

Gorge artists open studios for tours

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

After going through a divorce, Ardis DeFreece determined life was too short to not be doing what you loved.

The Trout Lake, Washington, artist moved to Italy for a couple of years where she studied classical art. After returning to the Pacific Northwest, DeFreece re-established her life as an artist.

“Every day I love what I do, you can’t beat that,” she said. “Even when the workload is full and the deadlines are tight, I never regret my choice.”

DeFreece is one of more than three dozen artists in the Columbia River Gorge region opening their studios to give the public an inside look at where they work.

The self-guided tour takes participants through the Mid-Columbia region from Cascade Locks to The Dalles and Parkdale. Along the way, people can enjoy the beautiful vistas, as well



Contributed photo
“Cake Plate,” an oil on canvas by Ardis DeFreece of the Gorge Artists Open Studios tour. More than three dozen artists will open their studios for the April 10-12 event.

as seeing other offerings in the area, including the Hood River Valley’s Fruit Loop. The event is April 10-12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. There’s no admission charge.

Detailed maps of participating studios are available at www.gorgeartists.org, as well as at Gorge-art-

ea chambers of commerce and Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade St., Hood River. The art center’s spring hours are Wednesday through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is DeFreece’s second year as part of the studio tour. In addition, she volunteers on the event’s media

team.

“I am really enjoying getting to know all of the amazing artists on the tour. We are a diverse and interesting group,” she said.

The mediums of studio tour artists include painting, drawing, jewelry, glass, sculpture, photography, textiles, fiber and more. The public is invited to visit with the artists and learn more about their creative processes.

In its ninth year, the tour’s goal is to showcase the artists and provide insight into the environment in which art is created. To ensure a top-notch experience, the tour is a juried event. Artwork is for sale at most of the studios.

For more information, visit www.gorgeartists.org, www.facebook.com/gaos, tour, or contact gaostudios@gmail.com.

—

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



Bill regulates use of livestock antibiotics

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Federal oversight of antibiotic use in livestock production recently sparked debate as Oregon lawmakers considered enacting state restrictions on such treatments.

Proponents of House Bill 2598, which would prohibit treating livestock with “non-therapeutic” doses of antibiotics, claim the legislation is necessary because the U.S. Food and Drug Administration doesn’t impose adequate limits on the drugs.

Overuse of antibiotics is causing resistance among pathogens, so using the medicine to stimulate growth or to prevent disease in livestock should be stopped, said David Rosenfeld, executive director of the OSPiRG consumer group.

Some antibiotics have already become less effective and aren’t likely to be quickly replaced, he said during a March 24 hearing before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“They’re not being developed at the same rate we’re losing them,” Rosenfeld said.

The legislation would not be rendered moot by the FDA’s strategy of working with drug manufacturers to phase out some nontherapeutic antibiotic use in livestock by the end of 2016, Rosenfeld said.

The federal program is voluntary and only ceases antibiotic treatments meant to promote growth — most nontherapeutic use is aimed at preventing diseases, so the FDA’s plan is unlikely to significantly reduce overuse, he said.

There’s currently no federal statute restricting antibiotics in livestock production, so the FDA’s approach is vulnerable to change under new presidential administrations, said Ivan Maluski, policy director of Friends of Family Farmers, a group that supports stronger antibiotic regulations.

“We’re not necessarily confident the solution is going to come from Washington, D.C.,” he said.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is also concerned about antibiotic resistance but believes HB 2598 falls short of its goals, said Chuck Meyer, the group’s president.

The bill would compromise animal health by banning antibiotic use for disease prevention, he said. Prevention is necessary when dealing with herds of animals rather than individual people, Meyer said.

Proponents of HB 2598 oversimplify the FDA’s strategy by characterizing it as “voluntary,” said Richard Carnevale, vice president of regulatory, scientific and international affairs for the Animal Health Institute, which represents drug manufacturers.

The pharmaceutical industry has agreed to cooperate with FDA rather having the agency go through with the formal process of disallowing certain antibiotic uses, which would drag on for years, he said.

Companies are committing to antibiotic restrictions, by which veterinarians and farmers would have to abide, Carnevale said. “Once this takes place, those labels will be changed forever.”

Of the 18 pathogens identified by the Centers for Disease Control as posing an antibiotic resistance threat, only salmonella and campylobacter are related to animal agriculture, he said.

“In the whole scheme of things, they don’t represent a huge antibiotic resistance problem,” Carnevale said.

Apart from the ban on nontherapeutic use, HB 2598 contains other contentious provisions: confined animal feeding operations would have to report antibiotic use to state regulators and private citizens could file lawsuits to enforce the law.

Proponents of the bill say it’s necessary to track antibiotic usage since the drugs could still be used on healthy animals during emergencies. As for the lawsuits, proponents say the law is meant to be “self-enforcing” and limit the role of government.

Opponents counter that the recordkeeping burden for CAFOs is excessive and that the lawsuit provision will spur attorneys to seek out farmers for litigation.

“That is a very damaging precedent to set here,” said Ian Tolleson, director of government affairs for the Northwest Food Processors Association.

— The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Sheriff’s office nabs no drunk drivers on St. Paddy’s

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office’s extra patrols on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, did not yield any arrests of drunk drivers.

A written statement from the sheriff’s office reported the patrols produced nine “additional citizen contacts,” one of which led to the arrest of a driver for failure to carry/present a driver’s license and for providing false information to an officer.

A grant from the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association funded the patrols, according to the statement, which had the primary intent of catching impaired drivers and increasing law enforcement presence in the community. Sheriff’s Sgt. Joshua Roberts said in the statement that the sheriff’s office made no arrests for driving under the influence of intoxicants and there also were no DUI-related crashes.

The sheriff’s office will run enhanced patrols again May 22-25.

USDA seeks to close non-farmer payment loophole

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed a rule under the 2014 Farm Bill to limit farm payments to non-farmers, requiring farm managers prove they are “actively engaged” in the operation.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the rule would close a loophole taken advantage of by some larger joint ventures and general partnerships, while

exempting family farms.

The current definition of “actively engaged” for farm managers was established in 1987 and is worded too broadly, Vilsack said. That has allowed individuals with little to no contributions on the farm to receive payments from USDA farm safety net programs.

Under the new proposal, farm managers for non-family partnerships must prove they are spending at least 500 hours or 25 percent of their critical management time running the farm in order to qualify for payments. Family farms would not be impacted, as mandated by Congress.

Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed changes should visit www.regulations.gov by Tuesday, May 26. More information is available at www.go.usa.gov/3C6Kk.

Supplemental EIS released for invasive plants treatment

The public has until May 4 to comment on an updated environmental report for treating invasive plants on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The Invasive Plants Treatment Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was released by the Forest Service on Wednesday, and can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41451.

In 2010, the agency signed off on its first environmental impact statement for treating and controlling invasive plant infestations on 22,842 acres of the Wallowa-Whitman forest. Six months later,

BRIEFLY

The U.S. District Court of Oregon filed a complaint alleging the decision violated the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act and Clean Water Act.

Subsequent appeals and court rulings resulted in the supplement, which re-analyzes the potential effects of treating invasive plants on the forest for the next 15 years and outlining compliance with regulations to protect native fish and riparian habitat.

Guidelines for public comment can be found on the project’s website. To receive electronic or hard copies of the report, contact Wallowa-Whitman Forest Botanist Gene Yates at 541-523-1290 or gyates@fs.fed.us.

Convention Center expansion complete

PENDLETON — According to the city of Pendleton, the eastern expansion to the Pendleton Convention Center is now complete.

Besides making the eastern conference rooms larger, the city also upgraded the rooms’ technological capabilities.

Earlier this month, Pendleton City Council doubled the cost of reserving eastern meeting rooms from

\$55 to \$110 to correspond with the increased space and amenities.

The \$897,000 project was paid for with the Tourist Promotional Assessment Charge, a tax on overnight hotel rooms.

The city has directed the newly reformed Pendleton Convention Center Commission to identify larger events that would accommodate the expansion.

Child-centered training offered

PENDLETON — Family and Community Together (FACT) and Intermountain ESD are sponsoring three sessions of the training “It Starts With A Dream: Creating a One-Page Person Centered Profile” on Wednesday at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. The training discusses how to articulate your vision for the future, identify your child’s strengths and target what does and doesn’t work.

All sessions will be held at Intermountain ESD, 2001 S.W. Nye, Pendleton. Pre-registration is requested; call 888-988-3228 or register online at www.factoregon.org/calendar. For more information, contact Stacy Shown, Eastern Oregon program coordinator, at 541-805-9068.



RE-ELECT Bryan Wolfe

**District 3
Umatilla Electric
Board Member**

- Proven leadership & experience
- Board member since 1996
- Certified credentials

*Paid for by Bryan Wolfe
80897 Wolfe Lane, Hermiston, OR 97838*

Fabulous Friday

FISH



March 27 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

Missoula Children's Theatre Presents



THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

Featuring a cast of 37 local children from Boardman and Irrigon

Performances at 4 & 6pm
Saturday, March 28th
AC Houghton Elementary School
1105 N. Main Ave. NE • Irrigon, OR
Admission is Free!

Sponsored by North Morrow Community Foundation. Funded by Morrow County Unified Recreation District and community donations.