

ADAMS



The Glory Riders of Oregon marched Saturday morning as part of the Adams Day parade.

A slice of Americana

Adams Day celebrates with parade, baseball and apple pie

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Becky Holmes remembers the first time she came to Adams in 2002; it was like stepping 50 years back in time — a little slice of Americana tucked away in the rolling wheat fields of northern Umatilla County.

Now president of the local Ladies Club, Holmes helps to organize the annual Adams Day celebration with those old-fashioned values still very much intact.

Adams Day got started Saturday morning in the little town 14 miles northeast of Pendleton with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast and short parade down Main Street, followed by the official kick-off to Triangle Little League play at Loiland Field.

Arts and crafts vendors gathered around Adams City Park, while the Ladies Club served fresh homemade pies and cinnamon rolls at the Friendship Center. Neighbors came from Helix and Pendleton to enjoy the sunshine, which Holmes said is not always easy given the amount of farm work that needs done this time of year.

Holmes also presented the 2015 Adams First Citizens Award to Lisa Youncs, her husband, Mark, and their two sons Kolten, 19, and Dylan, 10. This is the first year the award went to an entire family, Holmes said.

"This is a family that's



Members of the Adams Ladies Club sponsor and help organize the annual Adams Day celebration. From left: Becky Holmes, president; Elyn Johnson, parade grand marshal; Lisa Youncs; and Kathleen Youncs, parade chairman.

involved in everything," Holmes said. "The kids start from the time they can walk, just pitching in and helping out."

Lisa Youncs is another member of the Ladies Club, while Mark is a former mayor and volunteer firefighter for the East Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District. As a family, they put in their time helping prepare the community's traditional Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas nativity and bundling care packages for residents during the holidays.

"It teaches my children to carry these traditions on," Lisa Youncs said. "That's been important to us."

Patriotism is also a signature mark in Adams, with the stars and stripes on proud display both in the parade and around the city. Locals

are quick to point out Adams had more National Guard soldiers per capita than any other city in the nation following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"We've always tried to make that (patriotism) part of Adams," Holmes said.

Bruce Bugbee, an auxiliary member of the Ladies Club and member of the Weston-McEwen Lions Club, said the nice weather made for a good turnout at this year's Adams Day. The event is nice, he said, because kids and parents alike can get out and enjoy some time together.

"We have a nice little town," he said. "It's a good place to live."

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

BRIEFLY



04/18/2015
Contributed photo, Oregon State Police
Authorities are investigating a crash Saturday morning on Interstate 84 near Arlington that resulted in a fire and diesel spill. The driver of the truck was not injured.

Driver asleep at the wheel crashes diesel truck

ARLINGTON — Authorities say a 23-year-old Idaho man fell asleep at the wheel before crashing his semi-trailer truck in a fiery wreck early Saturday morning on Interstate 84 near Arlington.

Oregon State Police records show Casey Leppert was driving westbound at 5:30 a.m. when he struck the median barrier and overturned his rig, causing the vehicle to burst into flames. The wreck also spilled about 150 gallons of diesel fuel on the highway.

Leppert was not injured in the crash or fire. He was cited by OSP for careless driving.

Emergency crews from the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office, Arlington Fire Department, Oregon Department of Transportation and Hermiston hazardous materials team assisted OSP troopers on scene.

None of the diesel was believed to have reached the Columbia River.

Westbound I-84 traffic was temporarily diverted through the city of Arlington while workers cleared the damage.

La Grande driver faces charges in fatal crash

LA GRANDE — A La Grande man is dead, others injured and a driver faces charges of manslaughter and more after a single-vehicle crash Saturday.

Oregon State Police reported in a written statement preliminary information from investigators indicates Brandon C. Halleck, 27, of La Grande, was driving a black Nissan pickup in a reckless manner at Saturday at 5:47 p.m. when it crashed into a ditch. There was a passenger in the cab of the pickup and three people in the bed.

The passenger in the cab and two juveniles in the bed suffered serious injuries, according to state police, and the third occupant in the bed, Jacob R. Yeates, 23, of La Grande, died at the scene. Halleck also was injured, but state police did not report his injuries as serious.

Troopers arrested Halleck and booked him into the Union County Jail, La Grande, for first-degree manslaughter, first-degree assault, felony driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and three counts of recklessly endangering others.

Oregon State Police also reported troopers in La Grande are continuing to investigate the crash.

Man jailed after trying to force wife from road

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police arrested a Pendleton man after his wife reported he tried to drive her and her

children off the road. Trooper James Eslinger at about 10:15 a.m. Saturday responded to a call about a domestic disturbance on Interstate 84 near milepost 193. He found 35-year-old Elizabeth Fagan of Pendleton, who said she was driving her children, ages 7 and 8, to Echo to stay with relatives when their father, John Fagan, intercepted them.

John Fagan used his Toyota Camry to block the path of his wife's vehicle, according to the report state police received from Elizabeth Fagan, and then the husband tried to run the Toyota from the road as she fled into Pendleton. When she called police, he stayed on I-84. From there she met up with officers in the parking lot of Pendleton Denny's, 610 Tutuilla Road.

John Fagan took Exit 207 then drove on Rieth Road, where a Pendleton officer detained him. State police arrested him for three counts of recklessly endangering another and reckless driving. Police also found he had a driving while suspended violation, and officers took a .22 caliber pump-action rifle from his vehicle for safekeeping while Blue Mountain Towing took his Toyota. Police booked Fagan in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

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Drought emergency declared in Baker, Wheeler counties

SALEM — The number of Oregon counties under a state-declared drought emergency continues to grow in 2015.

On Monday, Gov. Kate Brown declared droughts in Baker and Wheeler counties due to low snowpack and overall dry conditions.

Brown had already declared drought emergencies in Crook, Harney, Klamath, Lake and Malheur counties, based on recommendations by the Oregon Drought Council. The declarations allow increased flexibility in how water is managed to ensure supplies are used as efficiently as possible.

"Oregon's warm and dry winter has potentially devastating consequences for those who live in Baker and Wheeler counties," Brown said. "By enlisting the support of our state and federal partners, we

will ensure the safety of residents, livestock and property."

Umatilla County remains in wait-and-see mode before considering a request to the Drought Council. McKay Reservoir near Pendleton is now 80 percent full, while Cold Springs Reservoir near Hermiston is 60 percent full.

Both Umatilla and Morrow counties qualify for federal assistance because they are contiguous with Grant County, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture has identified in drought disaster.

Umatilla National Forest to begin invasive plant treatments

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest is taking an integrated approach to ridding the woods of invasive plants that, if left untreated, could choke out native vegetation, livestock forage and wildlife habitat.

Work is expected to begin in late April and run through October, which will include spraying herbicides to halt infestations.

"The majority of herbicide treatments will be spot application to individual invasive plants using truck sprayers, backpack sprayers and utility terrain vehicles," said Joan Frazee, forest botanist. "Manual and mechanical treatments are planned for a number of small infestations, some of which have been treated for more than a decade and are subsequently much reduced in size."

Invasive species targeted for treatment include yellow star-thistle, leafy spurge, Scotch thistle, Dalmatian toadflax and spotted knapweed. Controls have been implemented under the 2010 Invasive Species Treatment Project, amended by the Forest Service in its 2005 program for preventing and managing invasive plants.

Proposed treatment sites are posted online at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla. For more information, contact Frazee at 541-278-3931.

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

PENDLETON

Adult Prom goes 'Back to the Future'

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Just like Marty McFly, you're invited to party like it's 1955, 1985 or 2015.

The Pendleton Friends of the Library are hosting an Adult Prom with a "Back to the Future" theme. Organizers encourage people to dance the night away and help support the library.

The Adult Prom is Saturday, May 2 from 7-10 p.m. at the Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. The tickets are \$20 per person if purchased in advance or \$25 at the door.

Jennifer Costley, youth services librarian/interim assistant director, said the theme highlights three different decades and the possibilities are endless for participants to incorporate the cult classic film trilogy.

"We can feature music from all three decades," Costley said. "And, of course, 2015 is the year that Marty traveled to in 'Back to the Future 2.'"

The idea for the unique fundraiser developed last spring when Costley and Maura O'Daniel, the library's circulation supervisor, were lamenting about having nowhere to dance in town. Instead of just sitting around waiting for someone else to make things happen, they decided to throw their own party.

Since they both work at the library and are aware of additional funding needs, they approached the Pendleton Friends of the Library about hosting a fundraising event.

"We pitched the dance as a prom do-over for those who

either had a rough first prom or wanted to relive a great one," Costley said.

The ticket includes a free glass of wine, unlimited access to the themed photo booth, dancing, refreshments and a silent auction. Among the items up for bid are gift cards for local restaurants and a \$500 voucher for SeaPort Airlines.

Nearly 100 tickets were sold for last year's inaugural Adult Prop and the event raised \$3,000. Costley said people seemed to enjoy the

gala event, with many coming out to help support the library through a fun themed party.

Proceeds from the event will help with purchasing materials, providing services and events for library patrons by Pendleton Friends of the Library.

To buy tickets in advance, stop by the library at 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For more information, contact Costley at 541-966-0380 or jennifer.furuyama@ci.pendleton.or.us.

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This class is FREE!

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www.sahpendleton.org

Jackie Downie, LCSW
Individual, Child and Family Therapist
is closing her private practice as of April 27th 2015.
A big thank you to Pendleton area for supporting the practice!
Records available after closing date by sending request to:
Jackie Downie, LCSW
PO Box 484
Pinedale, WY 82941-0484

ANNUAL HERITAGE HOME TOUR
A fun-filled event with refreshments, presentation on the various home styles found in Pendleton, and a tour of two turn-of-the-century mansions.
Saturday, May 2nd
Heritage Station Museum
Two tour sessions offered:
11 AM - 2 PM or
12:15 PM to 3 PM
Tickets: \$20 if bought in advance; \$30 on day of event.
Call Heritage Station Museum at 541-276-0012 for information