



An estimated 5,000 snow geese plus tens of thousands of other waterfowl are expected to be visible during guided walks at Saturday's Winter Bird event sponsored by the Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuge.

Winter bird event takes flight

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Art activities, guided bird walks, a bird banding demonstration and a live birds presentation by Blue Mountain Wildlife are featured during the fourth annual Winter Birds event.

"The bird viewing tours should be spectacular," said Sue McDonald, visitor services manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Personnel at the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex,

McDonald said, estimate upwards of 5,000 snow geese and thousands of other waterfowl are in the area.

Sponsored by the Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges, the free Winter Birds activities are Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the McNary National Wildlife Refuge Education Center, 311 Lake Road, Burbank, Wash. It's located off Highway 12 about 14 miles north of the Highway 730 intersection.

The event also includes a discussion on bird identifica-

tion and slide show, "Birds in Diverse Habitats," by Ivar Husa of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, and wildlife films by videographer Gaylord Mink.

The wildlife refuges group sponsors environmental education programs for children, adults and families. By setting them in nature, the group hopes to inspire others to love and care for the earth.

For more information, including upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, visit www.friendsofmcrcwr.org or call 509-546-8300.

BRIEFLY

School Board approves school reconfiguration

MILTON-FREEWATER — After thoroughly discussing the issue at a workshop, the Milton-Freewater School Board voted in a subsequent meeting Tuesday to officially reconfigure the school district's elementary schools next year.

Under the consolidation plan, Freewater, Ferndale and Grove elementary schools will switch from a standard K-5 format to serving two grades a piece.

In other words, one school would exclusively serve the district's entire kindergarten and first grade population, another second and third grade and the other fourth and fifth grade.

Reached after the meeting, Superintendent Rob Clark said the reconfiguration was intended to boost academic performance and better utilize district resources.

Clark said logistical details like school schedules and which schools will handle which grades will be determined in the future.

PSD to hold meetings on bond developments

PENDLETON — To keep residents apprised of the latest developments from the bond projects, the Pendleton School District is hosting another slew of public meetings.

Both meetings are on Wednesday Feb. 18, with the first at Washington Elementary School at 5:30 p.m. and the second at Sherwood Heights Elementary School at 7 p.m.

Representatives from the Wenaha Group, BBT Architects and McCormack Construction Co. will be on hand to provide updates.

Fittingly, both meeting sites will be rebuilt as a part of the \$57.4 million bond.

Other planned improvements include converting Hawthorne Alternative High School to an early learning center, Lincoln Primary School into the district's central office and West Hills Intermediate School into an alternative school and career-technical education center.

Eastern Oregonians make gov's list of appointees

SALEM — Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber reappointed four Eastern Oregon residents to state policy-setting and regulatory bodies. They were among 42 names Kitzhaber submitted for Senate approval.

Antone Minthorn of Adams is looking at another four-year term on the Columbia River Gorge

Commission. Minthorn is a former chairman of the Board of Trustees from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Pendleton lawyer and wheat farmer Henry Lorenzen would continue on the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council. He has served on the council since 2012.

And Umatilla School District Superintendent Heidi Sipe and first grade teacher Judith Brizendine of Pendleton would serve second terms on the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

Kitzhaber in a written statement commended the volunteers who serve on commissions, councils and boards that range in issues from education to health. The Senate will consider the list at a Feb. 26 hearing.

Rotary offers vocational career scholarships

PENDLETON — The Rotary Club of Pendleton is seeking applications from students on a vocational career path. This new program adds to Rotary's long-standing program for academic scholarships.

High school graduates (including home schooled students) living in Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Helix, Athena-Weston, Pilot Rock, Echo and Ukiah are encouraged to apply. Courses of study to be considered include (but are not limited to) auto and truck mechanics, electricians, plumbers, welders, licensed practical nurses, pharmacy technicians, dental assistants and massage therapists.

Application materials may be obtained from your high school counselors or by email from rcollins@pendletonlaw.net. Deadline for submission is by April 10, 2015.

Hunter's banquet includes raffles, auction

PENDLETON — More than \$40,000 worth of merchandise will be given away during the Columbia Basin Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association banquet.

People don't have to be members of the group to attend the event, which is Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate.

Registration packages for the banquet, which includes chances to be entered into many drawings, are available starting at \$50 for a single or \$85 for a couple. Prime rib and salmon will be served. Raffle tickets range from \$1 per ticket to \$20 a ticket for the Wall of Guns.

Buy a rose for a chance to win a Springfield XDS 45

pistol or a Columbia River Gorge Hotel getaway. The live auction includes a four-day defensive training class for two people at the Front Site Training Resort in Las Vegas. In addition, there will be several guided fishing, hunting and safari trips along with 60 other items to bid on. Kids are welcome to play the soft-shelled gun game for a chance to win a Mobster Plinkster 22LR. Also, there is a kids raffle.

Proceeds from the banquet supports hunting and wildlife projects in Oregon. The group advocates for hunting rights and provides educational opportunities for hunters.

For more information, call Terry Becktold at 541-231-4384.

Oregon celebrates 156th anniversary

SALEM — In celebration of the state's 156th anniversary, a celebration is planned this weekend in Salem.

A full slate of activities and displays will include authentic and replicated covered wagons, living history re-enactments, special kids' activities, live musical performances and birthday cake. The event is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the state capital building, 900 Court St. N.E., Salem.

The Jester Educational Theatre of Portland will present a musical play at 12:30 p.m. Also, in the Capitol Rotunda, Oregon's Old-time Fiddlers will celebrate their 50th anniversary with ongoing performances.

For more information, visit www.oregonfestivalguide.com.

SAGE Center shows 'Terrible' movie

BOARDMAN — Alexander's day begins with gum stuck in his hair, followed by more calamities — but he's not the only one dealing with a bad day.

The PG-rated comedy "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" will be shown at the SAGE Center. The viewing times are Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 21 at 2:15 p.m. in the center's theater at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Admission includes a free bag of popcorn.

For more information, visit www.visitsage.com.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

COMING EVENTS



John Scanlan, Gary Ferguson, J.J. Hill and Murray Dunlap rehearse a scene from "Twelve Angry Jurors." The production opens with a pay-what-you-can preview night Thursday at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

OPENING, GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL LIBRARY REDEDICATION, 12 noon to 2 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College Morrow Hall, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Ceremony will include a welcome from President Cam Preus and remarks from Cindy Womack, Ed Tabor, Kim Puzey, CTUIR Board of Trustees and St. Anthony Hospital, ribbon cutting and open house reception. Free and open to the public.

STORY & CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 Bonanza St.

JAY HUGHES BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE, 3 p.m., 46B N.E. Mt. Hebron Drive, Pendleton. Everyone is invited to stop by and wish Jay a happy 99th birthday. (Marie 541-276-6088).

AFTER SCHOOL STORY TIME, 4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. Older siblings welcome. (541-966-0380).

VALENTINE CRAFTING PARTY, 4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. A reading of "Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch" will be followed by valentine crafting and a chance to learn about the Ready2Learn program. For ages birth to 6. Free. (541-966-0210).

VFW BINGO, doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St.

GAMER'S NIGHT, 7-10:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Tournament gaming and other related activities for teens. Free. (541-276-8100).

HAVE A HEART COMMUNITY BENEFIT DANCE, 7 p.m., Salvation Army church, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Ages mid-

dle school and up are encouraged to attend. Cost is by donation at the door. All proceeds benefit the Salvation Army's youth programs. (Caryn Dunn 541-310-9303).

"TWELVE ANGRY JURORS," 7:30 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College Bob Clapp Theater, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. A gripping tale of pride, prejudice and the quest for justice. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children over 3 and students of all ages. available at the box office or by calling 541-278-5953.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Family art experience for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (541-278-9201).

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in art project class for adults. (541-278-9201).

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON AND STYLE SHOW, 11:30 a.m. doors open, style show begins at 12:15 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under, available in advance or at the door. Door prizes. Proceeds benefit the Catholic Daughters of the Americas scholarship fund. (Kristi Smalley 541-567-1546).

ARTWORKZ AWARDS CEREMONY, 1 p.m., Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, 47106 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Awards will be presented to regional youth artists in three age groups. Free. (541-429-7700 or www.tamastslikt.org).

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