

BRIEFS

Special Olympics topic of meeting

Britt Oase, Special Olympics Oregon's new CEO, will be on hand to discuss updates with the program.

Town hall meetings are being held across the state in the wake of the nonprofit organization's financial difficulties reported in the late spring. As a result, they canceled several events, training and activities, including the 2018 Summer Games. Oase will share her vision for Special Olympics' future, as well as work done in the last three months to build a sustainable organization.

The local meeting — encompassing Special Olympics programs in Hermiston-Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, and Baker, Grant and Union counties — is Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 6-8 p.m. at The Salvation Army, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Athletes, their families, coaches and supporters are encouraged to attend.

Special Olympics provides year-round athletic training and sports competitions for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There is no charge for athletes to participate. For more information about the local program, contact Kristi Smalley at 541-567-1546 or smalleys@eotnet.net.

For more about the meeting, contact info@soor.org, 503-248-0600 or visit www.soor.org.

Inland Musicians offers concerts

The 20th anniversary season of the Inland Northwest Musicians opens with a pair of October concerts.

Featuring musicians from Hermiston and beyond, the Inland Northwest Orchestra will perform Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Enterprise Christian Church, 85035 Joseph Highway. Also, the Inland Northwest Chorale will take the stage Saturday, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. at Heppner Elementary School, 235 Stansbury St.

Both concerts are free, but donations are graciously accepted at the door. Receptions will follow each performance.

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians is committed to providing live musical performances to rural audiences. It fosters an atmosphere of encouragement and assists musicians in developing their talent.

Also, as part of the 20th season, a special celebration reunion concert is planned in June 2019, which will include a commissioned orchestral/choral piece. Additional details will be revealed at a future date.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

Gala includes past student writers

Current and past student authors and poets published in the current issue of *Oregon East* will share from their work during the 2018 Oregon East Gala.

The event is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The event serves as a publication party for the new issue of *Oregon East*, a yearly student-run art and literary magazine. The event is free and open to the public.

The issue is the final one overseen by Jodi Varon, who retired in June 2018 and served as the faculty advisor since 1988. It features an anthology of student work she and her colleagues shepherded into print during her

30-year tenure at the university.

For more information, contact English professor David Axelrod at 541-962-3633 or daxelrod@eou.edu. For more about the magazine, visit www.eou.edu/oe.

Hospital is collecting backpacks

Community members who have gently used backpacks or want to purchase one to provide to those in need are asked to drop them off at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

The hospital's education department is collecting backpacks to distribute during the Project Community Connect & Veteran Stand Down event Oct. 20 at the Pendleton Recreation Center. The annual event provides free information, personal hygiene supplies and other items for those in attendance. However, backpacks are seldom included in the donations, which makes it hard for many participants to keep or carry items from the event, said Jaime Crowell, a community health educator at Good Shepherd Health Care System.

Donations need to be dropped off by Thursday, Oct. 18 at Good Shepherd, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. For more information about donations, call the hospital's education department at 541-667-3502. An article about Project Community Connect/Veterans Stand Down will appear in the Oct. 17 edition of the *Hermiston Herald*.

AAUW hosts Hanford talk

With Umatilla County's close proximity to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, people may be interested in the program at the upcoming meeting of the American Association of University Women.

The public is invited to hear Randy Bradbury, communication manager with the Washington State Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program. He will discuss "Hanford: Myth V. Reality." The event is Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton.

Hanford has been called the "most contaminated site in North America." The site borders the Hanford Reach National Monument on the Columbia River. The presentation will cover some of Hanford's history and provide an update on the progress and challenges of the cleanup efforts, as well as explaining the importance of citizen involvement in the cleanup decisions.

The AAUW works to improve the lives of women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The Pendleton branch is the nearest group. For more information, contact Marlene Krout at 541-276-7596 or mkrout@yahoo.com.

Survivor shares history of polio

A polio survivor will share the history of polio and progress being made for its total eradication.

"Together, We End Polio," which features Joan Toone, is Monday, Oct. 15 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Hermiston School District office board room, 305 S.W. 11th. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes dessert and a donation to PolioPlus. The event is hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Eastern Oregon.

Additional donations will be accepted and will be matched two-to-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. People can pay with cash, check or credit cards.

Festival harvests bountiful fun

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Despite looming clouds and a threat of rain Saturday, a crowd of people flocked to the SAGE Center in Boardman for the Morrow County Harvest Festival.

The event, in its fifth year, showcases the region's produce, local artisans and regionally-produced agricultural goods, as well as offering family-friendly activities. In addition, visitors were invited to view attractions inside the SAGE Center, free of charge.

Michael Hayward held the stem of a pumpkin steady while Lydia Cropp, 3, his girlfriend's daughter, carefully painted it. Alyssa Cropp said not only was it the first time they had been to the event, but also the first time they had visited the SAGE Center.

"She's really impressed with the potatoes," Alyssa said about her daughter.

"She likes everything for about a second," Michael added with a laugh.

Other first-timers to the SAGE Center event were Chris and Brittney Hawkins of Arlington. The couple, who moved to the area about a year ago for Chris' job with GE Renewables, were manning an artisan booth.

While Brittney was hawking candles, soaps, crocheted creations, birdhouses and other re-purposed items made from pallets, Chris was playing an electric cello.

"It seems like a fun farmers' market," Chris said.

Standing next to large bins of potatoes, sweet corn and onions, Wyatt Browne, 12, and Radley Griggs, 10, enthusiastically offered those who passed a bag full of the locally grown produce. Held in conjunction with the festival, Threemile Canyon Farms provided goods for the Fall Harvest



STAFF PHOTOS BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Brian Cook talks to his wife, Karli Cook before she departs for a mule-drawn wagon ride. The Irrigon couple, who own Equine Elegance, offered the rides Saturday during the Morrow County Harvest Festival at the SAGE Center in Boardman.



T & C Flowers & Produce of Boardman offered a variety of goods Saturday during the Morrow County Harvest Festival at the SAGE Center in Boardman.

Bounty For Youth In Agriculture. Money raised from donations will benefit area youths involved in 4-H and FFA in Morrow County.

Familiar faces at the event included Brian and Karli Cook of Equine Elegance. The Irrigon couple brought along half-sisters, Jean and Mary, 9-year-old mules. A steady stream of people of all ages climbed aboard the wagon for rides around the area. Kids especially, Brain said, enjoy interacting with the mules and horses they bring to events.

"We love our animals," Brian said. "We have a partnership — they take care

of us and we take care of them."

Inside the SAGE Center — Sustainable Agriculture and Energy — visitors were offered a unique opportunity to learn about the technology that takes place locally within the Port of Morrow and throughout the region. The interactive visitor's center features hands-on activities and a museum store.

The free event was hosted by the SAGE Center in partnership with chamber of commerces in Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon. Artisans and vendors offered fresh produce and handcrafted items.



FREE HELP WITH MEDICARE

The Hermiston SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) Office has certified volunteers to help with Medicare questions. **FREE** service is available to people with Medicare, (or eligible for Medicare) & their families and caregivers.

One on One Consultations:
SHIBA office located in the Good Shepherd Medical Group Lobby Area.
Call **541-667-3507** to schedule an appointment with a certified SHIBA volunteer

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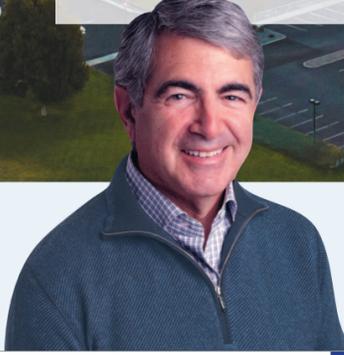
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Hermiston Herald



FIRST ANNUAL Community Meeting



With special guest speaker, Joe Piscatella, author of 16 best-selling books, host of three PBS television specials, a "guest expert" on WebMD, and a member of the NIH Expert Panel on Cardiac Rehabilitation.

Good Shepherd Health Care System cordially invites you to our 1st Annual Community Meeting and Health Fair. Join us for an evening of fun, food, raffle prizes, and most importantly, learn about the positive impact GSHCS is having on the communities they serve.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Hermiston Community Center
415 S. Hwy 395
Hermiston, OR 97838

RSVP 541.667.3509
Or register on Eventbrite at <https://gshcsevent.eventbrite.com>

