

BRIEFLY

ODFW to present fall hunting update

PENDLETON — The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife will provide information about the fall hunting season and big game herds at a public meeting Tuesday in Pendleton.

District wildlife biologists will give discuss tags, survey results and potential changes to the 2016 regulations at the meeting, which is scheduled from 4-7 p.m. at the ODFW office, 733471 Mytinger Lane.

Tag numbers should be similar to last year, when the agency offered 72,137 deer, 59,568 elk, 2,492 pronghorn, 20 mountain goat and 95 bighorn sheep tags, according to the agency. Final tag proposals will be adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on June 5 in Salem.

Hunters have until 11:59 p.m. Friday, May 15 to apply for most rifle elk and rifle deer controlled hunts in Eastern Oregon. Applications are \$8 per hunt series, and a 2015 annual license is required to apply. It can be purchased at the same time as the application.

Apply online at www.or.outdoorcentral.us/or/license.

Trip highlights photo stops

PENDLETON — A photography road trip features stops at Steptoe Butte and Palouse Falls.

Pendleton Parks & Recreation is sponsoring the trip and photography buff Dave Byrd will provide tips in getting the best shots.

To fully experience each destination, some light hiking is involved. There will be a lot to see and do, including vantage points of massive wind turbines.

The trip, which includes mini-bus transportation, is Saturday, May 16, departing at 7:30 a.m. from the Pendleton Recreation Center. The return time is estimated to be 6:30 p.m. Those 16 and up are invited to participate.

The \$48 registration fee is due by Friday, May 8. Participants must bring money for lunch and are encouraged to pack some drinks and snacks. To register, go to www.pendletonparksandrec.com or stop by the parks office, 865 Tutuilla Road. For more information, call 541-276-8100.

Mother's Day brunch includes entertainment

HERMISTON — Music by the Coffey Brothers is featured in a Mother's Day program at the Hermiston Elks Lodge.

The public is invited to the event, which includes a Mother's Day brunch Sunday at 10 a.m. at 480 E. Main St., Hermiston. The meal, which follows the program, is \$8 per person.

For more information, call 541-567-6923 or 541-571-5116.

Tearing paper creates art

PENDLETON — A mixed media class will encourage youths to rethink collages.

Torn Paper, which incorporates elements of sculpture, painting and assemblage, begins each project with the simple idea of tearing paper to find new and surprising uses for it. Experimentation is encouraged, and students will come home with some amazing 2D and 3D art pieces.

Open to ages 7-12, the four-session class is offered on Saturdays from 1-2 p.m. beginning May 16 at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Also, there's a \$5 materials fee.

To register or for more information, call 541-278-9201.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

BMCC students honored for academics

East Oregonian

Two Blue Mountain Community College students were honored by Oregon Governor Kate Brown last week as members of the 2015 All-Oregon Academic Team, which recognizes students from the state's 17 community colleges for their classroom achievement and community involvement.

Second-year BMCC students Kevin Hawman and Kaylie Thompson received their All-Oregon Academic Team award, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa (the honor society for 2-year colleges), during an annual gala luncheon in Salem on April 30.

Each college may select up to two students each year, and those students must be taking classes in pursuit of a four-year degree and will transfer to a university.

Hawman is an agriculture student at BMCC who plans to transfer to Oregon State University to continue his agriculture studies this fall. After completing his degree, Hawman plans to return to Eastern Oregon to work on his family's farm in Hermiston. He has been instrumental in fundraising for an irrigation pivot at BMCC, bringing in more than \$60,000 in donations to the project, and managed to acquire a \$30,000 discount on the system from Valley Irrigation of Nebraska.

Thompson is a nursing student at BMCC, and plans to pursue a master's degree in nursing at Eastern Oregon University so she can work in either



Contributed photo

Sen. Bill Hansell poses with BMCC students Kaylie Thompson and Kevin Hawman in Salem on April 30. The two second-year students were honored as members of the 2015 All-Oregon Academic Team.

general nursing, geriatric health care, pediatrics or mission work. In the past two years, Thompson has taken part in mission trips to Haiti and Nicaragua to provide meals to families and children, which completely changed her outlook on life.

Thompson's mother and Hawman's parents attended the gala

event, as did BMCC President Cam Preus and BMCC Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Velda Arnaud.

Every four-year institution in the state offers a minimum \$1,000 in transfer scholarships to All-Oregon Academic Team members and team members vie for national scholarships worth more than \$350,000

from the Coca-Cola Foundation and USA Today.

Along with meeting Gov. Brown, Hawman and Thompson also met with State Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena) and Rep. Greg Baretto (R-Cove), who also recognized the students during their respective floor sessions.

Civil trial stemming from sex crime case begins in Pendleton

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Milton-Freewater man acquitted of raping his stepdaughter is back in court, this time as the plaintiff.

Randell Kerby and his wife Cheryl are suing Gay Davis, an Oregon Department of Human Services employee, for her role in confronting the family following the 2011 not guilty verdict and telling Randell Kerby he could not return home. The lawsuit claims the actions violated their right to due process and Davis had no legal authority to prevent Randell Kerby from going home to his family.

Jury selection and opening arguments in the civil trial began Thursday morning in the John F. Kilkenny United States Courthouse, Pendleton. Judge Michael W. Mosman is presiding over the trial, which should conclude next week.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office in early 2011 arrested Kerby for multiple counts of raping and abusing the girl. The case went to trial at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, and a jury on Sept. 29, 2011, found him not guilty. But moments after the verdict, Davis and a sheriff's detective met the family outside the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, and warned

Randell Kerby not to return home or he would face consequences.

The Kerbys in March 2012 filed a lawsuit in federal court that claimed an inept investigation led to false charges of sex crimes and the arrest. An amended lawsuit claimed the Kerbys suffered emotional stress and the actions of state authorities robbed them of due process and subjected them to illegal search and seizure. They ask for a jury to decide any damages.

Oregon Department of Justice attorney Heather Van Meter represents Davis and told the six-member jury that Davis was doing her job when she warned Randell Kerby not to go home. The state agency still considered him a danger to the accuser's two siblings who lived in the home.

The Kerby's initially named several co-defendants, including the Oregon Department of Human Services, former Umatilla County Sheriff John Trumbo, former sheriff's detective Rhiana Sheridan and deputy county prosecutor Kate Hansen. Court actions removed those defendants, leaving Davis as the lone target of the lawsuit.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

Umatilla County continues investigation into director, employees

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County's human services director and two alcohol and drug counselors remain on paid leave in the midst of an internal investigation.

County Commissioner George Murdock said the county does not know if department head Carolyn Mason and the two workers committed any wrongdoing.

"We are as anxious as anybody to get to the bottom of it," he said, adding the county will reveal any information as soon as it can.

County officials have not identified the counselors.

The county human services umbrella covers mediation for families, drug, alcohol and gambling prevention, developmental disabilities and veterans services. Human services employed almost 26.5 full-time equivalent workers in 2015-16 fiscal year, according to county budget documents, with 14.5 of those in addiction services. The county's proposed budget for the next fiscal year would add six full-time employees to the addiction services division.

County counsel Doug Olsen said a team from Greater Oregon

"We are as anxious as anybody to get to the bottom of it."

— **George Murdock,**
County Commissioner

Behavioral Health, Inc., based in The Dalles, was involved in the investigation. Olsen said the county receives funding from GOBHI for alcohol and drug programs, so the organization has the ability to review the program and look at the books.

But Kevin Campbell, the health organization's CEO, said county's investigation did not prompt the recent general review. He said GOBHI periodically sends teams of four or five members to evaluate programs of its partners. He explained the probes look at access to services, for example, or how well programs track clients. This review was not out of the ordinary, he said, and the team turned findings and recommendations over to the county as well as the Oregon Health Authority.

Campbell also said the state is likely to conduct its own review, and GOBHI is in a monitoring mode to ensure people have access to the county services.



Tell your favorite graduate how proud you are in our **Graduation 2015 special section in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald & share their "Then" & "Now" Photos!**

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Publishes: May 30th
Send in your text and photos to psmoolz@eastoregonian.com or bring to Paula at the East Oregonian office by May 18th.
Mailing address: Attn: Paula Smoolz
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Your Name: _____
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Mother's Day Prime Rib Buffet
Sunday, May 10 10am - 2pm
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PORK LOIN WITH DEMI-GLACE
ROASTED RED POTATOES
FRESH GREEN BEANS WITH BACON
CHICKEN BUNKHOUSE PASTA
WHISKY MEATBALLS
FESTIVE SCRAMBLED EGGS
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