

HERMISTON

Local agencies connect to help others

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Employment, adult education information, haircuts, clothing, housing resources and dental and vision screenings are among the services people will be connected to during an event at the Hermiston Conference Center.

Project Community Connect & Veterans Stand Down is Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. There is no charge for any of the services and each person will receive a hot meal during the event. More than 40 vendors will provide resources and services for those attending.

Transportation can be provided for those in Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Umatilla, Irrigon and Stanfield through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Kayak transportation on the Hermiston Hopper and Walla Walla Whistler. For schedule information, visit www.ctuir.org/tribal-services/planning/kayak-public-transit. In addition, Morrow County residents can arrange a ride by calling Anita Pranger at 855-644-4560.

Coordinated by Community Action Program of East Central Oregon, the event helps connect people with resources and provides on-the-spot services for veterans, the homeless and



Judi Rae Rodriguez cuts Daniel Hurn's hair during a Project Community Connect event in Pendleton. A similar event is planned to provide services for veterans and people who are homeless or at risk Wednesday at the Hermiston Conference Center.

"The hope for having an event like this is for people in the community to get connected to resources."

— Maria Mendoza, case manager with CAPECO

other at-risk individuals in the community. It's the sixth event of its type, the first time in Hermiston.

Maria Mendoza, a case manager with CAPECO, said having the event in Hermiston provides a closer venue for people needing services in Morrow County. Mendoza said upwards of

200 people have participated in past Project Community Connect events.

"The hope for having an event like this is for people in the community to get connected to resources," Mendoza said.

Volunteers are still needed for the event. People may work at the registration

table, as an escort to assist in guiding people to locate the services they are looking for and the exit station to hand out toiletries and other items. To volunteer, contact Heidi Zeigler at 541-966-0908 or heidi.l.zeigler@state.or.us.

For more information about the event, call Maria Mendoza at 541-289-7755 or Jennifer Richards at 800-752-1139.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

BRIEFLY

Elgin teen dies in early morning head-on crash

LA GRANDE — A nearly head-on crash Tuesday killed an 18-year-old Elgin man.

Jason Tyler Parsons died about 6:40 a.m. while traveling westbound on Highway 82, just north of La Grande. According to Oregon State Police, Parsons was driving a Dodge truck when it crossed over the centerline and struck an eastbound International truck driven by David Zemmer, 29, of Baker City.

Parsons was pronounced dead at the scene. Zemmer reported only minor injuries. Highway 82 was shut down for more than four hours while Oregon State Police and others investigated at the scene and removed wreckage.

According to Oregon State Police, the accident remains under investigation.

Farmers to be contacted for CEAP survey

PENDLETON — Eastern Oregon farmers can expect a call from the National Agricultural Statistics Service between October and February 2016 as part of a national survey on management and conservation practices.

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project, or CEAP, gathers information from growers in order to determine the effectiveness of existing conservation practices, and improve programs that can help farmers protect their land, water and soil.

NASS representatives will visit eligible farms to learn about production practices, fertilizer applications and pest management. All NASS survey information collected is kept private by law.

Andrea Mann, district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Pendleton, said several local farmers were contacted at the end of September and believed the call to be a scam. She wants producers to be assured the survey is legitimate.

The NEAP survey will be conducted over two years, with a second survey period to be conducted from Sept. 2016 through Feb. 2017. The information will ultimately serve as a tool not only for farmers, but for legislators and the general public in crafting conservation policies.

For more information about CEAP, visit www.nass.usda.gov.

ODOT taking applications for chain-up permits

The Oregon Department of Transportation will issue permits for individuals interested in chaining up commercial vehicles during the winter months along specific sections of Interstate 84 in Eastern Oregon.

The department's District 12 office in Pendleton will issue five permits for I-84 in the Umatilla County area; the District 13 office in La Grande will issue three permits for the I-84 Ladd Canyon area in Union County; and the District 14 office in Ontario will issue one permit for I-84 west of Ontario in Malheur County.

Interested parties have until Oct. 31 to contact the appropriate district office (see contact information below). Each office will hold random drawings Nov. 2 to determine who will receive a permit offer. ODOT Permit Specialist Tom Lapp in a written statement said those individuals will have a week to complete the permit application and return it to the district office.

The permits will be valid between Nov. 1, 2015 and April 1, 2016, according to the department, and those are the only people the state will allow to provide the service.

For more information, contact the appropriate ODOT office as follows:

Tom Lapp, ODOT District 12 Office, 1327 S.E. Third St., Pendleton; 541-278-3450;

Lisa Hayes, ODOT District 13 Office, 3014 Island Ave., La Grande; 541-963-8407;

John Eden, ODOT District 14 Office, 1390 S.E. First St., Ontario; 541-823-4016.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation also will issue some permits for the Umatilla County area to tribal members. Call 541-276-3570 for information about those permits.

Fire danger remains high for deer season

Eastern Oregon remains in extreme drought

East Oregonian

Rifle deer season began over the weekend, and forest managers are reminding hunters the fire danger remains high throughout northeast Oregon and south-east Washington.

Fire season usually winds down by Oct. 1, though warm, dry weather continues to linger in the area, leaving forest fuels primed to burn.

"Hunters and other recreationists are asked to ensure that fire is contained by following the seasonal restrictions," said Brian

Goff, fire staff officer on the Umatilla National Forest. "This will help a great deal in preventing unwanted wildfires, and exposing folks to unnecessary hazards."

As of Sept. 29, all of Eastern Oregon remains in extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Seasonal campfire restrictions will remain in effect on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests through the end of the month.

Regulated use closures are also in effect on land managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Joe Hessel, unit forester for the ODF Northeast Oregon District, said the closures — which limit chainsaws, smoking and off-road vehicle travel — will remain until the woods get some substantial moisture.

"At this point, protecting natural resources as well as the public and the firefighters are our main priorities," Hessel said.

Deer hunters should do their homework before heading out into the field, officials said. Some areas remain closed around the still-active Grizzly Bear Complex wildfire in the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness, including north of

Forest Service Road 62, east of Sawtooth Trail and south of TeePee Trail.

Campfires on Forest Service land must be within fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock and commercial rings in an area where the flames won't easily spread. Fires must be attended at all times, and campers are required to have a shovel and one gallon of water with them at their campsite.

For more information, contact the Umatilla National Forest at 541-278-3716; the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest at 541-523-6391; or visit the Blue Mountain Dispatch website at www.bmidc.org.

HERMISTON

Police chief provides details on big ag theft case

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston said old-fashioned police work and modern technology led to Friday's arrest of a man for stealing an expensive generator from a local agriculture business.

The statements clarify a narrative the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office released Monday, including which agency arrested Nolan Douglas McClatchy, 48, of Hermiston. He is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, for violating parole and on a charge of first-degree aggravated theft by receiving.

The heading on the statement the sheriff's sent Monday afternoon to media outlets said, "Sheriff's Office make [sic] arrest in major farm theft case in Hermiston." Sheriff Terry Rowan said Tuesday while the heading may not have been clear, the text

of the statement credited Hermiston police Sgt. Billy Osborne with detaining the suspect.

M & M Potato, 30572 Feedville Road, Hermiston, is in the county's jurisdiction. On Sept. 29 someone with the business told sheriff's detective Darrin Parsons of the theft of a \$50,000 generator and a trailer. Rowan said Parsons developed information that pointed to McClatchy as a suspect and used that to obtain a search warrant for his residence, 79602 Brown Lane, Hermiston.

The case advanced Friday, Edmiston said, when a Hermiston police officer received a call from a relative who works for M & M Potato and stated the generator was on the move. The generator — like cars and other expensive

machines — has a GPS unit that allows tracking.

Edmiston said the officer brought the information to Osborne, the day shift sergeant, who headed out to find the equipment. Osborne also was working with a basic description of a white pickup hauling a trailer with a tarp covering something.

"Lo and behold," Edmiston said, Osborne spied the rig at 80153 Rivera Lane, Hermiston, off Baxter Road, and also saw McClatchy get out of the pickup. Edmiston said Osborne pulled up as McClatchy was trying to unhook the trailer and told the suspect they needed to have a chat.

Osborne found McClatchy was wanted for



McClatchy

violating parole and arrested him, Edmiston said, and the tarp did not cover all of the generator, so Osborne had a "plain view" of the machine.

Hermiston police notified the sheriff's office about Osborne's find, and Parsons came from Pendleton with the search warrant for McClatchy's place. Rowan said Parsons and Osborne determined a pickup at the Rivera Lane address was stolen and related to the case, and the officers took the search warrant and found the trailer at McClatchy's residence.

Edmiston said Hermiston police arrested and processed McClatchy and transported him to the jail. Rowan said there is more work to be done and more charges are likely.

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

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Jacob Hendrickson
PILOT ROCK HIGH SCHOOL

PRHS student of the week is Jacob Hendrickson. Jacob is a senior this year and very involved with his class as the vice-president. He is a National Honor Society member and looking ahead to college. His involvement in Key Club encompasses many volunteer hours in all kinds of community activities. Jacob is an all-around great student who always exemplifies a positive attitude and outlook on life. Congratulations Jacob.

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