

Police dogs test their senses in Pendleton

By Antonio Sierra
East Oregonian

The night show ended weeks ago, but on Tuesday afternoon, the Old West’s sense of lawlessness was restored at the Happy Canyon Arena.

Along with his canine partner Lil’ Kim, Bend police officer Kevin Uballez advanced toward the Happy Canyon backdrop, which now represented a burglarized strip mall instead of a row of storefronts from the early days of Pendleton.

Uballez and the Belgian Malinois began clearing the rooms one by one until some clanking and clattering alerted the pair they weren’t alone. As they approached the end of the backdrop, a man sprinted out of one the doors toward the exit of the arena, but Uballez kept Lil’

Kim focused on the source.

As the dog and her handler entered the final rooms, a woman in heavy padding sprung out of the shadows with a baton. Lil’ Kim sunk her teeth into the perp as she screamed and lightly thwacked the dog with the stick before trainer Jeff Gaunt stepped in and congratulated Uballez on completing the scenario.

The Happy Canyon setup was one of the more heavily simulated trainings at the Oregon Police Canine Association Fall Seminar, a training session for K-9 units across the state.

While regional trainings for law enforcement are common in Pendleton, a seminar that draws police from the Interstate 5 corridor and beyond are less frequent.

Rob Havice, one of the chairmen of the association, said this is the first canine training seminar the organization has held in Pendleton in eight years.

Cruisers in varying shades of black, white, and blue flocked toward the Pendleton Elks Lodge and Round-Up grounds as police dogs were trained in the finer points of detection and patrol.

A four-year veteran of the Bend Police Department, Uballez has been working with Lil’ Kim for eight months. He said the dog came to share a name with the rapper through a combination of the name she was given by the breeder and her diminutive size.

Uballez said Lil’ Kim trains regularly, but traveling to Pendleton for the first time

gave the police dog a valuable chance to train under varied conditions.

He estimated that only 10 percent of Lil’ Kim’s encounters ends in a bite, but police dogs can be an effective incentive for suspects to submit to arrest that even a drawn gun isn’t.

But the trainings were more about discipline than canine aggression.

Gaunt, the Happy Canyon trainer, said the scenario was designed for officers to think on their feet as they handle their dog while keeping the dogs focused enough to thoroughly search a location without glancing over it.

Over at the Elks Lodge, Havice was immersed in canine detection, as dogs pressed their snouts down into the floor and walls of the

vacated building, cars in the parking lot and the grasses of nearby Stillman Park.

Havice, who works as a dog handler for the Medford Police Department, said some dogs are still trained to detect four drugs — cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana — while other dogs are only trained in the first three.

While recreational marijuana has been legal in Oregon for years, Havice said police still use canines to find drug dealers looking to export pot into Idaho and other states where the drug remains illegal.

JD, a Labrador-cocker spaniel mix handled by Reed-sport police officer Jim Wood, was putting her three-scent detection skills to the test in an old pickup truck in the lodge parking lot.

JD dutifully sniffed each place where Wood tapped his hand, but he also seemed distracted throughout the course, pausing his sniff mission to wag his tail or look around.

Wood said it was out of character for JD, and trainer Chaz Holmes speculated that maybe he didn’t get enough sleep last night or needed to relieve himself.

“He’s flat today,” Wood said. “I don’t know why.”

Ultimately, Wood concluded JD wasn’t used to the inland heat versus the cool ocean breezes of Reedsport as JD completed the course.

The dog didn’t alert his handler to anything in the truck, which was actually a good development in a course designed to test the dog’s aptitude for detecting false positives.

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Cove senior meal changes location

COVE — Cove Senior meals have moved to the Founders Hall at the Ascension School and will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The next meal will be on Oct. 2 and feature spaghetti, broccoli, green salad, French bread and chocolate cupcakes. There is a \$5 charge per meal. Coffee and tea are available at noon, and the meal is served at 12:30 p.m. RSVP by calling Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnson at 541-568-4902 by Sept. 27.

Apple cider pressing held at Platz Family Farm Friday

UNION — Platz Family Farm, 1624 N. First St., Union, is holding two apple cider pressing Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. The event offers free samples and cider for purchase in pints and half gallons. Other produce available for purchase include Italian plums, seedless grapes, potatoes, cinnamon rolls by Orange Rhino, tomatoes, peppers, sweet beets and carrots.

‘Explore the Market Place’ features free food, sales, live music recording

LA GRANDE — An all-day community event at the La Grande Market Place, 1101 Washington Ave., La Grande, will begin at 10 a.m. Sept. 27. Food will be supplied by Thai Fresh, Le Bebe Cakes and Nature’s Pantry at lunchtime and a live music video recording by Brent Clapp Productions begins at noon. Barber Cuts by Texas will be \$10 and include a free neck shave and neck massage by Londin Hair Compa-

ny. There will also be live music by local artists and special fashion and decor sales at the Market Underground. The music and sales will continue into the evening.

ACE launches Film Club, holds yard sale

LA GRANDE — A Film Club for ages 18 and older begins Sept. 29 at Art Center East, a new monthly offering with teaching artist Lucas Kruse. This month’s film is the 1977 drama/thriller “Sorcerer.” The club will meet the last Saturday of the month from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. Register at www.artcentereast.org.

ACE is also having a yard sale Sept. 28-29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days in order to make more room for art. Volunteers are appreciated. Email darcy@artcentereast.org.

Homemade ice cream served at community dance

LA GRANDE — An end-of-the-month community dance will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. All are welcome. The evening will include live music by the BlueMountaineers, door prizes, a finger-food potluck (bring your favorite dish to share) and George Neer’s “famous homemade ice cream.” Admission is \$3, and age 12 and younger get in free.

Open house celebrates timber culture

JOSEPH — Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, 103 N. Main St., Joseph, is having a volunteer appreciation open house from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 29. The event celebrates

timber culture and will include local food and libations. For more information, contact Gwen Trice at 541-426-3545 or info@maxvilleheritage.org.

Community invited to honor Pastor Colleen Nelson

LA GRANDE — Pastor Colleen Nelson is retiring as pastor from Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande, and Zion invites the community to a day of celebration, special music and local foods celebrating Nelson on Sept. 30. For more information and the day’s program, go to www.zionlagrande.org. Nelson will remain involved in local activities such as Housing Matters Union County, a coalition she and others founded focused on supporting the homeless and people facing rent challenges.

Kyrgyz delegation comes to Wallowa County

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County residents will have an opportunity to meet with livestock producers and pasture specialists from the Kyrgyzstan region of Central Asia during a community presentation at 1 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Tomas Conference Room, 309 S. River St., Enterprise. The public presentation by the Kyrgyz delegation will provide opportunities to exchange ideas about conservation practices and marketing strategies and to share experiences between cultures.

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country in Central Asia with a pastoral culture and a long tradition as nomad herds-men and horsemen. A delegation of 20 Kyrgyz pastoralists are in Wallowa County as part of a Community-Based Con-

servation Learning Exchange. During the exchange the visitors will meet with Wallowa County ranchers and rangeland specialists, tour public and private grazing leases and learn about current rangeland research and management.

Registration opens for soap box derby weekend in Cove

COVE — Registration is now open for the inaugural Blue Mountain Dash All-

American Soap Box Derby Rally Race Weekend set for Oct. 13-14 on Haefer Lane in Cove. The races are open to ages 7-18 and no experience is necessary. First-time racers will get a practice run down the track. The rally will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and will feature a double elimination race in the Stock and Super Stock divisions.

The entry fee is \$35 per day or \$70 for both days

of racing (extra sibling is \$30 per day or \$60 for both days). An optional \$15 T-shirt is also available. This is a sanctioned and licensed All-American Soap Box Derby Rally Race being put on by the Oregon Soap Box Derby Club. Only official AASBD Soap Box Derby cars can race. Loaner cars are available for no extra charge. Call or text 541-910-8857 to register or with any questions.

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Donnovan “Don” Flovel Hampton

May 21, 1935 - September 21, 2018

Donnovan “Don” Flovel Hampton, 83, of La Grande, passed away with his family at his side on Friday, September 21, 2018, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A private graveside ceremony will be held at Grandview Cemetery. A potluck and Celebration of Life will be held at the Lighthouse Church gym, 10501 W First Street, Island City, Oregon at 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 29, 2018. Casual dress is preferred by the family.



horseback riding and working. The Ranch was his preferred place to hunt.

As a family they did a lot of boating and instructing family members and friends to waterski on the Snake River (the backup waters) in Richland, Oregon. He even built a wooden boat while living in Baker. Tuna sandwiches were brought along on these trips and the family joke was about how the tuna “gooney” sandwiches were always soggy. They had a cabin at Wallowa Lake and water-skied, boated and fished there as well.

Don was born May 21, 1935, in a brick two story house on the North side of La Grande. He lived in various locations in Union County, moved to Elgin, from Elgin moved to Baker in 1953 and then moved back to La Grande in 1960. He met his wife Patricia (Patsy) Logsdon at a roller skating rink that was the former Natatorium and currently is the Museum across from the Baker City Park. They were married for 64 years this past December.

As a teen, he worked in logging as a faller. He also worked for his father-in-law at Logsdon Sand and Gravel in Baker. When they first started batching cement, the bags had to be torn open and dumped into the mixers by hand. These sacks weighed 94 lbs. each. Cement storage silos were not used at that time. Don and Pat and their two children, Debbie and Randy, moved to La Grande in 1960 to operate La Grande Ready Mix. Three additional children joined their family, twin sons Kevin and Kent and daughter Lisa. In 1968, Don and Pat purchased Rogers Asphalt Paving Company from Kenneth and Rosemary Rogers, which has become a family business, 4 generations working together. They also began Redi-Mix Concrete in conjunction with Rogers Asphalt Paving Co. in 2004. Don managed Hermiston Rock Products, LLC for his sons Randy and Kevin for a number of years. This was all accomplished with an 8th grade education.

Don was a private, kind, reasonable, dependable, honorable very hard working man who enjoyed his work. He was a good provider and loved his family. He never fully retired. In 2012, he started his retreat (The Barn) on Fruitdale Lane. He went there and out to the shop daily; making his rounds.

His word was golden. You could take it to the bank if he agreed on a contract with a hand shake. He absolutely loved the ranch (NK West swimming hole), which was purchased from his cousin, Tim Payne, in 1972. As a boy he would ride his bicycle from Elgin all the way to the Ranch to spend the weekend. Don loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing,

He didn’t attend church as an adult but he attended Sunday school, Wednesday Prayer meeting and church as a child. He also was a member of the Elks Lodge, Masonic Lodge and the La Grande Mavericks. Don was one of the original members of the Island City Lions Club.

Together Don and Pat raised their children in a home in the country that they purchased on Mt. Glenn Rd., in 1960. Don chose the location because, as a child, his family lived further out on Mt. Glenn Rd on what he called the McCoy place.

Don is survived by his wife Patsy (Pat) Hampton; son, Randy and wife Charlene; son, Kevin and his wife Penny; son, Kent Hampton, all of La Grande; daughter, Lisa Briggs and her husband Tony from Union, Oregon; sister, Pauline Puttie, of Salem; brother, Gene and sister-in-law, Jeanie Hampton, of Echo; brother, Mike and sister-in-law Diana Hampton, of La Grande; brother-in-law, Norris Logsdon, of Hermiston, OR; brother-in-law, Dan Fife, of Sun City West, AZ; sister-in-law, Sheila Slinkard, of Mesa Wa.; aunt, Verba Hampton, of Nampa, ID.

His nine grandchildren: Shaun and Christel Hampton, Chad and Jennifer Hampton, Travis Hampton, Heather and Buster Huntington, Deidre Hall, Kyle and Theresa Hampton, Sarah Hall and Taylor Evans, Emma Hall and Debbaann Langley. Thirteen great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by son, Donovan Flovel Hampton Jr., and daughter, Debra Jean (Debbie) Hampton; his parents, Theron and Mayetta; sister, Mickie Fife; brother, Franklin Demont (Dee); brother, Larry Keith (Pat), and brother-in-law, Lester Puttie.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Blue Mountain 4-H Center, 10507 N McAlister Road, Rm 9, La Grande, OR 97850, or an organization of your choice.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

Don F. Hampton

La Grande

Don F. Hampton, 83, of La Grande, died Sept. 21 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A casual dress potluck reception will be held at 3 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Lighthouse Church gymnasium in Island City. For potluck information, contact Charlene Hampton at 541-786-4286. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Robert Tuck

La Grande

Robert Tuck, 79, of La Grande, died Sept. 21 at his residence. A viewing will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. A funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Oct. 1 at the La Grande Faith Lutheran Church. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

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LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cited: Ashley Eileen Nichole Hayes, 24, Enterprise, was cited on a charge of driving while suspended (misdemeanor).

Arrested: Alex Joseph Smith, 27, was arrested on charges of hit and run-property and being a felon in possession of a

restricted weapon.

Cited: Two Union County juveniles were cited on charges of third-degree theft.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

La Grande Fire Department responded to 11 calls for medical on Monday and eight calls for medical on Tuesday.