

Lynching murals spark debate

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI
Associated Press

BOISE — Two murals depicting the lynching of an American Indian in a former Idaho county courthouse are once again at the center of a disagreement over whether they should be displayed or covered up as offensive.

Historic preservationists and members of Idaho's tribes oppose covering the 75-year-old murals that were commissioned as part of a Depression-era program to help put artists to work, arguing that the public can learn from history's mistakes. However, the University of Idaho — currently leasing the building as a satellite campus of its law school — contends the murals create a negative learning space.

State officials held a public hearing Wednesday to gather public input as they consider weighing in on the issue. The murals have been covered ever since the college opened up the law school earlier this year.

"It may not be tasteful and it may not be art, but it displays some of the past history that happened in our state," said Blaine Edmo, a member of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. "These murals need to be openly displayed. The reasons behind these murals need to be discussed."

The murals show an Indian in buckskin breeches, on his knees with his hands bound behind his back. He is flanked by one white man holding a rifle and another holding the end of a noose dangling from a tree.

Twenty-six murals were painted in southern California and mounted in the former Ada County courthouse in 1940. Because the murals are installed as part of the historic building's staircase wall, the state is banned from tampering or destroying the paintings.



AP Photo/Matt Cillely, File

In this Jan. 17, 2007 photo, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Vice Chairman Lee Juan Tyler talks with others from his group while shooting some video of murals depicting the lynching of an Indian during a tour of the old Ada County Courthouse in Boise, Idaho.

"The history of art is the history of humanity in all of its complexity," said Michael Faison, executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. "The murals should be displayed with the proper contextualized plaques."

Much the same arguments about the murals were repeated nearly nine years ago when lawmakers began preparing to move into the courthouse while the Capitol underwent renovations. Lawmakers, historians and tribal members came to a solution by spending months — described as painful on Wednesday — working on appropriate explanatory language to post on plaques under the murals to offer historical

context to the images. However, now that the law school is occupying the building, the debate has resurfaced.

"Covering the murals is not erasing history," said Mark Adams, dean of the university law school. "The display of the murals says, particularly to our Native American and African American students, that people like you are not welcome here."

Ty Simpson, a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, echoed support for covering the murals. "I don't see a vibrant history in the mural. I see pain. I see genocide that has long-reaching impacts on our people today," Simpson said.

In wake of lawsuit, Latinos win Yakima seats

SPOKANE (AP) — In the wake of a federal court lawsuit, Hispanic candidates have for the first time been elected to the Yakima City Council.

Two Latina candidates won council seats on Tuesday and a third was leading her opponent.

This was the first election since the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington sued the city under the federal Voting Rights Act, demanding that the community's election system be changed to give Hispanics a better chance of winning elections.

Yakima, which has about 90,000 residents, is about 40 percent Hispanic. The agricultural community is 140 miles east of Seattle.

"The ACLU's voting rights case was intended to give Latinos in Yakima their rightful voice on the City Council, after decades of being shut out from representation," said Kathleen Taylor, executive director of the group. "We are thrilled with this historic election that ensures the Latino community will have seats at the table when decisions are made."

The state Democratic Party also praised the outcome.

"A Latino will sit on the city council for the first time in Yakima's history," said Jaxon Ravens, chair of the Washington State Democratic Party. "Largely due to the Voting Rights Act, a community that had been disenfranchised will now have a voice in their local government."

The outcome shows the state needs to pass the Washington Voting Rights Act, which has stalled in the Legislature, Ravens said. "We need what happened in Yakima to ripple across the

state," he said. The Democratic Party hired a field organizer in Yakima and organized a get-out-the-vote drive, Ravens said.

The number of Hispanic residents has exploded in the central portion of Washington in recent decades, with some communities becoming majority Hispanic. But political clout has not followed the population gains.

Yakima's Hispanic population quadrupled from 1990 to 2010, with many new residents drawn to work in the region's agriculture and food-processing industries.

In 2012, the ACLU filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of two Latino residents, alleging that Yakima's hybrid of district and at-large voting for City Council races was suppressing that group's voice in public representation.

U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Rice ruled in favor of the ACLU and in February ordered that an all-district system be adopted. Several of the districts contained a majority of Hispanic residents.

The city has appealed that ruling to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On Tuesday, Latina candidates Dulce Gutierrez and Avina Gutierrez were easily winning election in two City Council districts. In a third race, candidate Carmen Mendez held a narrow lead over Kelly Rosenow.

Gutierrez, who has a degree from the University of Washington and works for Yakima Valley Hops, said she never imagined she would one day represent northeast Yakima, where she grew up.

Man shot in Pasco may have been killed by own gun

PASCO (AP) — A Pasco man who was killed last month may have been shot with his own gun while giving a ride to the two alleged shooters.

The *Tri-City Herald* reports that court documents unsealed Tuesday show that 18-year-old George Thacker was shot five times in the head and neck, possibly at close range. He was killed Oct. 7 and found near a cable bridge.

Court documents show that a Chevrolet Cobalt, which Thacker had been seen driving, was found with a large amount of blood and unspent 9 mm pistol rounds were found at the scene.

Brothers 23-year-old Nathan Quintero and 17-year-old Jaden Quintero have both pleaded not guilty to Thacker's shooting. Their trials are scheduled for Dec. 16.

BRIEFLY

City eyes raising taxes to fund anti-gang program

WALLA WALLA (AP) — The Walla Walla City Council is considering raising taxes to increase anti-gang activity.

The *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin* reports that the council on Wednesday will consider a proposal to use \$169,542 in banked-levy-capacity taxes, as well as take an additional \$40,778 in taxes beyond a state mandated cap for the city, to fund more initiatives to combat gang violence.

The cap comes from state law that says cities can increase taxes up to 1 percent or the rate of the Implicit Price Deflator — a measurement of increase in cost of goods and services — and must take the lower of the two.

The council will need a supermajority to pass the resolution of need to fund public safety programs

Truck hauling frozen blood crashes in Oregon

OAKRIDGE (AP) — Police say two truck drivers from Texas were injured when their truck hauling frozen blood crashed over an embankment on a rural Oregon highway.

Oregon State Police say the men were taken to a hospital in Springfield after the crash early Wednesday morning. Both are expected to recover.

Police say the truck was pulling a refrigerated box trailer carrying 30,000 pounds of frozen blood and plasma being transported for medical purposes. Hazardous materials teams responded to the scene, and the road was closed for more than 6 hours.

Police say the truck was traveling eastbound on Highway 58 near Oakridge when the driver drifted off the roadway.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy	Times of clouds and sun	Considerable cloudiness	Occasional rain, mainly early	Periods of rain

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

53°	39°	55°	37°	60°	42°	55°	36°	49°	34°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

57°	36°	58°	33°	59°	42°	58°	35°	52°	33°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	49°	29°
Normals	55°	35°
Records	77° (1975)	15° (1935)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.01"
Normal month to date 0.15"
Year to date 6.64"
Last year to date 9.59"
Normal year to date 10.14"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	54°	26°
Normals	56°	35°
Records	77° (1975)	7° (1935)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.01"
Normal month to date 0.14"
Year to date 4.59"
Last year to date 5.85"
Normal year to date 7.42"

SUN AND MOON

	New	First	Full	Last
Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2	

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a brief shower or two; however, dry in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; an afternoon shower in spots across the north.

Western Washington: Cloudy today with a passing shower or two. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today with a shower in spots, but a snow shower in the mountains.

Cascades: Cloudy today. Showers across the north; a mizzling rain or snow shower, then rain and drizzle in central parts.

Northern California: Periods of clouds and sun today; cold. Clear tonight; cold. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	48	c	60	51	c
Baker City	46	24	c	49	23	pc
Bend	49	27	c	52	31	c
Brookings	57	45	c	59	46	c
Burns	47	22	c	48	19	pc
Enterprise	43	29	c	45	24	pc
Eugene	55	39	sh	59	39	c
Heppner	51	35	c	54	33	pc
Hermiston	57	36	c	58	33	pc
John Day	48	37	c	51	26	pc
Klamath Falls	48	25	c	51	23	pc
La Grande	47	36	c	49	28	pc
Meacham	44	34	c	46	30	pc
Medford	55	35	c	59	34	c
Newport	54	43	sh	57	49	c
North Bend	58	45	sh	61	47	c
Ontario	50	31	c	53	28	pc
Pasco	56	32	c	56	31	c
Pendleton	53	39	c	55	37	pc
Portland	54	46	sh	59	46	c
Redmond	50	25	c	55	25	c
Salem	56	42	c	59	43	c
Spokane	44	27	c	44	34	pc
Ukiah	46	34	c	49	27	pc
Vancouver	53	45	sh	57	44	c
Walla Walla	50	39	c	53	39	pc
Yakima	57	31	c	58	34	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	50	34	r	40	35	r
Hong Kong	84	77	s	83	77	pc
Jerusalem	66	56	t	64	56	t
London	61	56	r	64	58	r
Mexico City	73	48	pc	73	51	pc
Moscow	43	29	i	38	27	s
Paris	64	55	c	64	55	pc
Rome	69	51	t	69	49	s
Seoul	65	44	pc	64	49	s
Sydney	72	67	t	83	64	pc
Tokyo	69	57	pc	70	58	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	WSW 6-12	VAR 3-6
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	SW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Much of the East will be sunny and warm today. A cold front will bring heavy showers and storms from Texas to Missouri. Less rain is in store for the northern Plains. Rain will return to the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 92° in Fort Myers, Fla. Low 9° in Burns, Ore.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	52	31	c	55	33	pc
Atlanta	74	67	sh	79	63	c
Atlanta City	70	63	c	73	61	pc
Baltimore	72	58	sh	78	58	t
Billings	45	28	pc	42	30	s
Birmingham	80	69	c	80	67	t
Boise	49	33	c	50	32	pc
Boston	70	59	pc	72	49	c
Charleston, SC	82	65	c	84	65	pc
Charleston, WV	77	61	pc	76	49	c
Chicago	70	51	c	56	38	pc
Cleveland	74	63	pc	70	44	r
Dallas	75	51	t	72	51	pc
Denver	46	27	sn	47	22	pc
Detroit	72	62	pc	66	42	c
El Paso	63	39	pc	69	42	c
Fairbanks	31	25	pc	29	21	c
Fargo	42	31	sn	45	26	c
Honolulu	88	76	pc	88	76	pc
Houston	82	67	c	78	66	c
Indianapolis	73	60	pc	64	38	pc
Jacksonville	84	66	pc	85	65	pc
Kansas City	72	41	c	59	39	pc
Las Vegas	61	44	s	66	45	s
Little Rock	76	62	t	72	51	c
Los Angeles	73	53	s	78	55	s
Louisville	76	67	pc	75	46	t
Memphis	80	68	pc	74	54	c
Miami	87	77	pc	86	77	pc
Millwaukee	68	46	c	54	37	pc
Minneapolis	66	39	r	47	33	pc
Nashville	77	67	pc	74	52	c
New Orleans	82	72	c	82	70	t
New York City	70	63	c	75	58	pc
Oklahoma City	74	46	r	65	41	s
Omaha	72	38	r	58	35	pc
Philadelphia	74	63	c	79	58	pc
Phoenix	68	49	s	74	51	s
Portland, ME	62	48	c	66	50	pc
Providence	70	58	c	70	56	pc
Raleigh	76	63	c	79	66	pc
Rapid City	47	27	pc	43	20	c
Reno	46	24	pc	47	20	s
Sacramento	65	41	pc	68	42	s
St. Louis	73	51	t	61	42	s
Salt Lake City	47	35	c	47	30	pc
San Diego	72	55	s	75	55	s
San Francisco	65	49	pc	66	50	s
Seattle	52	45	sh	55	48	c
Tucson	65	43	s	71	45	s
Washington, DC	73	62	sh	79	62	t
Wichita	76	41	c	65	40	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.