

PENDLETON

Requa bronze on track to be unveiled July 11

East Oregonian

While Don Requa the man came to Pendleton from Buhl, Idaho, Requa the bronze will soon travel here from the greater Portland area.

A clay model of the seven-and-a-half foot tall bronze statue of the legendary Pendleton High School football coach is currently on display at sculptor Rip Caswell's Troutdale gallery.

The model will soon be transported to the Firebird Bronze foundry in Boring for bronze work, welding and patina application.

All of this work is in anticipation of unveiling the bronze July 11 at Brownfield Park.

Chuck Kearney, the chairman of the Linebacker Club's bronze committee and a resident of Maywood Park, said he frequently checks on the statue's progress to make sure the details are right.

Once the bronze is complete, Kearney said he and Caswell will personally transport the bronze to Pendleton on a flatbed truck.

The Linebacker's Club has already raised \$93,000 to fund the bronze after receiving Pendleton City



Photo contributed by Caswell Gallery

A clay model of former Pendleton High School coach Don Requa is on display at the Caswell Gallery in Troutdale. It will be used to create a bronze statue that will be unveiled at Brownfield Park, Pendleton on July 11.

Council approval in January. Some community members have asked the city council to reconsider placing the bronze at Brownfield, but council has taken no further action on the matter.

UMATILLA

Routine maintenance leaves ponds below McNary Dam dry

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Several man-made ponds at McNary Wildlife Nature Area along the Columbia River east of Umatilla have been temporarily dried out while crews perform maintenance upstream at McNary Dam.

Gina Baltrusch, spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District, said the ponds are gravity-fed by water from the dam's fish ladder, which is drained for annual cleaning and repairs.

The window for in-water work is Dec. 15 through Feb. 28, when NOAA Fisheries says the fewest number of endangered Columbia salmon and steelhead are trying to pass. Salmon are not held in the recreation ponds, though there are some resident warm water species that call the ponds home.

The largest of these ponds is not completely dried, Baltrusch said, which allows the fish to survive. Bill Duke, district fish biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, said they have never observed a big fish kill in the ponds during maintenance at the dam.

In May, ODFW stocks the



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Low water levels in the fish ponds below the McNary Dam are due to routine maintenance on the fish ladders at the dam.

ponds with hatchery trout for the annual kids fishing derby. The wildlife area is open year-round from sunrise to sunset, and features a wide variety of birds, mammals and other aquatic life.

In other construction news at the dam, crews began work last month on a new potable water distribution system for drinking water and fire protection at the facility.

Rotschy Inc., of Vancouver, Washington, was awarded the \$3.16 million contract to upgrade the system, which provides water to the dam's powerhouse, warehouse and west park areas. The old system was more than 50 years old.

Construction is expected to continue through the year. The public should expect equipment on the roadways

that could temporarily affect access to the nearby nature and recreation trails.

The existing water system will continue to operate until the job is finished. After the old system is decommissioned, the old water tank will be demolished.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4547.

BRIEFLY

Cops nabs burglar asleep in garage

UMATILLA — Police arrested a suspected burglar Monday in Umatilla after finding the man asleep inside another resident's garage on Southshore Drive.

Joseph Arthur Manning, 28, of Irrigon, was charged with burglary, criminal mischief, theft and possession of methamphetamine. Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan said the investigation is ongoing, and more charges could be filed.

Sheriff's deputies responded after the resident reported someone broke into his garage, rifled through his possessions and loaded several tools and property into one of his vehicles. The vehicle's ignition and steering column were also damaged.

After checking inside the second vehicle — which was also damaged — the resident found Manning asleep in the seat and called 911. Officers arrested Manning without incident, assisted by the Umatilla city police and Oregon State Police.

Manning was in possession of meth, women's jewelry, stolen mail and credit cards that were not in his name, according to the sheriff's office. Rowan said they are in the process of tracking down the victims of the stolen mail, which had been taken from addresses in Hermiston, Umatilla and Irrigon.

"We don't know if somebody has been defrauded up to this point," Rowan said.

Manning was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. The sheriff's office reminds everyone to be alert and lock their homes and vehicles.

Umatilla County patrol deputies to get tablet tech

PENDLETON — Umatilla County sheriff deputies will get a technological boost when they are in the field. The county board of commissioners Thursday in Pendleton gave the OK for the sheriff's office to spend \$20,735 to purchase 13 tablet computers.

Sheriff's Capt. Dave Williamson explained the tablets are part of the sheriff's office converting to its new records management system, and the tablets would allow patrol deputies to access dispatch and other information.

And the county board accepted an offer from

the Milton-Freewater Ambulance Service Area Health District to pay half the cost, or \$1,725.33, for the 2011 election that created the taxing district. The district disputed it owed any money because the board of commissioners nominated individuals to run for the district board, Commissioner Larry Givens said, but the county only did so at the request of those who wanted the district.

County elections director Kim Lindell said state rules specify a special district bears the cost of an election. Olsen said it was unclear if the county informed the district board before the election about its responsibility to pay.

Givens said he was willing to accept the district's offer so the county could move past this. Commissioner Bill Elfering, who participated via phone, said this was a special circumstance that does not set a precedent.

Lindell also said from now on, the county needs to explain in writing why a district would foot the bill.

HSD hosts K-8 college prep night

HERMISTON — The Hermiston School District is giving students in elementary and middle school a chance to jumpstart their college and career plans at its second annual K-8 College and Career Family Night.

The event will be at Armand Larive Middle School from 5-7 p.m. on Feb. 19. Families will be able to ask questions and

explore booths on colleges, technical schools, career options, financial aid and other post-secondary possibilities.

Contact Michelle Jensen at 541-667-6400 or michelle.jensen@hermiston.k12.or.us for more information.

Good Sam Club looking for new members

PENDLETON — The Blue Mountain Good Sams will be holding their regular meeting at The Saddle Restaurant and Lounge Saturday.

A luncheon will start at 12:30 p.m. with the meeting immediately following at 1 p.m. Good Sam member Louis Pulley said the organization is looking for young recruits to add to their ranks.

The Blue Mountain Good Sams are one of 43 Good Sam Club charitable organizations in Oregon.

At the local level, the Blue Mountain Good Sams are known for recycling cans during Round-Up week and donating the proceeds to charity.

Pulley said the recycling efforts have raised more than \$30,000 for the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation.

Catholic Daughters raise money in style

HERMISTON — Clothing from local stores will be showcased as the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Our Lady of Angels Court No. 1692

hosts its annual Valentine's Day Luncheon and Style Show.

Featuring a salad luncheon, the doors open Saturday at 11:30 a.m. in the church's parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door.

The public is welcome to attend. The event also includes door prizes.

Proceeds from the luncheon and style show go toward the group's scholarship fund. The 2014 event raised \$1,000 for the Catholic Daughter's Marilyn Harris Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded each spring to two graduating seniors.

For tickets or more information, call Kristi Smalley at 541-567-1546.

Harris Park accepts applications for camp hosts

MILTON-FREEWATER — Harris Park, located 15 miles outside of Milton-Freewater on the South Fork Walla Walla River, is accepting applications for camp hosts for the 2015 season that begins April 1.

Camp hosts are provided with a place to park an RV, including water and electrical hookups. Duties include basic campground cleanup and customer service. A background check is required.

For more information, contact Ginette Hensley at the Umatilla County Public Works Department at 541-278-5460.

First Draft shifts to Wednesday for February

PENDLETON — A pair of Walla Walla authors are the featured writers during this month's First Draft Writers' Series.

Jennifer Boyden and Scott Elliott will each read from their new work Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Organizers note the event is on a Wednesday this month, rather than the typical third Thursday due to other scheduling at the arts center. The event is free and open to the public.

Boyden is the author of two books of poetry. She is a former PEN Northwest Wilderness Writing resident, and lived for a year on a remote homestead near the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River where she learned to tie flies, avoid drunk bears and talk to boulders. She currently teaches at Eastern Oregon University and Whitman College.

Elliott is the author of "Coiled in the Heart," a Booksense 76 and a Library of Congress One-Book One-Community selection, and "Temple Grove," a finalist for the 2014 Washington State Book Award. His short fiction and essays have appeared in multiple publications. He is an associate professor of

creative writing and English at Whitman College.

The featured readers will be followed by a short question and answer session and then an open mic, providing local writers an opportunity to read from their works.

For more information, call 541-278-9201.

FFA fundraiser features 'Dryland'

BOARDMAN — A screening of "Dryland" will serve as a benefit for the Ione, Heppner and Morrow County FFA chapters.

The film will be screened Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The cost is \$15, which includes dessert. The movie, which has been selected for numerous film festivals, focuses on a small town in rural America that is struggling for survival.

Proceeds from the event will assist in sending students to the National FFA Convention in October in Louisville, Kentucky.

For more information about the fundraiser, contact erin.heideman@ione.k12.or.us. For more about the movie, visit www.drylandmovie.net.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

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