

Orem Receives Oregon Wheat scholarship



Madison Orem

Ione FFA Chapter President Madison Orem has been awarded an Oregon Wheat Foundation Scholarship. Orem is one of 12 recipients state-wide.

Annually, up to 12 scholarships of \$1,500 each are awarded to graduating high school seniors who are the children of grower members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, or whose parents are employed by a grower member of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. The scholarship is also open to students who have worked summers for grower members. Scholarship recipients are selected based on school and community involvement, scholastic performance, and an essay on the wheat industry.

After graduating from high school, Orem plans on attending a four-year land-grant university to earn a degree in animal science and pursue veterinary school.

"I have always been

passionate about the livestock industry and would like to find ways to improve it," said Orem. "The most important thing to me is that I am doing something I am passionate about and working to help the agricultural industry."

"This scholarship program allows Oregon Wheat to invest in the future of our state and industry," said Tom Winn, chair of the Foundation. "We congratulate all of the scholarship recipients and thank the generous donors who allow this program to continue to grow and make a difference in the lives of young people."

The Oregon Wheat Foundation was formed in 1980 to raise funds for specific projects, including the annual scholarship program. The mission of The Oregon Wheat Commission and the Oregon Wheat Growers League is to cooperate to enhance the profitability of Oregon wheat growers by communicating with and educating ourselves and the public; assuring markets; and conducting and stimulating research. OWGL will be politically proactive and work to strengthen our organizations and our industry. For more information go to www.owgl.com.

County parks committee to meet March 7

Morrow County Parks Committee will hold a regular meeting Tuesday, March 7, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Public Works Department, 365 West Highway 74, Lexington.

Agenda items will include committee member seats, park host applications, and park projects and updates.

The meeting is open to the public.

Creative Care Preschool to host bunco fundraiser

Creative Care Preschool in Ione is hosting a bunco night fundraiser on March 10 at 6 p.m. at Ione Legion Hall. Cost is \$20 per player, and light snacks will be served. Numerous prizes will be awarded and raffled throughout the night from generous donations from the community.

Creative Care Preschool is a private preschool that operates during the school year for three- to four-year-olds. Head teacher Stephanie McElligott and

assistant teacher Crystal Gilbert have had a busy year teaching a curriculum of Zoophonics, math, taking trips to Ione Public Library, visiting Krebs Sheep Company to see lambing, creating and playing.

Creative Care Preschool is held at Ione Community School; however, it continues to be a private preschool. Fundraisers like this help support curriculum, snacks, projects and trips for Creative Care Preschool students.

Trivia night returns during St. Paddy's celebration

The Heppner Day Care will host a trivia night during the St. Patrick's Celebration this year.

Formerly known as Mr. Bill's Trivia, the trivia will be by Two Dads Tippy Trivia of Hermiston. It will be held at the Gilliam & Bisbee building on Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m., with an option of dinner service for \$5 starting at 6:30. A no-host bar will be provided by Bucknum's Bar & Grill.

Entry fees are \$150 per team. All funds raised directly benefit the daycare.

Trivia will include a wide variety of topics, including St. Patrick's Day questions. Teams of six can preregister or sign up

on the day of the event. Preregistration forms can be found on the Heppner Day Care Facebook page or by contacting Heppner Day Care at 541-676-5429.

Community members who don't sign up for a team are welcome to join in the fun as spectators.

Heppner Day Care is a non-profit, fully licensed and community-based organization specializing in quality care for children three to eight years old, including preschool for children three to five years old. The facilities are located in Heppner and have been serving Morrow County families for more than 30 years.

Oregon potato growers donate 18 tons of potatoes to food drive

Oregon's potato growers donated 36,000 pounds of potatoes—or 18 tons—to the annual Capitol Food Drive recently.

"Oregon's potato growers play a very important role in Oregon's agriculture economy. I am so grateful to the farmers who came together to make this significant donation to Oregon's families in need," said Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena).

Oregon potato growers have made a similar sized donation to the annual food drive at Oregon's Capitol building every year in recent memory. The food drive is an important opportunity each year for legislators and those working in the Capitol to support those experiencing food insecurity—and provides an opportunity for friendly competition as the House and Senate compete for who can secure the most donations.

"This substantial contribution from Oregon's potato growers speaks to how integral a part of both our economy and our community these farmers are," said Hansell. "Thank you to those farmers who were willing to donate their potatoes. We are grateful for your contribution to fighting food insecurity in our state."

Oregon is the fourth highest producing state in

the country when it comes to potato production. In 2020, the 2.7 billion pounds of potatoes grown in Oregon resulted in nearly 217 million dollars in value at the farm gate and an estimated \$571 million in economic value to the state after packing and processing.

More than 7,000 Oregon full time equivalent jobs are the direct or indirect result of Oregon's potato industry.

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Heppner, Oregon

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March 17-19, 2023

For more information contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce:

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