



MALHEUR



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REPORT

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Troutdale teenager may get hero medal

A Troutdale youth who rescued an 8-year-old boy from a burning home has become a finalist for a national hero award.

Marcos Ugarte, 15, is one of 23 people who made the next-to-last cut for a citizen's hero award bestowed by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation in Washington, D.C. This year, for the first time, three minors made the list, including Ugarte.

"I think this is really cool," Ugarte said, on a break from classes at Gresham High School. "It's an honor to be nominated."

Last September, he scurried up a ladder, punched out a screen window and coaxed a terrified boy out, easing him to safety. He said he just wanted to help and doesn't consider himself a hero.

The other finalists include a Boise woman who donated a kidney to a stranger and a California man who talked down a gunman after he killed one person and shot another outside a utility headquarters. The two other minors on the list are a 6-year-old New Jersey boy who died fighting off an attacker threatening his 12-year-old sister with a knife and a 7-year-old girl in Florida who attacked a man trying to kidnap her cousin.

Four people, who will be chosen by Medal of Honor recipients, will receive the Citizen Service Before Self Honors. Those chosen will receive their medals at Arlington National Cemetery on March 25, Medal of Honor Day.

Ugarte has taken the praise in stride, but the experience could map his future. He hopes to serve either in the Army or as a firefighter.

"This experience has helped me see that fire-fighting is something I want to do," he said.

Trading privacy for insurance price

Recently, Rob and Marcia Gould agreed to plug a tracking device under the dash of their

Please see **Oregon**, Page 4



SHERIFF'S  
LOG

These reports were taken from the Malheur County Sheriff's Office log.

Child neglect, scam, domestic assault

**12:38 p.m. Feb. 22, Vale:** Reporting party faxed over information on possible child neglect.

**2:17 p.m. Feb. 22, Ontario:** Caller would like to speak with a deputy about receiving a call in which he was told he owed money to a company and that they were going to have him arrested today.

**5:25 p.m. Feb. 22, Adrian:** DHS worker requests an assist in making a home visit.

**9:29 p.m. Feb. 22, Adrian:** Male subject, 44,

Please see **Sheriff's log**, Page 4



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Ontario may opt out of ESD

By John L. Braese  
The Enterprise

With the Ontario School District's announcement that it will not approve the Malheur County Education Service District plan, there appear to be more questions than answers to which group wins or loses.

At its Feb. 21 meeting, the board rejected a local service agreement with the ESD. Among the reasons given were duplication of services and that the district does not feel it

gets adequate services for the approximately \$950,000 it contributes to the ESD.

"We just feel the plan does not meet the needs of the Ontario School District," said interim Ontario Superintendent Nicole Albisu. "It looks like there is waste out there and a lot of duplication."

Albisu also said that ESDs are designed to benefit smaller districts more than large ones.

"In all actuality, the whole system is one big consortium," said

Malheur ESD Superintendent Stephen Phillips. "Money is taken in from the entire state and trickled down to the local ESDs. We benefit from the larger areas such as Portland. ... The issue is not between the ESD and Ontario."

The ESD will meet later this year to begin drafting a budget without the money from Ontario. Where those funds will be made up and how other schools will be affected is a concern for many.

"What Ontario is doing will hurt

all the districts in this county," Phillips said.

"Ontario leaving is going to be difficult for the rest of us and going to create a hardship in a number of areas," said Matt Hawley, superintendent of the Vale School District. "We have no plans on leaving. We simply could not afford it."

Nyssa School District Superintendent Janine Weeks echoed Hawley's views.

Please see **Opt out**, Page 4

SCALING UP FOR THE FAIR



John L. Braese/The Enterprise

Sisters Carlee, left, and Grace Morton of Adrian move their steers down the chute towards a weigh-in at the Producers Livestock yard in Vale on Feb. 23. Young producers from around the area were required to have the initial weigh-ins for their cattle in order to prepare for the upcoming fair season. The Morton family has participated in the fair and steer sales for years with two older sisters now paying for college with money from the sale of stock at the fair. Planning ahead, this year's weigh-in included a third steer in case one of the critters became sick or had other problems.

They make music a family affair

By Rick Nelson  
The Enterprise

Nashville is a long way from Alaska, and preparing for your first album with a top producer is a far cry from singing at nursing homes and farmers markets, but talent and determination have kept Redhead Express on track for the past five years.

The group is a four-sisters country and bluegrass act that's originally from Alaska. Along with their three brothers and mom and dad, The Walker Family, they will be performing Friday at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario.

Mom, Apryll Walker, had just returned from a music studio when she took time recently to speak with The Enterprise about her musical tribe and the Ontario show.

"We're kinda coming back home," she said. "My husband (Brett Walker) grew up in Idaho, and when we left Alaska the first place we came to was Idaho. We spent several years in the Boise area."

Both parents come from musical families, and Apryll taught the kids to play piano and violin.

"Little by little, they all wanted



Tim Keller/www.timkellerphotography.com

Redhead Express consists of the four Walker sisters, from left, LaRae, Meghan, Kendra and Alisa. They, along with their mom, dad and three brothers, will perform Friday at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario.

to play other instruments," she said, "and one day we realized we had a band. We started playing at farmers markets and nursing homes, and people liked it. In 2007, we decided to sell everything and go study music for a while."

That meant living in a motor home as they toured the country. With nine people and a chocolate

Please see **Music**, Page 4

Academics, popcorn fit in bowls

By John L. Braese  
The Enterprise

If you think of 60 middle school students, big bowls of popcorn and bottles of water for all, one usually thinks of a movie or a party.

However, for members of Vale Middle School and Nampa Christian School, the Feb. 25 party was to compete against each other in an Academic Bowl.

With students split up into teams of six, questions from a moderator were discussed and an answer was decided upon within a minute. The agreed-upon answer was written on a slip of paper, and then they waited for the correct answer to be announced by the moderator. If the team was correct, points were given and posted up on a big board. At the end of the night, the team with the highest number of points was crowned champion.

The questions ran the gamut from history, sports, math and geography to current events.

Please see **Bowl**, Page 4