

'It's to pique their interest'

First camp at Eastern Oregon Museum combined art, history, even gold panning

By LISA BRITTON
Baker City Herald

HAINES — Cayden Sandberg is a bundle of impatient energy.

When he finally gets the nod from Jessie Street, Sandberg gently extracts his paper from beneath the glass and takes it to a pan of water.

He rinses, rinses and rinses some more.

The paper turns a brilliant blue with white designs created by objects placed on the light-sensitive paper.

Satisfied with his work of art, Sandberg lays it in the sun to dry then quickly offers to help someone else create their own creative piece.

This art lesson was part of a day camp held June 27-30 at the Eastern Oregon



Emma Bain, 9, tries out the whirligig toy she made at a day camp at the Eastern Oregon Museum in Haines on Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Museum in Haines.

This is the first such camp offered at the museum, and it was directed by Logan Nedrow and Chris Aldrich.

"It's to pique their interest," Aldrich said as she helped youngsters thread

string through a button to create a whirligig toy.

Aldrich is a board member for the museum and youth outreach volunteer.

Nedrow, a 2019 graduate of North Powder High School, is pursuing a degree

in elementary education at Eastern Oregon University and also working as a paraprofessional at North Powder.

She didn't hesitate to help direct the camp when Aldrich — her former teacher — approached her

with the idea.

"It's been fun," Nedrow said. "I just want the kids to have fun and have something to take away from it."

They offered 30 spots for students in third through sixth grade. Children attended from North Powder, Haines and Baker City.

To fund the camp, the Eastern Oregon Museum received grants from the Buerkel-Zoellner Foundation and the Edna E. Harrell Community Children's Fund.

Themes

Activities for each day centered around a theme.

Monday was about rocks and minerals, and members of a Huntington mining camp taught the youngsters how to pan for gold. Each child went home with a gold pan and vial of gold.

"I'm a hands-on learner," Nedrow said, explaining her goal with designing the activities. "If I'm doing something I'm more likely to remember it."

Tuesday was all about art. Stations included

quilting, tie-dye, pioneer toys and games, and the sun prints that had Sandberg so excited.

Street teaches art at North Powder, and created her own UV sensitive paper for the project.

"It's a very old process — blueprints, basically," she said.

Street gave the kids a history lesson about Anna Atkins, a botanist who in the 1850s invented this process of combining minerals to make paper sensitive to the light. Atkins used it to document types of plants.

"She made the first book of photographs," Street said.

Wednesday was Oregon Trail history paired with the importance of local agriculture, and on Thursday the campers made a history board.

Throughout the week, during breaks the youngsters explored the treasures inside the museum — which organizers hoped would create interest and return trips.

"History is interesting and cool," Aldrich said with a smile.

Umatilla County District Attorney's Office charges kidnapping suspect

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Tillamook man Pendleton police arrested Friday, June 25, for kidnapping a woman and fleeing in a high-speed chase now faces official criminal charges.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office on July 1 charged Charles Frederick Seeling, 34, with eight counts in all, including felonies for second-degree kidnapping, coercion and fleeing police and for misdemeanor assault. The charges stem from a June 28 grand jury

indictment.

The district attorney's office also notified the court it would seek to enhance any sentencing based on several factors, including the "crime involved deliberate cruelty to the victim" and Seeling already was on supervised release.

State court records show Seeling is serving three years of probation in Clatsop County on charges of unlawful use of a weapon and fleeing police, and he violated that probation in March and April when he checked himself out of a detoxification center and then did not check in with his probation officer. Seeling also has

a felony theft case pending against him in Tillamook County.

According to Pendleton police, emergency dispatchers June 25 at 10:11 a.m. received several 911 calls from witnesses at Walmart, 2203 S.W. Court Ave., reporting a female screaming for help in a vehicle in the parking lot. Witnesses reported about what appeared to be an abduction, as a male took a female by force and sped out of the parking lot.

Witnesses also provided a good vehicle description and location of travel, according to the press release. While officers were responding, the female in the

vehicle called 911, screaming she had an emergency before the line was disconnected. The female called again screaming for help and stated her boyfriend was hitting her before the call was disconnected again. She called 911 a third time and said the suspect had a hammer and she was in fear he was going to use it against her.

During the calls, the victim was able to provide updates about their locations. During the last call, she said they were approaching the Interstate 84 east-bound milepost 213 on-ramp.

Officers tried to stop the vehicle on I-84 near Exit 216, but

the suspect led police on a high-speed chase on South Market Road for about 10 minutes before abandoning the vehicle and victim at the end of Marsh Hawk Lane, where he then barricaded himself in a barn.

Police were able to arrest him at 10:59 a.m. and reported he was smoking fentanyl in the barn.

Medical personnel attended to the victim and did not take her to a hospital.

Umatilla County Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer has set Seeling's bail at \$380,000. He remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Author says High Desert Museum banned his books, but museum says they just don't sell

By JOE SIESS
The Bulletin

BEND — A Prineville author is saying the High Desert Museum banned his books as part of a politically motivated attack, but the Bend museum said the author's books simply do not sell in its gift shop, so it decided to discontinue carrying them.

Rick Steber, 75, the owner of Rick Steber-MAKERS in Prineville, and an author known for his books detailing the history of the Western United States, wrote in a Facebook post that the museum banned his books from its Silver Sage Trading gift shop and called the decision "heavy-handed censorship."

The museum said that's not the case at all.

"He says that we're banning his books. In reality, we're simply not carrying them anymore. Mr. Steber's framing of this situation was inflammatory, inaccurate and unfortunate," Heidi Hagemeyer, director of communication at the museum, said in a prepared statement.

Hagemeyer said the museum decided to discontinue new purchases of Steber's books based on a broader inventory of the store's offerings and their



Contributed Photo

Prineville author Rick Steber, seen here in a 2019 photo, is known for his Western and historical writing.

profitability.

"We appreciate Mr. Steber's work over the years and applaud him for having sold more than 2 million copies of his books," Hagemeyer said. "But the fact remains that of the tens of thousands of books sold in our Silver Sage Trading gift shop over the past decade, less than 1% of them have been authored by Mr. Steber."

Hagemeyer said the museum's executive director, Dana Whitelaw, spoke directly with Steber about the decision. But the museum's account of the conversation varies greatly from Steber's account shared on social media, Hagemeyer said.

According to Steber's post, Whitelaw told him

the museum is not banning his books, but has decided to no longer carry them in its gift shop because the museum is working to promote authors who advocate for social justice.

"I know my books sell," Steber told The Bulletin. "They could have picked what they wanted to carry, but instead they banned me."

Steber called the decision "a political move."

"It was directed at me and it shows what direction the High Desert Museum is headed, and I don't agree with that at all," he said.

Steber said part of the museum's decision is because of his decision to not follow state mandated COVID-19 protocol during the early part of the pan-

demie. He chose to keep his business open despite not being designated an essential business.

"I think I pissed off the left, and I think this is how they are lashing out at me," Steber said. "I've had enough. I've drawn a line in the sand, and I'm not going to put up with it."

Hagemeyer reiterated the museum's commitment to sharing a broad range of perspectives and stories about the High Desert region, and that the museum is committed to the idea that people can have different viewpoints and also respect one another.

"We do not believe, however, that characterizing the stocking of a revenue-generating gift shop even remotely stems from 'draconian censorship' as Mr. Steber claims," Hagemeyer said.

Hagemeyer said the museum's mission "includes making sure the Silver Sage Trading gift shop contains a wide selection of retail products that are at once appealing to our patrons, connected to our current exhibitions and programs, and revenue generating for the Museum."

Umatilla National Forest seeks public input for sunflower insect and disease project

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest is seeking public input for a sunflower insect and disease project on the Pomeroy Ranger District.

The U.S Forest Service announced in June the purpose of the project is to reduce hazardous fuels caused by overly dense stands and insect infestation in the area.

The sunflower project proposes to remove trees through mechanical means on up to 2,902 acres within a 13,824-acre area. Treating the project area will decrease competition for moisture, light and nutrients and thus increase vitality of the leaf trees, according to the announcement.

The project area is 15

miles southeast of Dayton, Washington. The Forest Service is seeking comments to help refine the proposed action and identify ways to improve project designs. The Forest Service is accepting comments until Friday, July 22.

The Pomeroy Ranger District also is hosting a collaborative field trip to the project area on July 7. For more details about attending the field trip, contact Alison Arnold at 509-803-1891 as soon as possible. The purpose of the field trip is to discuss proposed plans and gather information from the public to consider in project development.

For additional information about the project, contact Arnold or visit the project website at bit.ly/3NCZxiU.

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