.

Friday, Mar. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., WorkZone Traffic Control/Flagger Course. This course is for

construction, utilities, tree trimmers, tow truck drivers, etc. and includes instruction and all reference books for the class. Upon successful passage of the exam, students will receive a flagger card, valid for three years from date of issue without renewal. The card is good in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. This course will be held at BMCC Higher Education Center in Hermiston and the cost is \$115 to register and the deadline is Mar. 19. To register or for additional information call 541-481-2099 or email amorter@bluecc.edu.

Friday, Mar. 9 – Friday, Apr. 13, Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group offers a grant for

Community and Public Enhancements for south Morrow County communities. The applicant organization must be a local organization, club, special district or a governmental entity who resides in the south Morrow County service area; must have at least a 50 percent match (may include in-kind and cash contributions from local and regional sources) for the total project budget committed before applying. Contact the Heppner Chamber to receive a grant application and eligibility and exclusions information sheet at 541-676-5536 or via email at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. All grants must be received by the Chamber office, no later than Friday, Apr. 13.

Monday, Apr. 2 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., ribbon cutting and open house for Community Counseling Solutions new building at 550 W Sperry St. Appetizers will be provided.

Saturday, Apr. 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Free Household Hazardous Waste Event at the North Morrow Transfer Station, 69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman. For more information, please call Morrow County Public Works at 541-989-9500 or email spointer@co.morrow.or.us.

Heppner Public Library is offering Drop In Teen Time on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at 6 p.m. Contact the Heppner Library at 541-676-9964 for more information.

Friends Helping Friends announces St. Paddy's Festival door prize winners

Friends Helping Friends has announced the door prizes, their sponsors and winners for the Friends Helping Friends Remembrance Event held during the 2018 Heppner St. Patrick's Festival.

The winners were chosen from random drawings from those who pre-registered and those that paid the morning of the event, said organizers.

-ECCO shoe passes from Evan Weygandt \$250 value: (two passes) Theresa Crawford and Jim Kenny
-\$25 Sinclair gift cards:

(two cards) Barb Watkins and Jean Mary Healy
-Pendleton Whisky: Curtis Cutsforth
-Peggy Fishburn's St. Patrick's basket: Shirley Connor
-\$100 Hamley's Steakhouse gift certificate: Peggy Fishburn
-\$25 Circle K gift card (Devin Oil – two cards): Peggy Connor and Cyde and Rusty Estes
-\$25 2 Old Hags Pizzeria gift certificate: Jessica

Kempken
-Starbucks gift card from Barb Watkins: Cathy Halvorsen
-\$25 Bucknum's certificate: Ben Price and Heather Hendricks
-Breaking Coffee Grounds gift card: (two cards) JoyceKay Hollomon and Janice Bothum, FHFriends
-Arbonne Sports and Nutrition package from Jan Huddleston: Jessica Britt
-Roden \$70 gift pack-

age by Stephanie Hodges: Kelly Boyer
-Friends Helping Friends gift: Veronica Foley
-Wildhorse Resort & Casino package: Adam Doherty
-Irv and Millie's Mead basket donated by Chris and Cathy Rauch: David Gunderson
-Nerf basketball sets donated by Mary Hague-wood: Keller Sweeney and Healy Hisler

Irrigon awarded grant for sewer system improvements

The city of Irrigon has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant from HUD through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This grant was awarded for improving the sewer system by fixing a large portion of an outdated and failing system.

According to Mayor Daren Strong, the city has diligently been working to secure funds for conversions to the system since the summer of 2014. Irrigon has been under a Mutual Agreement Order (MAO) for multiple years and has continued to fail with per-

mit requirements. The city has until December 2020 to be fully compliant, otherwise large fines will be administered.

This \$2.5 million grant must be matched by the city's portion of \$1.395 million for a conversion project total of \$3.895 million.

The project is to convert approximately 147 properties that have effluent sewer system (green sewer tanks) over to the standard conventional system and paving the various roads in the areas where the conversions will take place.

It is estimated that the

project will start soon after June 1, 2018, beginning with an engineer designing the project, with bidding to take place in the fall of 2019, construction to start around January 1, 2020, and completion in the summer of 2020. The plan calls for compliance with regulatory standards and requirements by December 2020.

For more details regarding the project or to view the grant application or facility plan, please contact City Manager Aaron Palmquist at 541-922-3047 or manager@ci.irrigon.or.us

April Chamber meeting scheduled

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be held at noon on Thursday, Apr. 5, in the Heppner City Hall conference room. This meeting will be all entities reports.

Cost of lunch is \$10

and Gateway Café will be catering the lunch, serving chicken alfredo pasta, garden fresh salad, a dinner roll and a cookie. RSVPs are required no later than Apr. 2.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with

disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536.

IT'S TIME !!!

COME IN TO HEPPNER LES SCHWAB TODAY TO HAVE YOUR STUDDED TIRES REMOVED!

STUDS MUST BE REMOVED BY MARCH 31!