

TRIP:
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students from 8th to 12th grade who wanted to go on the trip, but students had to find ways to finance their own travels. Some parents helped out with fundraisers at local sporting events and activities.

Jared and Jenny Stanger, two siblings from Irrigon, are both percussionists with the band, and will both be traveling to Hawaii.

"It's pretty exciting," Jenny said. "For my senior year, it's cool to get to do something like this."

The trip will also allow students to learn from their peers.

"We're going to play with other groups, and listen to other groups play as well," Jenny said.

"We've been rehearsing since the end of last school year," Jared said.

A couple of years ago, some of the schools took a spring break music trip to Disneyland. But for many of the students, the trip will be a chance to try something completely new — whether interacting with people from a new culture, or traveling this far away from home.

"I've never done this before," said Yanira Garcia, a senior choir student from Ione Community School. "I'm really excited."

The students will be touching on some new material, including a song in French for which they said they're still unsure of

pronunciation. But they'll get to sing some old favorites, as well.

"We're singing 'Pure Imagination,' from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," said Colton Hollis, an Ione Community School senior.

"I'm nervous," said senior Julia Fernandez, a choir student from Echo. "I've never been on a plane before. But I'm excited about the different cultures we'll get to see."

Some of the time will be structured, but students will get some time to explore the island and enjoy their spring break, as well.

"We'll sing five songs in front of an adjudicator, and three with the mass choir," said Natalie Sherman, a junior choir student from Echo.

Janna Frazier, the choir teacher at Echo, said it has taken a lot of preparation to get ready for the trip.

"We're doing contemporary, gospel, and some modern rock," she said. "And then we'll have a few mass choir songs."

Bryan Bates, the Ione band and choir director, said his students will learn a march by John Philip Souza, a song called "Carnival," and a couple of ballads.

"It's all very contemporary," he said. "We won't really be playing any classical music."

The students prepared for their big trip, which starts March 24, with a performance for parents and friends Friday afternoon.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deadline looms for economic grants

The application deadline for community and economic development grants, which are made possible by Oregon Lottery ticket sales, are soon due.

Managed by Umatilla County Community and Economic Development, the applications must be received by commissioner Bill Elfering by Monday, March 27. The review committee will consider the applications Wednesday, March 29.

Money is utilized to stimulate economic development, promote tourism and support community development in Umatilla County communities. The Community Development grants are focused on projects that enhance a community rather than simply be-

ing a donation sponsoring an event, cause or activity. The result is that something of tangible, lasting value remains in the community beyond the end of the project.

An application and more details are available at www.co.umatilla.or.us/BCC/grants.html. For more information, call Elfering at 541-278-6204.

Baby, toddler program encourages learning

A program to support early literacy development is offered at the Hermiston Public Library.

Baby & Me Learn & Play is each Wednesday at 10 a.m. It's designed for newborns and toddlers up to 4 years old and their parents. Those attending need to enter through the library's back door, 235

E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

The program engages youngsters, gets them excited about music and works on improving fine and gross motor skills. There is no fee to participate.

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

Echo car show seeks sponsors

The ACE Car Club of Echo High School is preparing for its annual Memorial Day weekend car show in downtown Echo, and is seeking trophy sponsors and raffle donations.

The club was established in 2002 by three ambitious students and Al Olson, the now-retired Echo shop teacher. The club has remained active for 14 years despite the district not having an au-

tomotive program. Due to low student numbers this year, the car show is being coordinated by the Kiwanis Club of Echo.

Proceeds from the show support industrial education at Echo High School, including a new shop and industrial arts facility now in the works.

The show has grown from six cars in 2005 to 168 in 2016. The club is looking for sponsors — amounts from \$25 to \$100 — for the unique and artistic trophies made of old car parts by students and community volunteers. Also, donations of raffle items and for entrants' goody bags are greatly appreciated.

For more information, or to make arrangements for donations or sponsorships, email echo.acecarclub@gmail.com.

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