

HERMISTON

Oxbow Trail entrance arch dedicated in spirit of giving

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

A new arch marking the entrance to the Oxbow Trail was highlighted as an example of Hermiston's collaborative spirit during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday.

The large wooden arch, benches and landscaping was an Altrusa International project supported by several local partners.

Rep. Greg Smith (R-Hepner) likened the project to a group of people moving a grand piano.

"So many partners came together and lifted where they stood ... that's what makes Hermiston so successful," he said.

In-kind donations, labor, money and expertise were donated by Altrusa, the city of Hermiston, Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, Hermiston Irrigation District, ConAgra Foods, Larry Ables of B.D. Ables Construction and Hector Cenicerros of C&C Construction Services.

The arch, which reads "May Peace Prevail on Earth," is on Good Shepherd Medical Center land and the city has agreed to maintain the arch and surrounding landscaping.



A new arch towers over the entrance of Oxbow Trail. A drinking fountain will be added in the spring.

A drinking fountain donated by ConAgra Foods will be installed in the spring.

Bob Green, executive director of Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, said the foundation was pleased to be able to support a project that helped promote wellness.

"For all the work that was done we hope there are many individuals who will walk through that arch for the benefit of their health," he said.

Janet Cooley, project coordinator for Altrusa, said the service organization was grateful for the project's completion.

"I'm so proud to belong to an organization that works to improve not only Hermiston but the surrounding communities in a fabulous way," she said.

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

Umatilla man sentenced in Morrow County's first pot theft case

East Oregonian

restitution.

A Umatilla man is going to prison for 18 months for stealing marijuana plants from a medical grow in Irrigon.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson in a written statement reported this was the first marijuana theft case in the county.

David Lynn Bailey, 50, pleaded guilty Thursday in Morrow County Circuit Court to one count of first-degree theft for stealing four mature marijuana plants on Sept. 18 from outside a residence in Irrigon, according to Nelson's statement and court records.

Bailey had several prior property crime convictions in Oregon, Nelson stated, and the court considered him a repeat property offender and sentenced him to 18 months in state prison.

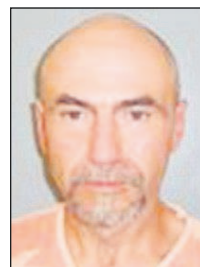
The court also dismissed a charge of second-degree trespassing as part of the plea bargain. Bailey will also have a year of post-prison supervision after serving his time. He will have to pay \$1,500 in

Nelson reported a medical marijuana producer grew the plants for a patient in Morrow County. The producer informed Morrow County Sheriff's deputy Scott Carter the four mature plants would produce two pounds of marijuana, with a replacement value of around \$6,400, roughly \$200 an ounce.

"At the time of the theft, the plants were all nearly 6 feet tall," the district attorney reported.

Carter questioned Bailey, and he admitted to stealing the plants, according to Nelson. Carter also retrieved half of the stolen marijuana plants.

"While I do not support the legalization of marijuana in Oregon, I will prosecute those offenders that steal legally possessed marijuana from others," Nelson said in the statement. "I viewed this case like any other theft. The defendant trespassed onto the victim's property and stole items of value from that victim. The defendant was held accountable for those actions."



David Bailey

Coalition forms Outdoor School for All PAC

By **GEORGE PAVEN**
East Oregonian

A new political action committee has begun to develop a ballot measure that would fund outdoor school for every fifth- and sixth-grader across the state.

Outdoor School for All PAC was established in early October by the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition and has already raised \$5,000 toward writing an initiative that could appear on the 2016 ballot.

The Oregon Legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill before the end of the 2015 session that creates a statewide outdoor school fund, administered by the Oregon State University Extension Service. However, no funding was attached to the policy.

It would cost an estimated \$22 million per year to send 55,000 Oregon students to a full week of outdoor school. Local programs are currently paid for by school districts, and often supported by parents and the community.

Caroline Fitchett, statewide coordinator for the outdoor education coalition, said they prefer to have funding for the program approved by the legislature during the 2016 short session. If not, they will be ready to bring a ballot measure directly to the voters.

The coalition is already gathering the 1,000 signatures needed to file their petition with the Secretary of State's Office. They hope to have that work finished by early November, Fitchett said.

The PAC is also exploring other funding options, such as a private endowment for the program. Money from the legislature could come from any number of sources including the general fund, though competing interests could make for a complicated situation in Salem, Fitchett said.

Fitchett is confident outdoor school has enough support to pass funding at the ballot box. She said the creation of statewide outdoor school could add as many as 1,000 full-time jobs to rural Oregon, including Eastern Oregon. New positions would include camp nurses, cooks, counselors and site managers.

Anyone interested in helping to gather signatures for the petition should contact Laura Jean at laurajlagent@gmail.com.

Contact George Paven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

HERMISTON

'Chronic offender' faces felony rape, drug charges

By **SEAN HART**
East Oregonian

A Hermiston man with a history of arrests is behind bars facing felony rape and drug charges.

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack said a deputy arrested Willie Lee McLemore, 48, at about 2:22 a.m. Tuesday in Irrigon and charged him with first-degree rape.

He said the sheriff's office received a 9-1-1 call at 12:58 a.m. from a woman who said McLemore was visiting her residence and she awoke to him attempting to sexually assault her.

At 1:03 a.m., Matlack said, a deputy arrived at the residence in Green Acres Park for recreational vehicles, 80542 Paterson Ferry Road, and interviewed the woman. The deputy arrested McLemore and lodged him in the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton on the rape charge with bail listed at

\$250,000, he said.

While at the jail, Hermiston police charged McLemore with drug and other charges from an incident earlier this month, chief Jason Edmiston said.

At about 5:10 p.m. Oct. 5, Edmiston said, McLemore was driving his red Ford pickup eastbound on East Ridgeway Avenue when he attempted to make a right turn onto Northeast Seventh Street, lost control of the vehicle and struck the curb and a parked motorcycle.

McLemore fled the scene on foot, Edmiston said, but a passenger in the pickup, Robyn Lynn Zook, remained at the scene until police arrived. Zook, 34, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a misdemeanor failure to appear charge.

An inventory of the vehicle led

to the discovery of a prescription bottle with 11 aluminum packages of methamphetamine, two plastic bags of methamphetamine, a digital scale and a Sand Station registration form containing McLemore's name, Edmiston said. The vehicle was impounded with a police hold.

Edmiston said McLemore checked in with his officer from Umatilla County Parole and Probation Oct. 7, who informed him he had five outstanding warrants for his arrest. McLemore, however, remained on the lam until he was arrested in Irrigon.

A Hermiston officer interviewed McLemore at the jail, Edmiston said, and charged him with possession of methamphetamine, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance, reckless driving, driving

uninsured, driving while license suspended or revoked and hit and run.

Edmiston said McLemore has been arrested 25 times and cited 127 times over the years for "anything and everything," including assault, harassment, drugs, burglary and trespassing.

"Mr. McLemore is a known frequent flier, chronic offender over the years from petty crimes to what now appears to be a sex crime," he said.

McLemore has been charged by the Hermiston, Umatilla and Stanfield police departments and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Edmiston said, and was also involved in a sex crime investigation by Stanfield Police Department in 2011.

Contact Sean Hart at smhart@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4534.



McLemore

PENDLETON

Man gets probation for teenage sexual relationship

East Oregonian

A 20-year-old Pendleton man will serve five years probation for having a sexual relationship with a teenage girl.

Luke Anthony Oliver in September pleaded guilty to two counts of third-degree rape in a deal with the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office, which in exchange dismissed four charges related to

child pornography.

Court documents show Oliver in 2014 had sex with a 14-year-old girl on multiple occasions. He was 19 at the time. While court documents do not show the sex was forcible, the girl was too young to give consent.

Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton sentenced Oliver on Oct. 1 to five years probation. The sentence also was part of the plea bargain.

Rachel Dagley
Business Health Farm Life
ISU One Responsible Source
541/276-2302 • 800/225-2521
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Rachel Dagley
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WILDHORSE RESORT CASINO EAST OREGONIAN CHI St. Anthony Hospital

Have Jesus Always
HJA
HERMISTON JUNIOR ACADEMY
Test Drive our School
Hermiston Jr Academy is kicking off the second quarter with a special promotion. Here's how it works. Pay the entrance fee and first month of monthly tuition. Enroll your child and start attending. If you choose to withdraw your child for any reason before end of first month, HJA will issue a Full refund, no questions asked and student is unenrolled. If your student chooses to continue and is dissatisfied for any reason before the end of the 2nd Quarter HJA issues only a full tuition refund and student is unenrolled. However, into following quarters, if you withdraw your child, HJA keeps all tuition and fees. The special promotion is not available to any current or previous HJA students of the 2015/2016 school year. Either party has the right to terminate this agreement at any time for any reason, resulting refund as it applies to the duration of attendance. HJA is a Christian Pre-8th grade school. Call for more information on how our new program works. Hermiston Jr Academy (HJA) 541-567-8523 or School Board Chairman, Andrew Engelhart 541-571-0423