

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan



She did it again! Ali Ball, granddaughter of Diana Ball, was named "Student Athlete of the Week" two weeks ago at Whitworth University in Spokane. Ali has earned this honor before, and she continues running for the school, now on outdoor tracks. Ali, a senior at Whitworth, is the daughter of Duane and Stephanie

Judging by last week's *GT*, our area seems a hot spot for young thespians right now, and today is not too late to enjoy. Ione's Drama Club is staging a mystery comedy this evening, Thursday, at 6:30. They first performed the production last evening. Tickets are only \$5. Also today, at 2 and 7 PM, in their first-ever stage experience, the HES 6th grade will present the comedy "Disorder in the Court," at no charge to the audience. The timing of the two seems to enable attendance at both for everyone who wants to enjoy a double opportunity to laugh and to witness stage talent.

The Northwest Chorale and Ensemble performed for an audience of approximately sixty last Sunday, first with the twelve movements of Vivaldi's Latin "Gloria," followed by four contemporary, inspirational selections. The performers, Conductor Lee Friese explained, range in age from twelve to 80's. The youngest audience members, in the front row, ranging in age from twelve to only months, Ryder, Alana, William, and Theodore Spinden, came with their mother from Hermiston for the concert. Their father, Josh, was one of the baritone voices, and their mother, Brienne, plays with the full Northwest Orchestra. William and Theodore let the music lull them to sleep, but older siblings showed rapt attention. Maybe concert music is in their future?

Carolyn Willey is pleased to report that after some recovery time with Keith and Sharon Lewis, she has now returned to her home.

Apropos to this week, we hear from Irishman Dennis O'Donnell: Wife to husband: "Will you stop yawning when I'm talking to you?" Husband: "I'm not yawning, I'm trying to say something." And "My neighbor just yelled at her kids so loudly that even I brushed my teeth and went to bed!" One last one, "I'm not going outside until the temperature is above my age."

And supposedly Irish online, rated "G": "How come you can never borrow a few quid from a leprechaun?" "Because they are always a little short."

Who else, on Sunday – maybe more than once – checked a clock or watch for the time and then thought, "Yeah, but it is really only..." (one hour earlier)?

When you see or hear something that makes you smile or laugh or feel especially good, you can share that with *GT* readers quickly by sending a few words to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or calling 541-223-1490.

Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

'Street Games' back for another year

Street Games have become very popular and are back again this year prior to the Great Green Parade. Put a team of four together or participate as an individual in this year's fun and entertainment! All Street Games are free!

The **Welly Toss** will be held on Willow Street between Murray's and Serendipity Designs and will start at 9:30 a.m. All ages are welcome to participate (from young to old). Put a team of 4 together or throw as an individual. Prizes will be awarded for the first 2 teams, best score for Individual Man and Woman and \$1 Gold Coin will be handed out for other individual participants. Winners will be announced during the Great Green Parade.

The **Leprechaun Run** is for Grades K-6 and starts at 11 a.m. All participants will meet at the Heppner Library and run up Main Street to the Shamrock where they will receive a \$1 Gold coin.

The **Bed Race** will involve teams of four and

will start at 11:15 a.m., after the Leprechaun Run is finished. Pick up a form up at the Information Booth and bring it with you or get one from the organizer and meet by the shamrock at 11:00 to get ready to race! The race will start at the Shamrock, going around the barrels at Les Schwab and returning to the Shamrock. Prizes awarded for 1st and 2nd place finishers.

The **O'Planky Race** will involve teams of four and will follow the Bed Races around 11:30 a.m. Pick up a form at the Information Booth or get one up from the organizers and meet by the Shamrock at 11:20 a.m. to get ready to race. The race will start at the Shamrock to the chalk mark by the driveway into Heppner Market Fresh and back to the Shamrock. Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place finishers.

Whether you choose to compete or cheer on your favorite team, make sure you come and watch. Rest assured that fun will be had by all!

Blue Mountains National Forests to Host Public Meetings April 2nd in Heppner

PENDLETON, Ore. The Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman (Blue Mountains) National Forests are providing an opportunity for the public to participate in public meetings through the month of April 2024. The Blue Mountains National Forests are in the process of revising the Land Management Plans (Forest Plans), which provide the overall strategic management direction

and guidance for the Blue Mountains National Forests. Revising these Forest Plans represents a commitment to managing productive and sustainable forests for the American people. April 2, 2024 Umatilla National Forest – Gilliam & Bisbee Event Center 106 E May St. Heppner. 5-8 pm with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. The meetings will be in person or virtual.

Gutridge signs for the Beavers



Kallen Gutridge in his Beavers uniform. -Photo Contributed

Wilsonville High School senior, Kallen Gutridge, has solidified his future as he signed a full ride scholarship to Oregon State University for football. The talented quarterback put pen to paper in December, securing his spot on the Beavers' team for the next four years. With aspirations to major in Business, Gutridge aims to balance his passion for football with his entrepreneurial dreams of owning his own business someday.

Gutridge's athletic prowess has not gone unnoticed, as he received enticing offers from various other schools. North Dakota expressed interest in recruiting Gutridge for basketball, while the Air Force and Connecticut made their pitches for his football skills. Ultimately, it was Oregon State that won Gutridge's heart, offering him the perfect opportunity to continue playing the sport he loves while pursuing his academic goals.

Growing up, sports were an integral part of Gutridge's life. He fondly reminisces his childhood filled with hours spent on the football and basketball court. Eager to continue his basketball journey in college, Gutridge hopes that his coaches at Oregon State will support his ambition to participate in both sports. The Gutridge family has a history deeply rooted in sports. His mother Jennifer Currin Gutridge played basketball at North Idaho

University. And his father Shane, played basketball as well at Blue Mountain Community College. Currently the Currin's are nominated to be this year's Grand Marshals for the annual St. Patrick's parade and festivities in Heppner. As Gutridge embarks on this new chapter of his life, he is grateful for the opportunities that lie ahead. His dream of playing football at the collegiate level is finally coming true, but he also understands the importance of education and looks forward to the academic challenges that await him at Oregon State University. With his sights set on a future in Business and an unwavering love for football, Gutridge stands poised to make a lasting impact both on and off the field. As he steps onto the turf wearing the Beavers' colors, it is clear that his journey is just beginning, and the Wilsonville community eagerly awaits to see what this talented young athlete will achieve.

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PINEGATE RENEWABLES

Sunstone Solar Open Houses

You're invited to open houses to learn more about the Sunstone Solar Project, ask questions and provide feedback. Information provided at open houses will be identical, so please attend the event that is most convenient for you.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Gillian & Bisbee Building
Event Center and Suites
 106 E. May Street
 Heppner, OR 97836

Thursday, March 14, 2024
 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The SAGE Center
 101 Olson Road
 Boardman, OR 97818

Sunstone Solar, LLC, a subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, LLC, is planning to develop the Sunstone Solar Project (Project). The Project is an up to 1,200-megawatt solar energy generation facility, an optional 7,200-megawatt hour battery energy storage system, and associated facilities. Construction will occur in six phases of approximately 200 MW each, expected to begin in April 2026 and be complete by February 2030.

Questions?
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