

# Outdoor Rec / Local

## Awards announced for 'Eastern Oregon Regional High School Art Exhibition'

The "Eastern Oregon Regional High School Art Exhibition" featuring over 300 works by students from 15 regional high schools opened with a reception and awards presentation in Nightingale Gallery at Eastern Oregon University February 24. Regina Braker, interim dean of EOU's College of Arts and Sciences, welcomed gallery visitors with opening remarks, and Cory Peeke, director of Nightingale Gallery, presented awards selected by the art program for exemplary work by students in grades nine through 12.

"On behalf of EOU and the Nightingale Gallery, congratulations to the award winners and all the student participants in the 2017 exhibition," Peeke said. "Special credit is also due to the teachers who make it all possible, and who on a daily basis, go out of their way to help students create works of such high caliber."

All Best of Show winners received an award certificate, \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card, sketchbook, EOU T-shirt and lanyard. Honorable Mention recipients received a certificate of award.

Best of Show 12th Grade:

Jenna Monson (Union High School) for her painting "Eden's Waterfalls"

Best of Show 11th Grade:

Elizabeth Cashell (La Grande High School) for her paintings "Glass Ceiling" and "Broken Glass"

Best of Show 10th Grade:

Justin Smith (North Powder High School) for his drawing "David"

Best of Show 9th Grade: Zac Johnston (Union High School) for his painting "Blur Bunny"

Honorable Mentions: Baker

Luke Barnes, 10th grade, for his ceramic piece "Bamboo and Blood"

Erin Blincoe, 12th grade, for her ceramic sculpture "See No Evil"

Maggie Crabill, 12th grade, for her painting "Skull Buddies"

Kerrie Kast, 9th grade for her mixed media piece "Insanity"

Douglas Nichols, 12th grade, for his ceramic piece "Alloy Amalgamation"

Echo

Ethan Hobson, 11th grade, for his sculpture "Metal Willow"

John Day

Anastasiya Hozhenko, 10th grade, for her drawing "The Glass Red Pepper"

Joseph

Kai Oliver, 12th grade, for his ceramic piece "Hardship"

La Grande

Owen Kreutz, 10th grade, for his drawing "Lord of the Rings, Aragon"

North Powder

Casey Neske, 12th grade, for her "Batik Mask"

Rylee Richman, 10th grade, for her drawing "W.S."

Peyton Secl, 10th grade, for her painting "Our Kiss"

Pendleton

Johnny Malcom, 12th grade, for his drawing "Chance"

Union

Kylie Bruce, 9th grade, for her painting "In the Door"

Emilee Freeman, 9th grade, for her painting "The Stache with Class"

Rosalyn Morton, 10th grade, for her untitled print

Matthew Sheehy, 10th grade, for his untitled painting

Mrs. Gustavson's entire class who made the giant cardboard masks

Giving a special award for the ninth year in a row, the La Grande Arts Commission's "La Grande High School Creative Artist of 2017" was presented to Emily Andrews. Jeremy Clark, arts commissioner and local artist, selected Andrews' painting "Inspired by Jove Wang's 'Dreaming Santa Barbara Harbor.'" Clark and Evna Stacey, commission chairperson, presented her with the award that includes a certificate and check for \$100.

Joining the La Grande Arts Commission in presenting additional special awards were three regional art centers.

Union County's Art Center East presented a \$50 "Union County's Best Young Artist" award to Zac Johnston of Union High School for his works "Bunny Mask" and "Blur Bunny."

The works were selected by writer, cultural advocate and center resource coordinator Kelly McGilvrey and the award presented by Rebecca Hartman, center board member and EOU history professor.

Baker County's Crossroads Art Center presented two \$50 awards. Their "Baker High School Aspiring Young Artist" award went to Alexa Nickens for her ceramic work "Fierce Deity" and Crossroads' "Baker County Aspiring Young Artist" award went to Jin Sue Kim of Burnt River High School for his graphite drawing "Andrew Garfield."

Winning works were selected and awards presented by Tom Dimond, artist and EOU professor emeritus.

Pendleton Center for the Arts in conjunction with Pendleton Art & Frame, Art & Antiques on Main

and the Blue Mountain Community College Foundation, presented a \$200 "Best of the Blues" award to Johnny Malcom of Pendleton High School for his drawing "Chance." Bonnie Day, artist and center coordinator of education and outreach, selected the winning work and Cory Peeke presented the award.

Participating teachers: Baker City High School – Kristen Anderson

Burns High School – Ben Holtby

Burnt River High School – Laurie Hueckman

Cove High School – Eric Gustavson

Crane Union High School – Connie Robbins

Echo High School – Rick Thew

Enterprise High School – Dianne Pfl

Grant Union High School – J.J. Collier

Joseph Charter School – Jennifer Hawkins-Connelly

La Grande High School – Mike Shireman

North Powder High School – Jessie Street

Pendleton High School – Olivia Rush

Prairie City High School – Amelia Harmon

Union County Youth Creative Arts – Theo Miller

Union High School – Jaime Gustavson

Vale High School – Kacie Shaffer

The "Eastern Oregon Regional High School Exhibition" runs through March 21 in Nightingale Gallery in Lolo Hall at EOU.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Follow the gallery's Instagram and Facebook feeds to stay up-to-date on this and other upcoming exhibitions.

## Eight breeding wolf pairs documented

Eastern Oregon is now in Phase III of wolf management after ODFW staff documented a third year of seven or more breeding pairs in the region east of U.S. Highways 97, 20, 395 for year 2016.

A "breeding pair" is two adult wolves that produce at least two pups that survive through the end of the year. The eight packs that qualify as breeding pairs in 2016 are Meacham and Walla Walla (Umatilla County), Catherine (Union County), and Snake River, Chesnimnus, Wenaha, Minam and a group of unnamed wolves in the Imnaha Wildlife Management Unit (Wallowa County).

"Moving into Phase III is a significant milestone towards the recovery of gray wolves in Oregon," says Russ Morgan, ODFW wolf biologist. "It shows how successful wolves can be in this state – in just nine years under existing management we have gone from no packs of wolves to multiple packs and an expanding distribution."

In addition to counting wolves, ODFW biologists have placed 14 radio-collars on wolves this winter in seven groups. Another milestone was reached on Feb. 24 when OR50 was collared in the Imnaha Wildlife Management Unit, marking the 50th wolf collared in Oregon. Biologists may soon learn more from the DNA and radio-collar data about whether OR50 is part of a new group of wolves or a pack that shifted its home range into the area previously occupied by the Imnaha pack.

ODFW completes its annual year-end survey of wolves and announces the results in its 2016 Wolf Annual Report. The report is set to be presented to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 21 in Klamath Falls.

Western Oregon remains in Phase I of wolf management, with protections that match those implemented when wolves were listed as state endangered. Wolves also remain listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act west of U.S. Highways 395, 78, 95.

Under the current Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, Phase III continues to focus on conservation of wolves while addressing instances of wolf-human conflict. This includes continuing to emphasize the use of non-lethal deterrents, the use of controlled take in certain situations, and expands livestock producer options for investigating potential wolf depredations of livestock.

The current Plan states that controlled take of wolves can be allowed in two specific circumstances: 1) if wolves are determined to be causing declines in ungulate populations such as deer and elk or 2) in specific cases of chronic livestock depredation.

"These Phase III provisions do not replace good faith efforts at non-lethal solutions to wolf conflicts," Morgan says. "Take of wolves can only be considered as a management response in very specific situations and there are no plans for controlled take at this time."

As we move into Phase III, the current Plan allows either ODFW or USDA Wildlife Services to confirm wolf depredations in Eastern Oregon. The Plan also allows USDA Wildlife Services to continue to assist ODFW with wolf damage management using the skills and experience of both agencies. Lethal removal of wolves for specific cases of chronic depredation will be decided by ODFW and will continue to be based on a rigorous evidence-based investigation process. USDA Wildlife Services will not assist in the lethal removal of wolves or expand its role in depredation investigations (including confirming wolf depredations) until it has evaluated its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act.

ODFW staff are currently working on a routine five-year Wolf Plan review and will present the draft, updated Wolf Plan to the Commission at their April 21 meeting, though final action on the plan is not expected to occur until later in the year.

## BCFD names 'Adopt-a-hydrant' winners

Baker City Fire Department (BCFD) announces the February winners for the "Adopt-A-Hydrant" program. Jesse Soliz of

Baker City and brothers Kale and Kaiden Dalke of Baker City were randomly selected as winners.

Jesse Soliz and the two

Dalke brothers adopted multiple hydrants since the program's inception in January.

The "Adopt-A-Hydrant"

program was developed to help uncover fire hydrants buried in the snow.

Firefighters were finding it difficult to locate hydrants once they became buried in the snow.

They were shoveling out hydrants every day just to keep them accessible.

With over 900 hydrants in the city it was difficult to keep up with the demand.

The fire department partnered with local merchants who supplied gift certificates as incentive for the public to adopt a fire hydrant buy shoveling away the snow and taking a photo of themselves and their hydrant.

The photos are posted on the department's Face Book page and two winners are selected at the end of each month.

The program will continue through the winter months until the hydrants are accessible again.

You can enter by adopting a hydrant, taking a photo of you and your hydrant and sending your information and the hydrant location to adoptahydrant@bakercity.com or post it to the Baker City Fire Department Face book page.

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## EOU offering outdoor activity classes

An array of activity classes designed to introduce and immerse participants in the great outdoors are being offered during spring term at Eastern Oregon University.

"These courses will get you outside enjoying the beautiful surroundings and fabulous recreational opportunities that abound in northeast Oregon," said Michael Hatch, coordinator of EOU's Outdoor Adventure Program. "After a long winter, spring is a great time to learn a new sport or skill set, meet new friends, and truly enjoy what La Grande and the surrounding area have to offer."

Registration is open for many outdoor activity courses available this spring through EOU and the Outdoor Adventure Program. Courses include:

- Backpacking
- Hiking
- Kayaking
- Mountaineering
- Rock climbing
- Yoga
- Bird watching
- Archery
- Horsemanship
- Whitewater rafting

The courses are open to everyone and can be taken for credit or without registering for credit. Register on Webster by logging in at my.eou.edu or contact Hatch for more details at mhatch@eou.edu or 541-962-3621. Spring term begins April 3.