

PENDLETON

Statue decorations fight gets physical

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A scuffle over decorations on Pendleton's Jackson Sundown statue has led a couple to petition the city council for its approval to continue dressing up the bronze.

So far 29 people, including the couple who started the petition, have signed their support.

Pamela Harmon, 50, and her husband, Tim Becker, 39, live on the 100 block of Pendleton's South Main Street above the bronze of Sundown, born Waaya-Tonah-Toesits-Kahn, the Nez Perce man who at the age of 53 won the Pendleton Round-Up in 1916. Harmon said she is a fourth-generation descendant of Sundown's, and she and her husband first decorated the statue last Halloween.

"We got a huge response," Harmon said. "And we did it again for Christmas and then for St. Paddy's Day."

They graced the bronze with green glasses, an oversized green top hat sporting a shamrock and banner that said, "Kiss me! I'm Irish." All of it, they said, was about fun.

Saturday afternoon, though, Harmon said she found someone removed the decorations, so they replaced them. Moments later she spied a man yanking them off again. Harmon threw open her window and yelled at the man to stop, she said, and he shouted back the decorations were desecrating the representation of Sundown. Becker made for the downstairs door.

"I went down the stairs because he had our hat, the St. Paddy hat, in



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pamela Harmon and her husband, Tim Becker, have been decorating the bronze statue of Jackson Sundown on Main Street in Pendleton since Halloween. The couple are now petitioning the city to allow them to continue doing so.

his hand," Becker said. "I grabbed the hat and went back into the building."

The man followed Becker inside and grabbed him by the back of the neck. Becker said he wore a tank top, and the scar from his neck surgery to remove discs is easy to see. Becker said he reacted.

"I used my forearm and pushed him against the mailboxes ... and opened the door with my other hand," Becker told the *East Oregonian*. "The guy was in his 60s or 70s."

Becker said he did not want to hurt the man, he only wanted him gone. When Becker returned upstairs, though, Harmon said the man had their other decorations and was heading north on Main.

They followed in a car and caught up to the man at the intersection of Northwest Fourth Street and Ellis Avenue. Becker said Harmon bailed from the car before he stopped and confronted the decoration-taker.

"He grabbed her by the wrist and swung her," Becker said, "and hit her with the bag in his left hand." The impact broke blood vessels in her face, he said.

The couple called police, but officers did not find the man. Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said the suspect was white with short gray hair and a short mustache, about 6 feet tall and thin.

Roberts also said no one was injured, and police are looking at a potential harassment case, not an

assault. Becker said if police catch the man, he will press charges. He said his neck has ached since the fracas, but he has not gone to a doctor.

The couple said they wanted to find a way to make sure that decorating the statues was OK. Becker said he called Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett over and over Monday. Corbett recommended the petition idea, Becker said.

"Within 24 hours we got all those signatures," Becker said. "We are really persistent in getting this done."

Several signers work downtown near the statue, including at Beckman Saddles, Frazier Office Supply and Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's. Harmon said only two people she

approached would not sign the petition — one for personal reasons and one who is against signing petitions for religious reasons. Harmon presented the petition Tuesday night to the Pendleton City Council.

Harmon said the council gave a positive response. The council did not express opposition to the petition, and councilwoman Becky Marks said she found the decorations charming. The council opted to take more time, though, before taking action on the item.

Chief Roberts added the city does not have an ordinance prohibiting the decorating of statues, and Corbett plans to allow the decorations unless and until the city receives multiple complaints.

Harmon and Becker said the statue decorations draw people to Main Street, and plenty of folks enjoy them and even take photos with the dolled-up Sundown.

"This is about making Pendleton more fun," Becker said.

Harmon said she hopes the city council sees it the same way. But if not, the couple would cease decorating.

Until then, she said, they plan on decorating the statue for Easter. And now that so many business owners and workers on Main Street are aware of the recent incident, she thinks perhaps more people will keep an eye out if someone removes the adornments.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833. East Oregonian reporter Antonio Sierra contributed to this story.

PENDLETON

Domestic Violence Services sets training, fundraising

East Oregonian

Domestic Violence Services is gearing up for several upcoming activities, including crisis hotline training, a fundraising walk and an experiential learning exercise.

People interested in manning the crisis line are invited to upcoming training sessions that start Tuesday, April 14 from 6-9 p.m. in Pendleton.

Upon completion of 40 hours of training, the participant can answer calls on the 24-hour hotline to assist people in dealing with a domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking situation.

In an effort to raise money and awareness for the work the organization does with domestic violence and sexual assaults, the Domestic Violence Services Walk/Run is Saturday, April 25 with registration beginning at 9 a.m. at Grecian Heights Park, 1910 S.W. Athens Ave., Pendleton. The walk/run features a 4-mile course and begins at 9:30 a.m. The event concludes at noon.

The cost is \$15 per person and includes a T-shirt and raffle ticket. Also, additional raffle tickets will be available for purchase.

The event also features In Her Shoes.



EO file photo

Erica Sandoval, Hermiston Police Department crime prevention officer, takes part in a past "In Her Shoes" domestic violence workshop. The experiential learning exercise will be available during the upcoming Domestic Violence Services Walk/Run in Pendleton.

The simulation activity provides participants with information about the tough decisions real clients face when dealing with domestic violence.

People are encouraged to register for the walk in advance at www.domesticviolenceservices-or.org or they can send

information and the payment to Domestic Violence Services, P.O. Box 152, Pendleton, OR 97801.

For more information about the training or fundraising walk, contact Sharon Neuvirth at sharon@dvs-or.org or 541-276-3322.

IRRIGON

City repeals regulation on medical pot

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

Nearing the end of its moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries, the city of Irrigon has repealed a chapter in the local development code that attempted to regulate how and where marijuana could be grown inside city limits.

Article 10, Chapter 7 of the Irrigon Development Code was adopted in 2012 and set a number of provisions for medical marijuana growers, such as obtaining a zoning permit from the city and staying 1,000 feet away from any school.

During the 2014 special session, lawmakers in Salem passed a bill allowing cities and counties to enact a one-year moratorium on dispensaries until officials could sort out which regulations were needed for development. All of Morrow County, including the cities of Irrigon, Boardman, Hepner and Ione, and town of Lexington, enacted a moratorium that is set to expire April 30.

Since then, city and county governments have collaborated to come up

with their own proposed regulations under the state Medical Marijuana Program. In the course of their research, Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist said they came back to Article 10, Chapter 7 in the development code, which he said was "not properly written or cited," and attempted to regulate the card holder program itself.

Irrigon City Council repealed it on Tuesday, paving the way for a new set of laws on dispensaries. These include updated definitions, conditional uses for dispensaries and appropriate zoning.

In the meantime, Palmquist said the Oregon Health Authority continues to regulate the Medical Marijuana Program, and cardholders will not be denied legal growing and use of marijuana in their own homes.

"The Medical Marijuana Program is still state statute," Palmquist said. "It hasn't been diminished, but (our code) wasn't applicable."

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

PENDLETON

In one trip, OSP trooper nabs two for drunk driving

East Oregonian

An Oregon State Police trooper early Wednesday was taking one drunk driver to jail when he caught a second one.

Trooper Michael Wolf out of the Pendleton OSP office stopped a Nissan Frontier pickup for violating the basic rule of driving for the conditions at 12:43 p.m. at Highway 11 and Highway 335. State police reported Ralph

Joseph Van Deurs, 30, of Milton-Freewater, and his passenger told the trooper they were returning from a St. Patrick's Day celebration in Pendleton. Van Deurs failed a sobriety test, according to state police, and his blood-alcohol level was .13 percent, above the .08 percent legal limit.

Wolf arrested Van Deurs for driving under the influence of intoxicants and was taking him to the Umatilla

County Jail, Pendleton. But at 1:43 a.m. Wolf saw a blue Ford Taurus fail to maintain its lane on Interstate 84 near milepost 207, near the intersection that leads to the jail. Wolf pulled over the Taurus and talked to the driver, who, according to state police, "exhibited signs of impairment and had an overwhelming odor of alcohol emanating from his breath."

Vance Kyle Schultz, 23,

of Pendleton, then failed a sobriety test and had a blood-alcohol level of .21 percent. State police reported Schultz claimed he had not consumed alcohol.

Wolf arrested Schultz for DUI as well and left the Taurus in the parking lot of the justice center, which houses the jail.

BRIEFLY

Gun show has vendor space

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock Gun Show will raise money to help support the Pilot Rock Community Days.

The event is Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Community Center, 285 N.W. Cedar Place. Admission is \$5 per person, \$4 if you bring a gun to sell or \$7 for both days. Those 12 and under are admitted free. Also, concessions will be available for purchase.

Vendors are welcome. The cost to set up a table is \$30 if paid in advance or \$35 at the event.

For more information, contact Tom Hawk at 541-420.5940 or Virginia Carnes

at 541-443-5832 or vcarnes@centurytel.net.

Equine therapy preps for season

PENDLETON — Spring is just around the corner and that means Dream Catcher Therapeutics is getting spruced up for spring lessons and hosting volunteer training.

Volunteers are needed for work parties Tuesday, March 24 through Friday, March 27 beginning at 10 a.m. each day at 46688 Mission Road, Mission. An informal lunch will be provided during the work parties.

Dream Catchers received grant money to assist with building a sensory trail and a wash rack and grooming area for horses. Other jobs include putting a mid-rail around

the arena perimeter and grooming and riding horses. Tasks are available for all ages, even picking up rocks from the arena and cleaning tack.

Volunteer training is planned Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. This is for all new and returning volunteers. Anyone interested in equine assisted therapy and activities is invited to attend. The training will last about two hours and includes beverages. For more information, call 541-276-2636.

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.

Fabulous Friday

FISH

March 20 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
@ the St. Anthony Hospital Blue Mountain Cafe

Fish Tacos - \$7.75/Adults - \$6.50/Seniors - \$5.00/Children
All you can eat fish tacos served with rice, beans, and cole slaw.

Clam Chowder - \$4.25
Heaping portion of house made clam chowder served in a bread bowl.

Baked Potato Bar - \$4.00/with toppings - \$3.00/with butter only
An extra-large baked potato filled with choice of toppings.

CHI St. Anthony Hospital
2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton, OR 97801