

The Dalles Chronicle

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Certified Wasco County Gardner Megan Wickersham now heading up Gorge program. Contributed program

Wickersham to lead program

By Trisha Walker
The Hood River News

Megan Wickersham began her new position as education program assistant for Hood River County Extension and coordinator of its Master Gardeners Program on Nov. 25. She has an insider's perspective, having been through the Master Gardener program herself—twice. “I was certified as a Wasco County Master Gardener in 2018 and again in 2019,” said Wickersham. “During that time, I was working part time and volunteering with several community projects, including a school

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Data helps game management

Salvage of road-killed deer expands understanding of Oregon herds

By Walker Sacon
The Dalles Chronicle

Residents of Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties legally harvested 18 road-killed deer from local lanes and highways in 2019.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Andrew Rosenberg said this was a typical return for ODFW's central and eastern field offices in the first year of legal roadkill harvesting in Oregon.

Rosenberg said most of the 1500 permits issued statewide were issued on the west side, with Bend and Prineville being exceptions.

“Heppner and Summer Lake have only checked in a total of 10 between the two of them, so those rural areas with not many roads and not many people aren't getting very many check-ins,” Rosenberg said.

ODFW District Wildlife Biologist Jeremy Thompson said the west's higher permit numbers were largely a result of higher population densities.

“Summer Lake is one of two offices in a county of 6000 people. Half of those 6000 are cattle ranchers that probably don't want to eat roadkill deer,” Thompson said. “It's a sheer people-volume issue.”

In addition to the obvious benefit of meat which would have been laying by the road ending up on the table, these permits provide new data points to ODFW.

Rosenberg said the deer heads which are turned in to ODFW



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Andrew Rosenberg works out of his office in The Dalles. After a year of legal salvage of road-killed deer and elk, biologists are finding the data collected statewide useful. Walker Sacon photo

field offices as the final step of the permitting process provide useful samples to biologists following the westward spread of chronic wasting disease.

“All of the heads that we're checking in, we're sampling for CWD and it's a great way for us to boost our monitoring effort for that disease,” Rosenberg said.

Chronic wasting disease, Rosenberg said, affects cervids, or members of the deer family. “This isn't something that we've found in Oregon,” he said. “I don't think it's in a state that touches Oregon but they have it in Montana and it's starting to kind of move west so it's something that we monitor for pretty heavily.”

Rosenberg said typical symptoms of late-stage CWD include obvious malnutrition and odd behavior. “It's going to be salivating, stumbling around and it can have a weird posture,” Rosenberg said. The disease is eventually fatal.

Thompson said chronic wasting disease is a prion disease similar to mad-cow disease or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. It spreads by becoming prevalent in deer habitat to the point where they end up ingesting it. “We're trying to make sure that prion just does not enter our system,” Thompson said.

Rosenberg said the prion builds up in the environment around infected populations until it is spread through feces and saliva.

Monitoring for CWD in Oregon means ODFW can more quickly and effectively respond if the disease reaches Oregon, Rosenberg said. He said the roadkill salvage program boosts biologists' samples for the disease.

Before the roadkill salvage program, ODFW relied almost entirely on hunters for their monitoring efforts. Sampling from the annual harvest took place in the field and at check-in stations for hunters in Prineville and Biggs Junction.

Rosenberg said biologists “do a lot of running around all over the state” to check hunters for kills and ask for a sample.

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Parties argue session intent

Proponents say short session is to fix budget and address crisis. Critics say it's morphed into something else

By Claire Withycombe
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM—You could say that Oregon is a bit “odd.”

Until 2012, the state's legislators only met in odd-numbered years, a practice dating to 1885.

But the sessions got longer as lawmakers grappled with issues facing a growing state. By the 1980s, the average session lasted six months, according to the secretary of state's office.

In 2010, voters said “yes” to allowing annual sessions—and limiting the number of days in each session. So now, in every even-numbered year, lawmakers and lobbyists descend on the Capitol for a “short session” of up to 35 days.

Confused yet?

In the 10 years since voters approved the change, the short session has provided something

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Mixing up the media



Anastasia, 11, of The Dalles, above, works on a mixed-media project during a teen artist in residence program with artist Marwan Nahlé at The Dalles-Wasco County Library Jan. 24. Mark B. Gibson photos

Led by artist in residence Marwan Nahlé, a Lebanese-born painter, multimedia artist and musician, adults, teens and children alike have been exploring the expressive world of collage, paint and recycled art throughout the month of January at The Dalles-Wasco County Public Library.

The series of six workshops are nearing their conclusion, with an adult recycled art workshop 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 and Mediterranean Cuisine 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30.

The Mediterranean Cuisine program

will be a demonstration of the Mediterranean style of cooking, a part of Nahlé's Lebanese heritage.

Nahlé has lived and worked internationally since 1988, and currently resides in Hood River. He was a resident artist for “What The Festival,” living in Dufur, and often works in The Dalles. He said his paintings represent his lifelong physical and spiritual journey, combing forms and landscapes from his world travels into ethereal and mystical movements.

One of the main mediums and themes in his mixed media work is to use recycled materials to create playful and imaginative collages and sculptures from discarded toys, metal scraps, plastic debris, roots, fossils, branches and images.



Paint, scissors and jewels were being incorporated into mosaic art by those attending the artist-in-residence workshop. Above, Aela, 13, soaks an item in paint for her colorful project. Above left, Honore, 15, trims pictures for her collage. The class is taught by Lebanese-born painter Marwan Nahlé, at left.

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