

Pirate pride — 40 years in the making

I recently returned after embarking on a round-trip encompassing more than 800 miles and 40 years.

Even after getting Round-Up week off, I almost didn't go to my 40-year high school reunion. I woke up the morning of Sept. 12 with a hitch in my giddy-up.

With my back aching, I just couldn't see climbing behind the wheel of my Jeep and driving more than seven hours to visit with people I hadn't seen since my 20-year reunion. However, the tides of Coos Bay were pulling me to my high school home. After soaking in a hot bath, I leisurely packed throughout the day.

The next morning, I zipped up my suitcases and rolled them down the stairs. While preparing for trips in recent years, the bags flying down in a heap has become a sort of tradition. It gets them closer to the door with less effort.

The commotion always gains the attention of the General, my 6-year-old German shepherd. From that point on, he's my shadow — longing to know if he's going to be riding shotgun.

One of the benefits of going to Coos Bay was getting to visit with my folks. My mom dotes on me and my pops refuses to let me pay for anything. Also, my mom loves playing gram-mama to the General, feed-

ing him all kinds of treats — and he eats it up.

My husband — AKA Johnny Crocker — continues to endear himself with my parents. Even though he didn't come on the trip, John sent several of his culinary creations. Dozens of cookies and two pies sufficiently covered morning, afternoon and midnight snacks.

I proudly donned purple and gold before heading to the Friday night mixer. I recognized a number of faces, including Kathy, my graduation walking partner; Sally, who doesn't remember imbibing during "Dimer Nights" when I visited her at Oregon State University; and Marcia, who recently came out as a transgender woman.

A couple of standouts — literally, they were like the Twin Towers — were Dean, a Harvard-trained retired Air Force colonel, looking quite stately; and Les, who, well, was just hot. I got a kink in my neck when talking to them, but it was worth every twinge of pain.

While catching up with fellow Pirates, I made observations to incorporate into my stand-up comedy routine for Saturday night's gathering. It fueled a "Remember When" set, including taking note of Randy's diminished hairline, Roger's former profession in the mortuary business, Ernie's booming radio voice and Marcia being a shoo-in for "most changed."

The continuing camaraderie of the class of 1978 was amazing. After my stand-up set, Pam and Julie

asked for a moment of silence for Jo, who couldn't attend because her son was in a horrible wreck a few days before. Brian called the gesture "beautiful." And, it was.

BJ, who served on the reunion committee, summed it up, "This reunion was everything I wanted it to be. Everyone embracing each other with love, hugs and friendship. No, cliques or drama. Just a lot of respect."

#onceapiratealwaysapirate

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.



Tammy Malgesini, back center, is pictured with several classmates from Marshfield High School during their 40-year reunion, held Sept. 14-16 in Coos Bay.

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LETTER

Football memories from 1952

Just a point of clarification on your six-man football article ("Six-man football debuts," Sept. 6). 1948 was not the last year the sport was played in Oregon. I played for the state championship in 1952. I believe the sport was contested in Oregon until 1959.

I am glad to see the sport return. It was fast and fun, but you had better not miss your tackle in open field because it quite often would result in a score.

Most football rules come into play, but there are some major differences. You must have a visible exchange of the ball behind the scrimmage line after the initial received secures the ball from the center. A first down is secured after 15 yards is gained. All members of the team, excluding the passer, are eligible to receive a pass. A kick after a touchdown is worth 2 points while a run is worth 1 point. A field goal is worth 4 points.

I have long advocated that instructional levels leading to 11 man football would be well served by having kids compete using 6 man rules. Kids would better learn blocking, tackling, kicking and passing skills.

CARLISLE HARRISON
HERMISTON

BTW

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fall fun kicks off Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at **100 N Dupont St., Echo**. Other hours of operation include Tuesday through Thursdays from 2-6 p.m., Fridays from 2-10 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For some extra frightful fun, the **Field of Screams** is open Saturdays (Oct. 13, 20, 27 and Halloween) from 7-9 p.m.

Regular admission is \$10, a day pass and Field of Screams is \$12 and ticketed activities are \$1-\$5. For information about special events and pricing, call 509-528-5808, visit www.echocommaze.com or search Facebook.

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Veg Out, the Hermiston salad shop, announced on their Facebook page that they will be closed this week-end and all next week while they move to a new location, to be announced soon. They are currently located at 319 W Locust Ave. See next

week's *Hermiston Herald* for more information.

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 The **Boardman Quilt Group** is stitching together its 14th annual **Boardman Fall Quilt Show**. There's still time to register entries, including quilts created by exhibitors and heritage family quilts. Prizes will be awarded for people's choice awards and a special youth category.

The show is **Oct. 12-13** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the **Boardman Senior Center**, 100 Tatone St. Admission is \$3, which is good for both days. In addition to displays, the show includes vendors, a pair of raffle quilts and featured quilter **Kathy Morgan**.

Registration for submissions is due Monday, Oct. 1. For details, call **Lila Killingbeck** at 541-571-2576 or **Marie Cornell** at 480-518-2642.

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