



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Smoky sunset

The setting sun hovers over a roof vent on Sunday night in a smoky sky caused by wildfires in the region.

BRIEFLY

Theater offers sensory-friendly atmosphere

HERMISTON — Special sensory-friendly show times provide a movie-going experience with more light and less volume. Presented by The Arc Umatilla County, in conjunction with Hermiston Stadium 8 Cinema, the special showing of “Minions” is Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at 355 W. Theater Lane, Hermiston. The cost is \$5 per person. The doors open at 10 a.m., providing time to purchase snacks before the flick begins. The Arc Umatilla County works to expand opportunities for people with intellectual and development disabilities. For upcoming movies or other activities offered through The Arc Umatilla County, visit www.facebook.com/arcofumatillacounty.

Dancing class gets people ready for Round-Up

PENDLETON — A line dancing workshop will help get people in step just in time for the Pendleton Round-Up. Instruction will cover several dances, musical genres and rhythms, including the waltz, cha-cha, swing and salsa — providing all the necessary steps to get participants on the dance floor. Led by April Dынtera, the Line Dancing Workshop is Saturday, July 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The cost is \$30 at the door or \$25 if registered by Friday, July 10. All ability levels are welcome and a partner isn’t necessary. The session features six hours of moderate-paced dancing with brief breaks every hour. Participants should wear comfortable

shoes. Water will be provided. Also, drinks and other goodies are available for purchase. A one-hour lunch break is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. Participants should bring their own meal or submit to-go orders through the arts center from Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. Staff will process and pick up food orders. For more information or to register, call 541-278-9201.

Heppner celebrates classes of the ’60s

HEPPNER — The Heppner High School class of 1965 is hosting a Celebrate the ’60s class reunion. The celebration begins Friday, July 24 with a no-host chicken Parmesan dinner from 6-8 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. The reunion tees off Saturday, July 25 with golf and fellowship from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Willow Creek Golf Course. In the afternoon, music from the 1960s is featured in downtown Heppner. In addition, the Heppner Museum and Agricultural Museum will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday evening activities include a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. A steak dinner begins at 6 p.m., which includes a program featuring alumni presentations. Dancing follows with music of the ’60s with alumni and local karaoke talent. The reunion events conclude Sunday, July 26 with a morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. at Heppner City Park. Those planning to attend are reminded to bring chairs. Dinner reservations are still available through Saturday for friends and family of the Heppner classes of the 1960s. For more information, call Stuart Dick at 541-377-5451 or Ken Evans at 541-922-3849.

BOARDMAN

Cold storage warehouse opens at Port of Morrow

By **GEORGE PAVEN**
East Oregonian

A new freezer warehouse is open at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, where food processors can store frozen potatoes and vegetables before shipping their product to stores. The \$14.5 million project includes both the warehouse and a 2,500-foot rail spur on Lewis and Clark Drive in the port’s East Beach Industrial Park. Port officials will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, though the facility actually began operating June 2 with 24 employees and enough capacity for 40 million

pounds of frozen foods. Jim Barnes, general manager of the warehouse, said their primary customer is ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston, which completed a massive expansion of its french fry plant at the port last year. Other processors, such as Boardman Foods and Tillamook Cheese, could also benefit from added cold storage at the port. “There has been a shortage of cold storage warehousing space in the Boardman area for a number of years,” Barnes said. “This is just another service we can provide for businesses at the Port of Morrow.”

The Port of Morrow charted 88 percent growth between 2008-2013, tied closely to the region’s agricultural economy. A portion of the warehouse funding — \$6 million — comes from the Oregon Department of Transportation’s ConnectOregon grant program. Wednesday’s event will begin at noon, featuring brief tours of the facility and catering by Dickey’s Barbecue. The warehouse is located at 73336 Lewis and Clark Drive in Boardman. To RSVP, contact Barnes at 541-945-1093.

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

JOSEPH

Wilderness retreat promotes healing

Divide Camp offers aid, hope for combat veterans

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

A former elk hunt camp in the Wallowa Mountains has been transformed into a wilderness retreat for combat veterans. Divide Camp honors the service of post-9-11 wounded combat veterans by giving back through outdoor adventures. The camp offers hunting, fishing and other sporting and recreational activities. The camp’s goal is to aid healing and build hope for service members wounded in action. The camp is currently accepting applications from veterans from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Divide Camp provides comfortable lodging, home-cooked meals and transportation. At no charge to the veterans served, the camp features 40 acres of remote forestland, five cabins, a shop and an outdoor picnic shelter. Julie Wheeler, Divide Camp executive director, has served as a critical incident stress debriefer. In helping others prevent post-traumatic stress disorder, Wheeler is familiar with what happens when people are exposed to high stress and trauma. “I know it takes a long time to overcome,” she said. “I think they need help beyond what’s provided by the VA (United States Department of Veterans



Photo contributed by Shelly Ann Tippet.

Camp Divide, a former elk hunting camp in Wallowa County, provides wilderness activities to wounded combat veterans from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Affairs), which is drugs and therapy. I just believe nature is an amazing healer.” Wheeler has seen the benefits of Divide Camp, including utilizing veterans as volunteers, staff and board members. “They get a lot out of doing something for their fellow vets,” Wheeler said. “I think sometimes they miss a sense of purpose and camaraderie they had in the service.” Receiving its nonprofit status in April 2014, the camp officially opened this year, although it served its first veteran in 2013. The camp schedules guests from June through mid-November. The outdoor experience, combined

with the camaraderie among participants, allows them to relax, often for the first time since returning from deployment, Wheeler said. A recent guest told Wheeler, “This gave me a chance to ‘re-boot.’ I found myself doing things I never thought I’d do again. This is so much better than talking to a therapist.” For more information including a camp application, contact dividecamp@charter.net or visit www.dividecamp.org. Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

WESTON

Wolves kill three sheep on private land

Confirmed predation by Umatilla River pack

By **GEORGE PAVEN**
East Oregonian

Wolves from the Umatilla River pack recently attacked four sheep on private land near Weston, three of which later died from their injuries. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife confirmed the predations based on bite marks consistent with wolves, and history of events on Weston Mountain. Though the Umatilla River pack does not have any GPS-collared wolves, the area is within their home range where sheep have been

killed in past years. On July 2, a sheep herder found two injured lambs and one ewe on the property. One of the lambs died soon after the discovery, and the ewe had to be euthanized. A fourth sheep was found dead and partially eaten the next day, presumably part of the same incident. It is the fourth confirmed attack by Oregon wolves on livestock in 2015, and second in Umatilla County. Mount Emily wolves were also found responsible for killing three sheep and a guard dog in June on the Umatilla National Forest near Ruckel Junction. Under Phase II of the Oregon Wolf Conservation

and Management Plan, ODFW can consider lethal management of “chronic” livestock killers after a pack’s second confirmed attack. Unlike Phase I, there is no set time limit, though producers must be using non-lethal deterrents in order to qualify. The Umatilla River pack very nearly faced lethal management in 2014. The rules at the time stipulated four confirmed attacks within a six-month period.

The pack came within one strike of meeting that requirement. Even then, ODFW must decide wolf attacks are likely to continue in the area — even with non-lethal hazing — to authorize a kill order. Wolves remain a state-listed endangered species in Eastern Oregon, though the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission could vote to delist the predators later this year based on the rising population.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

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