

Schools wait to see what new governor means for them

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

As Oregon prepares to change governors mid-term, school districts are one of many public entities left wondering what the change will mean for them.

Brown isn't giving away much about her plans after she is sworn in as governor on Wednesday, but Hermiston School District superintendent Dr. Fred Maiocco said he is "cautiously optimistic" about the transition.

"Kate Brown has a great background with education," Maiocco said. "She has been more involved with education than any previous secretary of state that I'm aware of."

One of her most recent forays came when she initiated an audit of Oregon middle schools last year. Her job as secretary of state includes auditing government agencies to find ways to increase their efficiency and she chose to take on both teacher development and the "opportunity gap" for low income and minority students in Oregon schools.

The Oregon Education Association contributed \$25,000 to Brown's last campaign for secretary of state.

Maiocco said he would certainly be happy to see Brown endorse the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators' \$7.5 billion education budget instead of the \$6.69 billion for K-12 education proposed by outgoing governor John Kitzhaber.

"The budget proposed by Kitzhaber was absolutely inadequate and would not cover any of the roll-up costs we have," Maiocco said.

He said the bump up from last biennium's \$6.65 billion to \$6.69 billion would fall short of covering the switch to full-day kindergarten and other cost increases.

Under Kitzhaber, the legislature passed sweeping education reforms that put education more squarely under the governor's control, starting with the creation of the Oregon Education Investment Board and chief education officer to provide broad oversight of education. The OEIB is chaired by the governor, who also appoints all of its members, and the

board is responsible for hiring and firing the chief education officer. The governor also now picks the state schools superintendent, who in the past was selected by voters.

Brown could choose to clean house and put all new people in those positions.

Under Kitzhaber the legislature also took steps to beef up early childhood education and created the 40-40-20 plan, which sets a goal for a 100 percent graduation rate by 2025, with 40 percent of students going on to a four-year degree and 40 percent earning a two-year degree.

Tricia Mooney, assistant superintendent for Pendleton School District, said Brown may choose to continue those initiatives or present

some of her own, but the district is "not going to abandon" the work it has done in recent years to improve graduation and third grade reading rates.

"No matter how you package it, there is going to be a focus on getting kids to graduate and early learning," she said.

Mooney also said that Kitzhaber's education budget is not enough to meet the district's needs, although staff haven't laid out exactly what would be cut if that budget passes.

"Right now we're in a waiting game," she said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BRIEFLY

Handbag designer shows off spring line in Pendleton

PENDLETON — A handbag designer whose line includes a model that refers to the Poverty Flats farm where he grew up, is showing his spring line this weekend in Pendleton.

Rian Berry, who has a showroom on Fifth Avenue in New York, will be at Marla June's Clothing Co. Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 217 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. People are invited to stop by to shop and get handbags autographed.

The local store was the first to carry his line 10 years ago and continues to sell Rian and Poverty Flats handbags.

For more information, contact 541-276-0778 or marlajunes@eotnet.net.

Harris Junior Academy announces open house event

PENDLETON — The public is invited to meet teachers, administrators and the board chairman of Harris Junior Academy.

An open house event is planned for people to also visit classrooms and learn about Student Education Connection opportunities for home-schoolers, online and web-based courses or students just wanting to enrich their current academic program.

The open house is Saturday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 3121 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton.

For more information, call 541-276-0615 or visit www.harrisjunioracademy.org.

HHS band director is soloist for weekend concerts

Paul Dunsmoor, a saxophonist with the Inland Northwest Musicians, is the featured soloist in a pair of weekend concerts.

The program includes "On the Steppes of Central Asia" by Alexander Borodin, "Symphony in D Minor" by Cesar Franck and "Concerto in E-Flat Major" by Alexander Glazunov. The free concerts are Saturday at 4 p.m. at Condon High School, 210 E. Bayard St., and Sunday at 4 p.m. at Stanfield Elementary School, 1120 N. Main St.

Dunsmoor is in his third year as the Hermiston High School band director and has been playing alto saxophone for 15 years. He studied music at Oregon State University.

Inland Northwest Musicians was founded in 1999 by a group of instrumentalists and vocalists. Their ensembles have performed more than 300 concerts in Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. There is no charge for concerts, but donations are accepted.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.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.

Columbia Gorge wind farms could store power in reservoir

GOLDENDALE, Wash. (AP) — A small utility plans a \$2.5 billion water reservoir system near Goldendale as a way to store energy generated by Columbia River Gorge wind farms.

The pumped storage system would pump water uphill when there's electricity to spare and release it through turbines to generate power when it's needed.

The Klickitat Public Utility District has begun applying for a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, *Yakima Herald-Republic* reported Tuesday.

With just 11,000 customers, the utility doesn't need a facility of that size, but it has the site to build one. It would be located at the site of an aluminum smelter that closed more than a decade ago. Major

transmission lines are nearby.

Although it's near the John Day Dam, the project would have little impact on the Columbia River. It would be a closed system, recirculating the water between one lower and two upper reservoirs. The only water needed would be to replace evaporation.

The system will use more electricity than it generates. The advantage is the ability to sell the power when it's in demand and prices rise, project leader Brian Skeahan said.

The PUD is hoping larger utilities in Oregon and California will invest in the project.

Getting the backers, license and permits and finishing smelter clean-up work is likely to be a long process. The PUD hopes to begin construction in 2020.



In a Feb. 10 photo, Randy Knowles, a Klickitat PUD commissioner, walks back from a rocky outcrop overlooking the landscape east of Goldendale, Wash. where the PUD wants to build a system of small reservoirs for power generation. The PUD is applying for a federal license for the project.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Parsons named queen, Pioneer Posse announces 2015 royalty court

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Natalie Parsons of Walla Walla was recently crowned queen of the 2015 Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse. Joining her on the royalty court are Karissa Stubblefield of Walla Walla and Oceane Schreier of Pendleton.

The young ladies were introduced during the annual meeting of the Pioneer Posse Feb. 7 at the Milton-Freewater Community Center.

Natalie Parsons, 14, is the daughter of Chris and Tina Parsons. She also has an 11-year-old brother, Logan. The family enjoys archery, hunting and spending time in the outdoors.

She is a freshman at College Place High School where she is the Associated Student Body vice president and captain of the girls' basketball team.

Parsons also enjoys spending time with her horse Rich Rocket Wrangler, who also goes by Patriot. As part-



Photo contributed by Jon Schreier

Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse queen Natalie Parsons, center, is pictured with princesses Karissa Stubblefield and Oceane Schreier. Coronation for the 2015 royalty court was held earlier this month at the Milton-Freewater Community Center.

ners in the show arena, Parsons is looking forward to participating in parades and rodeos with Patriot.

Parsons comes from a family of Pioneer Posse royalty, including her great-grandmother Betty Parsons, her grandmother Lindsey Henry and great-aunt Pam Johnson.

"I hope to honor them

this year while being on the Pioneer Royalty Court," she said.

Karissa Stubblefield, 14, is the daughter of Cheryl and Todd Stubblefield. Her siblings include Kole, 12, and Ireland, 9.

Stubblefield is a freshman at College Place High School and is the ASB president. She plays basketball

and is active in FFA. Stubblefield is taking three honors classes and in the future hopes to attend Washington State University and study veterinary medicine.

Stubblefield rides three horses: Rain, a 22-year-old paint mare, Satin, a 11-year-old paint mare and a 12-year-old paint gelding named Hagen.

Through her participation in the Pioneer Posse, Stubblefield hopes to inspire other young people to ride and give back to the community.

Oceane Schreier, 15, is the daughter of Jon and Latetia Schreier. She enjoys camping and skiing with her family.

She is a sophomore at Pendleton High School, where she is enrolled in several honors classes, plays in the symphony band and is a member of the Foreign Language Club. In addition, Schreier has lettered in cross country, swimming and track and field. Also, she partic-

ipated with the Born in the Barn 4-H Club for two years, earning high points reserve at the Umatilla County Fair.

She has worked with her horse, Black, for three years, training her from green broke to a well-mannered horse to be part of the Posse.

Established in 1950, the Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse is a nonprofit organization that encourages horseback riding while promoting good sportsmanship. The girls will represent the Pioneer Posse and the city of Milton-Freewater throughout the year by attending parades, luncheons, rodeos and other speaking engagements.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/pioneerposse or contact board president Jessica Peters at jjewelsandmore@hotmail.com or 509-520-9813.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

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Avoid Bathroom Dangers

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 3:30 PM

Dangers exist all around your home, and unless safety precautions are in place, you leave yourself in danger. Aside from the kitchen, the bathroom is one of the most dangerous rooms in your home. Recognizing these dangers, and making some common sense decisions, will go a long way in protecting you and your family.

Learn the 411 on Medicare Coverage

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 3:30 PM

Medicare is a government-sponsored program that people over the age of 65 and those who meet their special criteria turn to for their social insurance. This program provides health insurance, normally to seniors. Come and learn more about what it covers and what it does not.

Durable Medical Equipment Can Keep You Independent

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 3:30PM


Durable medical equipment is any medical equipment used in the home to aid in a better quality of living. It is a benefit included through most insurance. In some cases, certain Medicare benefits may pay for them.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!


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STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Stephanie Madrigal
RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Stephanie, a senior at Riverside Jr/Sr High School in Boardman, is the eldest daughter of Saul Madrigal and Maricela Mendoza. Stephanie has attended school for the last 12 years in Boardman and has earned the honor of being this year's Valedictorian. Stephanie has maintained a 4.0 throughout her high school career while being active in volleyball and tennis, choir, National Honor Society, student council, and Key Club. In addition to this Stephanie has taken summer college classes each year at Eastern and taken advantage of all the college classes offered at Riverside and as a result will have completed her associate's degree this spring as well. Stephanie plans to attend the University of Portland in the fall and major in business.

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