



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Stanfield heroes

Addalynn Berry, 9, and her brother Nathaniel Berry, 6, sit in the back of a Stanfield fire truck on Tuesday in Stanfield. The Berrys were taking part in the Stanfield Public Library's summer reading program "Be a Hero" where each week focuses on a different type of hero.

## MISSION

# Pow wow highlights American Indian culture

East Oregonian

Little Island Cree, an award-winning drumming group from Island Lake Saskatchewan, Canada, will serve as host drum for this weekend's Wildhorse Pow Wow.

Hailing from Island Lake First Nation, the group has been nominated for a JUNO Award in the best music of Aboriginal Canada recording category. JUNO Awards, which honor outstanding achievements in the music industry, are the Canadian version of the Grammy Awards in the United States. Little Island Cree has been together for more than 20 years.

In its 21st year, the Wildhorse Pow Wow features 25 drum groups and more than 300 native dancers, who will



EO file photo

In its 21st year, the dancing and drumming competition runs Friday through Sunday at the Pow Wow Grounds at Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Mission.

compete for cash and prizes. The event begins Friday with a grand entry at 7 p.m. at the Pow Wow Grounds at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, located off Highway 331, Mission. Grand entries also

kick things off Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. The event runs until midnight Friday and Saturday and until 9 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission charge. The event showcases

the traditions and culture of American Indians. The grand entries feature participants parading into the grassy pow wow arena in their colorful regalia, including youngsters, tribal elders and men and women of all ages.

In addition to the dancing and drumming competitions, vendors offer American Indian arts and crafts, beadwork, apparel and jewelry. Also, food and beverage booths will be plentiful, including the popular Indian fry bread.

For more information, contact Tiah DeGroff, community relations Wildhorse Resort & Casino, at 541-966-1628, tiah.degroff@wildhorseresort.com or visit www.wildhorseresort.com. For reservations at the hotel, RV Park or Tipi Village, call 800-654-9453.

## HERMISTON

# New subsidized options for taxi service in town

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Senior and disabled residents of Hermiston now have another option for the city's subsidized taxi ride program.

Umatilla Cab Company is licensed to operate inside Hermiston and approved to accept riders from the Senior & Disabled Taxi Ticket Program after the city's exclusive franchise with Hermiston Transit Services expired June 30.

In March the city council voted unanimously to end the practice of granting an exclusive franchise to Hermiston Transit Services and instead create a taxi licensing system open to any company that meets the requirements. assistant city manager Mark Morgan said there would probably be a few kinks to work out as the new system was implemented but in the long run he believes allowing some healthy competition between taxi companies will be of benefit to residents.

Umatilla Cab Company has been in operation for almost a year and owner Sundi Marquez said business has been steady.

She expects it to increase now that the taxi company can legally transport riders within the Hermiston city limits and can accept the subsidized ride tickets.

She said the company's two full-time and three part-time drivers have passed the necessary background checks to operate within Hermiston starting July 1. The company has a wheelchair-accessible van. It operates between 6 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. seven days a week and Marquez said she is willing to pick up riders outside of normal operating hours if they make arrangements ahead of time.

The company also does food deliveries and can pick up things like medications.

As for the city-run Senior & Disabled Taxi Ticket Program, Morgan said the city plans to leave pricing and other aspects the same after adding Umatilla Cab Company. Users must be Hermiston residents and register at City Hall. The cost of a one-way ticket will still be \$2 each and can only be used within city limits.

Umatilla Cab Company can be reached at 541-567-6055

## BRIEFLY

### Two arrested after chase in Blues

PENDLETON — A high-speed chase in the Blue Mountains turned into a wilderness search Tuesday, but ended with a man and woman from Washington behind bars in Umatilla County.

The pursuit began at 12:40 p.m., according to Oregon State Police, when a trooper spotted a 1989 Nissan 240Z going 91 miles per hour westbound on Interstate 84 near Meacham. When the trooper tried to catch up, the driver, Jacob Ross, 25, of Des Moines, Wash., sped away, going faster than 120 mph.

When the trooper turned on the patrol vehicle's lights Ross pulled into the westbound truck scales, turned around and drove the wrong way on the interstate in an attempt to elude the trooper. The stunt worked temporarily, as the officer ended the pursuit, but minutes later the officer spotted the vehicle near the Deadman's Pass rest area.

Ross drove his 240Z away again, fleeing onto the Umatilla Tribal Reservation on Kanine Ridge Road, but after about eight miles on the rough road broke down. Ross and his passenger Whitney Johns, 22, of Tacoma, Wash., left the vehicle behind and ran down a ravine.

Troopers from Pendleton, Hermiston, La Grande, an OSP aircraft from Baker City and Umatilla Tribal Police established a perimeter and began a search. They found Ross and Johns at about 2 p.m. hiding in the brush.

Ross was arrested for felony attempt to elude, reckless driving, reckless endangerment and criminal trespass and His passenger, Whitney Johns, 22, of Tacoma, was charged with criminal trespass.

### Hermiston water, sewer rates increase

HERMISTON — Hermiston residents will see their water and sewer bills go up by 4 percent starting Wednesday.

The rate increase is the final step in a series of four increases that started in 2014.

The series of increases, totaling 16 percent, were approved by the Hermiston City Council to help pay for the city's new recycled water treatment plant.

For residential users the new sewer rates will be \$23.56 per month plus \$1.30 per 1,000 gallons over 5,000 gallons used. Water rates will increase to \$17.14 a month for the first 3,000 gallons, \$1.30 for every 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons and \$1.08 for every 1,000 gallons above 13,000.

## PENDLETON

# Hail Mary to save BMRC falls incomplete

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

In a history littered with eleventh hour saves and last minute extensions, it was fitting that the Blue Mountain Recovery Center was the subject of one last attempt at a reprieve.

Unfortunately for the group of local business owners trying to save the former mental hospital from demolition, the Pendleton City Council declined their request to buy the property at an emergency meeting Tuesday.

The group was led by Prodigal Son Brewery and Pub owner Tim Guenther and J & B Automotive owner Jim

Swearingen, who asked the city council for three months while the group put together a business plan.

Guenther said the group was still brainstorming ideas for a repurposed BMRC and wanted turn it into a tourist destination similar to the Pendleton Underground Tours.

In the short time they put together a campaign to save BMRC, Guenther and Swearingen put together a group of staunch supporters, including former state senator Mike Thorne.

Thorne believed the city could successfully appeal to the Legislature, citing his own work in contributing to a last minute decision

that staved off the closing of the Eastern Oregon State Hospital so it could become the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in 1983.

Although expressing admiration for the project's ambition, the council wasn't sold on the group's proposal.

Councilman Chuck Wood gave a brief history of BMRC's closure, recounting the city's unsuccessful attempts to try to sell the facility to Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. or have it absorbed into EOICI.

After BMRC was shuttered last year, the city was able to lobby the Legislature to allocate more than \$1 million to demolish BMRC and the nearby Eastern

Oregon Training Center and convey the land to Pendleton for economic development.

Besides the expensive task of turning a blighted building into a viable business, Wood said reneging on the deal with the state could create significant liability issues for the city.

"It's a great, white elephant," he said. Wood reminded the group that they received no input from them before the eleventh-hour appeal despite multiple public meetings and extensive media coverage.

One by one, almost every councilor echoed Wood's opinions, leading to a unanimous decision to proceed with the demolition.



## See What's In Store

# for summer!

Place a Yard Sale Ad  
25 words, 3 days, private party only  
\$20.00 East Oregonian & Hermiston Herald

Yard Sale Kits - \$5.00  
Includes 2 signs, stakes  
& price stickers.

Call Paula  
541-278-2678



## UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

AUGUST 11-15, 2015

Tuesday, Aug. 11 **DUSTIN LYNCH**

Wednesday, Aug. 12  
**JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY**

Thursday Aug. 13 (7:00pm) **ANTIFAZ** &  
(9:00pm) **LA-MAR-K DE TIERRA CALIENTE**

Friday, Aug. 14 **HINDER**

Saturday, Aug. 15 **WARRANT**

### Reserved Tickets On Sale Now!

**\$12** (does not include admission)

### CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS

**\$23** (until August 10)  
(\$30 after fair starts)



Call or stop by the Fair Office, 515 W. Orchard, Hermiston  
**800-700-FAIR (3247)**  
[www.umatillacounty.net/fair](http://www.umatillacounty.net/fair)  
-Visa & Mastercard Gladly Accepted-

Find us on Facebook  **WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO**