

BRIEFLY

Umatilla company facing DEQ fine

UMATILLA — State environmental regulators have fined a Umatilla company \$1,500 for failing to submit an annual air quality report for 2014. J-M Pipe Company, Inc., has until Tuesday to appeal the penalty from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The state agency in a written statement reported J-M Pipe has an air contaminant discharge permit for its PVC pipe manufacturing plant at 31240 Roxbury Road, Umatilla. The permit requires the company to submit an annual report. The reports allow the DEQ to see if companies are operating within the limits of their permits. J-M Pipe also submitted its 2012 report late, according to the environmental department’s statement.

Genealogy gathering to share old photos

PENDLETON — People are asked to bring old pictures and memorabilia to share during the upcoming meeting of the Blue Mountain Genealogy Society. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to attend. The gathering is Tuesday, June 2 at 1 p.m. in the Pendleton Public Library Community Room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave. For more information, contact vjcurtiss@yahoo.com.

Hermiston seniors change meal prices

HERMISTON — Effective June 1, meal prices will change at the Hermiston Senior Center. All meals for adults and children over 10 will cost \$4, as well as Meals on Wheels and takeout. Children under 10 are free. For people who don’t bring their own table service, there’s an additional charge of 50 cents. The meals are served Tuesday and Thursdays at noon at 435 W. Orchard Ave., located on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds. For more information, call Julie at the Hermiston Senior Center at 541-567-3582.

Heppner Bank fires up the BBQ

HEPPNER — As a customer appreciation, the Heppner branch of Community Bank will host a barbecue. The event is Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the bank at 127 N. Main St., Heppner. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda and cookies will be served. In addition, participants can enter a drawing to win a barbecue grill or a kids’ prize pack.

Crow’s Shadow Institute welcomes Daniel Duford

MISSION — Golden Spot award winner Daniel Duford is the artist-in-residence at Crow’s Shadow Institute of the Arts. An artist lecture and reception is planned Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 48004 St. Andrews Road, Mission. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 541-276-3397.

Jill Perrine decodes canning rules

PENDLETON — The public is invited to learn canning techniques during a free workshop presented through the Pendleton Public Library. Not Your Grandmother’s Canning is Thursday at 7 p.m. in the community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Jill Perrine will lead the free session, including topics of canning rules, how to avoid food-borne illness and an explanation of inexplicable failures. For more information, contact heather.culley@ci.pendleton.or.us or 541-966-0380.

Gallery show offers ‘experience’

PENDLETON — The artwork of Rosco “Carrico” Crooke is featured in a gallery show in the Lorenzen Board Room at Pendleton Center for the Arts. This is the Pendleton artist’s first show and he is thrilled. With black lights bringing the multi-dimensional pieces to life and illuminating the glow-in-the-dark paints of some, Crooke calls it more than a gallery show — “it’s an experience,” he said. The show opening — along with the printmaking work of Aaron Robert Miller in the East Oregonian Gallery — is Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m. at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. It’s free and open to the public. Crooke’s show runs through Friday, June 26. For more information, call 541-278-9201. To see a story about Cooke and his work, visit www.eastoregonian.com/eo/local-news/20150221/rosco-crooke-pours-his-heart-into-paint.

Leadership Hermiston to graduate 18th class

HERMISTON — Past graduates and guests of Leadership Hermiston are invited to the Class 18 graduation. The event is Tuesday, June 9 with a social time at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP with choice of main dish (stuffed pork loin, salmon or stuffed pasta shells) by Friday, June 5. The cost is \$25 per person. Non-alcoholic beverages, wine and beer also will be served. For more information or to RSVP, contact Michelle Weber at 541-567-6151 or michelle@hermistonchamber.com.

Community rallies to repair flood-damaged park

HELIX — After flooding destroyed much of the Helix Park, the community is rallying together to repair and make improvements. The public is invited to join the effort during the Heart of the Country Fun Run/Walk. The event is Saturday with check-in at 9 a.m. at Helix Park. The run/walk begins at 10 a.m. The cost is \$20 if registered in advance or \$25 on race day. Proceeds from the event will go towards the purchase of a new swing set. The trophies for female and male winners of each age category of the 5K are being donated by the Helix wood shop class, Jim Cole, and Birch Creek Trophies. The Helix track team designed T-shirts. For more information or to register, visit http://heartofthecountry.itsyourrace.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.

HERMISTON

Student-built home impresses

Builders give visitors tour of house

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A steady stream of visitors declared themselves impressed on Monday as students showed off the first house built by the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilding Program. “I think it’s absolutely fabulous,” Audney Cosand said. “All of the details and the inner workings really make life easier.” Students were enthusiastic about showing those little details off. They turned on faucets with the tap of a finger, adjusted the volume on the house-wide sound system and demonstrated the “slam-proof” cupboards. Signs throughout the house also gave details about its superior energy efficiency, including a tankless water heater, and luxury items like a gas fireplace and jetted jacuzzi tub in the master bathroom. Cosand said she and her husband came because they were curious and not because they were in the market for a new house. “I wish we were now,” she said. Pat Schaefer said her favorite



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Elizabeth Herrera, left, shows off the home she helped build to Audney Cosand and David Hutchinson at an open house Monday.

feature was the built-in central vacuum system. Instead of dealing with an entire vacuum cleaner the homeowner just has to plug a hose into a special outlet in the wall and the debris are sucked away. “Everything seems to be pretty high-end,” she said after getting a tour of the house. The house at 895 W Angus Avenue

is three bedrooms, two bathrooms and 2,050 square feet. Hermiston School District is accepting sealed bids for the house until June 19 at 4 p.m. The highest bidder over the \$268,500 bid floor will be awarded the house.

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

HERMISTON

Desert Arts offers art in the park

East Oregonian



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini
Children participate in a mural project during an event sponsored by the Desert Arts Council. The group is hosting free art activities for youths Saturday mornings through the end of June at McKenzie Park in Hermiston.

Free drawing lessons are featured in this week-end’s Free Kid’s Art Activities. Youths ages 6-17 will have an opportunity to engage in the free art activities each Saturday through June 27 at McKenzie Park during Hermiston’s Own Saturday Market. Desert Arts Council, in conjunction with the Miller Foundation and the Oregon Arts Commission, began the activity recently and will continue the next four Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the gazebo at McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. Art instructor Laurie Ellis will present fun and educational projects. Participants may drop-in at any time during the activity. There’s no registration process. In addition, all supplies are provided. The projects are designed as a make it and take it home. For more information, contact Mary Corp at mary.corp@oregonstate.edu, 541-720-3859 or visit www.facebook.com/desertarts.

PILOT ROCK

Council to consider again paying for water, sewer

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock City Council could end a 21-year-old practice of waiving base sewer and water fees for city employees, council members and the mayor. That right now amounts to \$468 a year savings for the seven members of the council. The city council will discuss that when it meets Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilot Rock City Hall. City reporter and budget officer Teri Porter in an email stated the council also will discuss how to apply a \$10 increase for sewer the council approved May 19 with the 2015-16 budget. Pilot Rock charges \$21 a month for up to 1,500 cubic feet of water, then 32 cents per 100 cubic feet more. The city also charges \$18 for sewer (the new \$10 increase is not yet in effect). The city charges 50 cents a month for a sewer utility reserve and another 50 cents a month for a water utility reserve. Public records show the

council on June 28, 1994, passed a resolution allowing full-time city employees to “pay the utility reserve amount plus overrun for water service and receive sewer service at no charge.” The resolution also grants council members and the mayor the break on paying for sewer and gives them 11,500 cubic feet of water before any cost. They also must pay the utility reserve. Pilot Rock may be the only city in Oregon that waives those utilities for elected officials, according to information from the League of Oregon Cities. “We are aware of at least one other city that follows this practice as part of its employee package,” League spokesman Kevin Toon replied in emails. “For example, one city offered its city employees free water and another city provided waivers for active duty military personnel.” But Toon did not say if any other city in Oregon waived sewer and water for council members or the mayor.

Porter in a staff report explained the city waives the fees for council members rather than pay a stipend, and the city employees got the break in lieu of a pay raise. If the council decides to pay, it would add \$1,764 a year to the water fund and \$1,512 to sewer. While the council, city staff and Pilot Rock citizens at the May 19 meeting discussed the \$10 hike as though it were a rate increase, Porter contended the council has not decided to apply it as a separate fee or to the base rate. “Council never really specified that it would be an increase to the base rate,” according to Porter. “We are currently sorting through our options of how we can apply this fee. At this time we only know that we have to increase the rate. I have been trying to find out if we can do it as an additional fee rather than adding the increase to the \$18 base rate and still qualify for low interest loans.” Those loans would come

from state or federal agencies. The city needs to raise the price for sewer services to pay for a \$2.5 million to \$3.7 million project to improve failing sewer lagoons. The city is looking to raise rates to about \$40 over the course of three years. “As a fee, it is likely that council and staff will pay the \$10,” according to Porter. “But nothing is settled yet.” Porter in another email stated the city is not raising water rates. The council Tuesday night also will consider a proposal from Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts to provide administrative oversight to the Pilot Rock Police Department. Under the deal, the city would pay \$4,000 a month so a police lieutenant would provide 20 hours of weekly service. Pilot Rock has been without a full-time chief since January. Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE & SALOON
8th Anniversary Celebration
Friday June 5
Live Music
CALE MOON 5-7:30p
ELEVENTH STREET INCIDENT 8-11p
FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS
“on the lawn” COURT & MAIN, PENDLETON
Party starts at 4p
Dinner Service at 5p
Sponsored in part by **Coca-Cola**
103.5 KWWHEAT

When they say “Hold On Tight!” **and you say “Go Fly A Kite?”**
Sound Advantage Hearing Aid Center
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246 SW Dorion, Pendleton
Rico Jones, BC-HIS Verna Taylor, HAS

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