

June 2012

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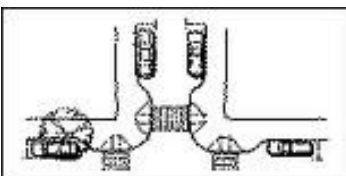
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CYCLES

The combination of the School's A.C.E. Car Show and CROC Cycle Tour was a great hit on May 26. Combined with wine, music, art, Echo Museum Family Day & school burgers, Italian sodas & car wash, it made Echo a bustling place. Locals had a great time, while hundreds of new visitors were able to experience what downtown Echo has to offer.

Downtown Project

Goodfellow Brothers, which was established in Wenatchee in 1921, has been awarded the contract for the Downtown Project. The preconstruction conference is June 5. The company plans to start construction later this month. The schedule will be provided during the conference. The project has been expanded to include new sidewalks with curb



extensions from the east corner of Bonanza west to Main & Front. Vintage-style lighting,

metal benches, planters, and garbage receptacles are also included.

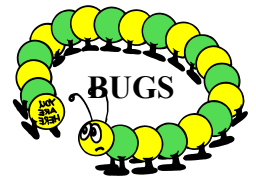
Free Library Programs Kickoff for Summer Reading

The annual Summer Reading Program will kick off this summer with two free programs at city hall. The first is **Tuesday, June 5 at 2 pm**. Christopher Leebrick, an Oregon based Storyteller and award-winning theater artist, will entertain youth and adults with his storytelling..



The second program, **BUGS** is **Friday, June 8 at 10 am** at city hall.

This program is for youth and adults. Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) is the sponsor and Dr. Silvia Rondon & Carol Don from OSU's Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center will make the presentation. Sorry for any confusion regarding the date of the program. LEO originally provided June 9 as the date, but has since corrected this scheduling error.



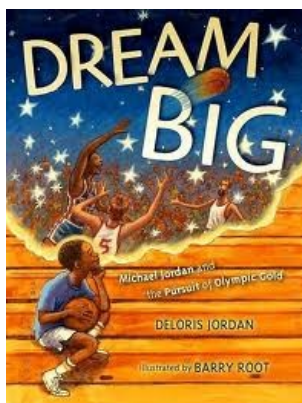
MORE ON LEEBRICK: *From the hills of southern Appalachia to the cowboy country of the Oregon desert, from Edgar Allan Poe to Dr. Seuss, from native Africa to native America, around the world and back again we travel with this teller* (Seattle Storyteller's Guild). *Christopher spins tales in ways that fire the listeners' imagination* (Eugene Register Guard)

For the



second year the Oregon College Savings Plan is offering a free library program for small libraries as part of its partnership with Oregon public libraries on Summer Reading Programs through their *College Savings Sweepstakes*. They will award fifteen \$1,000 Oregon College Savings Plan accounts to summer reading participants all across Oregon and each of the winners' libraries also receives \$500.

More on Summer Reading



The annual Summer Reading Program's 2012 Theme is **Dream Big-Read** (Pre-school through 12 years) & **Own the Night** (teenagers). Registration will start on Tuesday, June 5, but participants can sign up at anytime. Story/Craft time will be Fridays at 11 am. Starting June 15. The program will end July 19 with a closing party.

Awards will be presented at that time.

As well as the two programs listed on page 1, a **Oregon Shadow Theater** Play will be at 4 pm on **Saturday, June 16** at the Masonic Lodge and on **July 23 at 2 pm by Corbin Maxey, the Reptile Man** will be at city hall.

Pre-readers can participate by tracking the number of hours parents or older siblings read to the child. Older children can pick up forms to list books they read. As an incentive for teenagers to participate this year, a Kindle will be awarded for the grand prize. The grand prize for younger children has not been determined yet.

All participants who turn in reading lists will receive a book at the minimum. A book is awarded to each child that signs up for the program between June 5 and June 15.



Teen programs such as a finding **Ghosts at the Library** will be announced later in the month. Check in periodically to see what crafts and programs have been added.

The State provides a \$1000 Ready to Read Grant to help fund this program. As well as covering the cost of professional entertainers, incentives & prizes, the grant provides funding for purchase of theme-related materials. The library has added 42 new titles this year from the theme suggested title list for all age groups such as 1001 Arabian Nights, The Dream Stealer, The Complete Book of Dreams, Dream House, Dream Big Little Pig.

Oregon Shadow Theater

The **Oregon Shadow Theatre (OST)** (June 16, 4 pm), a shadow puppetry company based in Portland will present one of their award-winning shadow plays. They have toured across the USA and Canada, including performances at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. OST productions are noted for exquisite, colorful puppets, live music and sound effects, and lively good humor. Among other honors, OST has twice received the Unima Citation for Excellence in the Art of Puppetry.

Kopacz Nursery & Florist



"Helping Make Echo More Beautiful"

Kopacz Nursery sponsors Echo's Beautification Program each year; Providing plants, labor & green house space for floral displays & donates annuals for public areas.

- Beautiful Bouquets
- Gift Center
- Blooming & Houseplants
- Visit us on Facebook

541-567-3278
465 W. Theater Ln. Hermiston



Library Donations

Patty Cisneros 1 audio book
Jeanne Daly 3 books
Dale Fife historic photos & UP Calendar
Corey & Christine Hewlett 200+ books
Brenna McPherson about 50 children's books
Mary Ann Power 1 book
Judy Webb Puzzles & 2 books
& c. 1907 colorized post card of Echo
Summer Reading Program: Anonymous \$10 cash.

Parks Grant/Project

The city just received another grant at the end of May for the Parks project from the Autzen Foundation for \$5000 for playground equipment/surfacing. This brings a total of \$69,500 in grants and donations for the project which includes a restroom, picnic shelter, tables, playground equipment, life-style stations & new playground surfacing.



The restroom building will arrive in the next few weeks. If you would like to make a donation to the project, you can send it to city hall.

Coleen's A Cut Above

Help Coleen celebrate her 10th anniversary: *"After ten years of Business on Main Street in Historic Echo, I want to say a special "thank you" to all my clients for making A Cut Above a success. Stop by the Week of June 12th for Cookies and festive balloons. Come in the month of June for a service and you will be eligible for a drawing—a spectacular basket of goodies valued at over \$300 including 5 free tans, tanning lotion, shampoo, a hair cut & style, flat*



iron, blow dryer and much more.! My loyal clients, who have helped my business grow over the last 10 years will automatically be entered to win. It has been a rewarding 10 years with wonderful clients, great friends and an awesome community. "

America in Bloom Projects



While the city didn't join the America in

Bloom competition this year because of the number of projects underway from the downtown to park improvements, the efforts to beautify the community have not halted.

The city will still hold the annual Beautification Contest and announce winners at the National Night Out Celebration. Prizes are awarded to winners & a plaque lis

New Echo sign, City Flower (Dahlia) in Park, Chain saw art at Fort Henrietta Park, Floral Displays loaded at Kopacz Nursery.



(**Beautification cont.**) ing them is displayed at city hall each year.

Projects include the downtown improvements, new entry signs, public art, park improvements, enclosure of the park Oregon Trail & Fire Equipment Display, additional rock gardens and many other little projects and of course floral displays.

The Tree City Program continues as well. Projects we would like to add this year is new markers for arbo-



retum trees and decorative fencing for the museum garden. These projects take money. As a result we are soliciting donations Beautification Projects. If you would like to make a donation, to the 2012 Beautification Program or National Night, please send them to city hall at PO Box 9, Echo, OR 97826 or drop them by the office.

TREE CORNER

The last two years we have noticed severe die-back in Flowering Plums. While this is a tree we no longer plant due to the heavy messy fruit production and high maintenance requirements such as removing suckers & pruning, we were concerned that the die-back might be due to disease. Most of the Plums along Thielsen Street have as much as 1/4 of the tree dead. We now believe much of the damage is from late frost damage. This year other trees were also having problems. So when we discovered that City of Irrigon employee Jason Whitbeck is a certified arborist,



we asked for his help. Jason and Public Works Director Keith White volunteered their services to look at our tree problems. We appreciate their help and the exchange of ideas between our cities. While we have not identified the source of all the problems yet, Whitbeck did shed light on the source of one problems: Late Frost Damage. The frost damage can also make the trees susceptible to other diseases and fungi.



If you notice trees that leafed out early- and the new leaves that are coming back are stunted, as well as some of the other problems listed below, you may have trees that have been damaged by the late frost. A good source of information on identification of this problem can be found on a British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range site <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00198/frost.htm>.

Other websites with tree information: Forest Service study looks at relationships between trees, birth weight, crime: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/science/scifi137.pdf>

Forestry publication available online

Oregon's budget has necessitated cuts to a lot of programs – including some in forestry and the Oregon Department of Forestry's flagship publication, "Forests for Oregon" – but the magazine-turned-newsletter is still available online, and it's free. In print since 1930, "Forests for Oregon" was known as "The Forest Log" in its early years. It may be one of the state's longest continuously printed publications. Today, "Forests for Oregon" places its focus on forestry topics of interest to both family forestland owners and the general public.

Published quarterly, the 4-page publication addresses a wide range of forestry-



related topics, including: wildfire prevention and suppression, wildland/urban interface, reforestation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, forest health, urban forestry topics including tree care, a Featured Tree column geared for urbanites, insects and disease, workshops and special events, updates from the state forester. You can find the newsletter at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/PUBS/ffo.shtml>.

Sewer Project Update

Since 2006 the city has been working to bring the wastewater lagoons into compliance with EPA and DEQ standards for discharge into the Umatilla River and to improve the lift station. A Wastewater Study addressing the system needs for the next 20 years was the



first step/. This study recommends options for upgrading the system such as a wetland or

farm land irrigation. It identified costs, amount of land that was needed and analyzed federal funding requirements.

The engineers reported that federal programs such as the HUD Block Grants and Rural Development would require the city to have wastewater rates that equal or exceed the state average. These programs recognize \$50 per month as the average. The \$50 would be reduced by the amount tax payers contribute to wastewater bonds. This might lower the payments by \$1 or 2 per month. The city began implementing a gradual increase in fees to the current \$43 per month. Then when problems arose with getting land for the project and funding, the project stalled until a block grant was received last fall for the engineering portion of the project.

During the preliminary design it became apparent that neither the irrigation nor wetland plans were feasible. Back to the drawing board, the city and engineers decided in

February/March to pursue funding to develop polishing ponds. These would work like additional shallow lagoons. The city would no longer discharge to the river. This will eliminate a great deal of operational overhead, testing and man-hours. The city is currently completing the design, negotiating for land and is hoping to seek funding for development the improvements by fall.

The estimated cost for the project is \$2.5 million. The city hopes to obtain \$2 million in grants and about \$600,000 in loans. As a result of the need to move this project forward, the city is proposing to raise wastewater rates by \$2 per month for residential customers in July. The last increase was 4 years ago.

Rates & Conservation

Water rates are proposed to increase by \$2 per month for residential customers in July. The last increase was 6 years ago

The City is nearing completion of a comprehensive Water Study. Part of the study is a water conservation plan required by the state Water Resource Department. The city will be sending out information annually with tips on water conservation. Starting with this article.

100 Tips for water conservation: [http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php100 Ways To Conserve](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php100%20Ways%20To%20Conserve)

- #5. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- #13. Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- #16. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- #17 & 26. When cleaning vegetables & fruit use a pan to catch water & when cleaning out fish tanks save the water, & use saved water to water to your plants. Water from the fish tank will be nutrient rich.
- #30. Walkways and patios provide space that doesn't ever need to be watered. These useful "rooms" can also add value to your property.

Cleanup Days: Thanks to the volunteers who worked on the School Community Service Day May 10 and the Kiwanis Cleanup Day on May 12. Volunteers pulled weeds, planted flowers, picked up trash around town, trimmed bushes, cut trees, helped seniors, cleaned out the Fire & Covered Wagon Museum, washed public vehicles, spread rock at the skatepark & generally worked to make our town a better place. Thanks everyone who volunteered time or equipment,



Tree Fair, May 17

Echo elementary helped celebrate this year's City Tree Fair on May 17 in the City Park. Three of the city staff's favorite trees show up in the background of the photo at the left: Tri-color Beech, Red Horse chestnut (the Echo Tree) and a Persian Parrotia.

Children received prizes for correctly answering Tree Trivia Questions. They chowed down on suckers, cookies and punch served by volunteers Jeanie Hampton & Janie Enright. Thanks for the help.