



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Elaina, 4, and Taylor Jewett, 2, the granddaughters of Don Horneck, look at potato starts in the plant tissue culture room of the new Don Horneck Memorial Building on Wednesday outside of Hermiston.

HORNECK: Scholarship fund also established in his name

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community, Horneck was an avid rock hound, member of the Hermiston Lions Club, church leader and youth soccer referee.

"Anything he was involved in, he gave his heart and soul," Vicki Horneck said. "I think that's what people loved about him. He was a very giving person."

Now, the community is giving back to Horneck's memory. While the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences provided \$60,000 for the new \$300,000 building, the rest came out of donations from local farms, businesses, trade groups and the station researchers themselves.

A memorial scholarship fund has also been established in Horneck's name, for students studying agronomy and soil sciences.

"Everybody has done so many things to memorialize him," Vicki Horneck said. "Those people who didn't know him will be able to see what he meant to all of us."

Phil Hamm, station director, said the Don Horneck building is a much-welcomed addition to the HAREC campus, which continues to grow. The 290-acre property added a pair of new greenhouses in the spring, and plans to build four new offices near the current office building.

Of course, Hamm said they are excited to break ground in late winter or early spring on the new \$3.3 million precision irrigation center approved in the Blue Mountain Community College bond. The project is not only a great opportunity for students, Hamm said, but

a chance to spur collaboration between OSU and BMCC.

All these developments will allow HAREC researchers to do things they've never been able to do before, Hamm said.

"I don't want our faculty to be limited by facilities," he said. "If they're successful, our growers will be successful."

Nobody understood that better than Horneck, Hamm said. The two worked closely together over the years and became fast friends.

"Don meant a lot to us, and a lot to this experiment station," Hamm said. "If you didn't know Don, you missed out."

Bryan Wolfe, chairman of the HAREC advisory committee, said the building will help to carry on Horneck's legacy.

"What Don advanced and brought to our operations can't be measured," said Wolfe, a Hermiston farmer. "He was always thinking outside the box."

"Dan Arp, dean of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences, also spoke at the ceremony and thanked the donors who made the project happen.

Though Arp said he didn't know Horneck as well as others, he did get a chance to take a tour of the research station with Horneck during one of the site's field days.

"He exuded pride and enthusiasm for this station," Arp said. "You have a terrific group of individuals who serve you as growers, and serve the community. This building is really a tremendous gift to them, and allows them to do their work more effectively."

POPULATION: Irrigon had largest growth rate at 2.4 percent

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cycle (where growth leads to more growth)," he said. "It's much better to be in a virtuous cycle than a death spiral. If you're losing population, it doesn't make sense for businesses to open in the area."

According to U.S. Census data, Hermiston has grown by 33.2 percent, 4,366 residents, since 2000 — including 775 residents since 2010.

Pendleton — which has only grown by 3 percent since 2000 — added 145 residents this year, a 0.9-percent increase to a total of 16,845. The previous year, the city lost 80 residents with a 0.5-percent decrease.

At 1.3 percent, Athena had the largest growth rate in Umatilla County, adding 15 residents for a total of 1,140. Milton-Freewater and Umatilla each added 10 residents with a 0.1-percent increase to 7,070 and 7,060, respectively. Stanfield also added 10 residents with a 0.5-percent growth rate to 2,125. While Milton-Freewater's rate increased from the previous year when no new residents were added, the rates for Umatilla and Stanfield both decreased from the previous year.

Morrow County maintained its 0.9-percent growth rate for a second consecutive year, adding 105 residents to a total of 11,630. Irrigon and

Boardman accounted for all of the growth.

Irrigon had the largest growth rate at 2.4 percent, adding 45 residents for a total of 1,930. The city added 50 residents the previous year — a 2.7-percent growth rate — and City Manager Aaron Palmquist said the growth will improve the community's livability, culture and stability in the future.

"I know that as we see in all areas — whether it's our police and fire or our schools, any type of service which cities are — there are going to be some increases on the demand for services, but overall I think it's going to be positive," he said.

Boardman added 60 residents to a total of 3,505 with a 1.7-percent growth rate — higher than the previous year's rate of 1.2 percent. Since 2000, the city has grown by 22.8 percent, adding 650 residents.

Statewide, 51,135 residents were added since the previous year, and the 1.3-percent growth rate carried Oregon beyond the four-million milestone to 4,013,845 total residents. Since 2000, the state has grown by 17.3 percent, adding 592,446 residents.

Umatilla County has grown by 12.2 percent — 8,607 residents — since 2000, and Morrow County has grown by 5.8 percent — 635 residents.

ODOT: Would only reduce carbon emission by roughly 20 percent of original 2.02 million metric tons over a decade

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could achieve that through a package of alternative fuel incentives and spending to improve public transit and reduce traffic congestion.

One part of the plan in particular resulted in immediate skepticism by environmentalists: proposed technological improvements in traffic flows that were supposed to cut carbon emissions by 2.02 million metric tons over a decade. Together with other components of the plan, these improvements were supposed to reduce carbon emissions by as much as 9.1 million to 11.22 million metric tons over a decade. Garrett said on June 24 the technological improvements would yield roughly 20 percent of the amount calculated originally for the bipartisan group, which meant the transportation package would no longer achieve the same amount of carbon reductions predicted from the low-carbon fuel standard.

Ferrioli revealed on Wednesday that he had also asked the governor to seek Garrett's resignation soon after the hearing.

"In June, following the implosion of transportation

negotiations, I demanded Gov. Brown immediately request the resignation of Director Garrett due to gross incompetency at best and dishonest manipulation at worst," Ferrioli said in a written statement. "Whether Director Garrett knew the numbers ODOT provided the workgroup were wrong or he simply failed to provide the updated numbers in his possession, his decision to surprise workgroup members with new numbers in a public hearing without any advance warning led to the demise of a critical, bipartisan transportation infrastructure package for Oregonians that would have resulted in real carbon reduction."

Records obtained by Ferrioli's office showed as early as June 8, Garrett and Brown's sustainable communities and transportation policy adviser Karmen Fore received emails from ODOT staff with lower carbon reduction estimates. Amanda Pietz, manager of ODOT's transportation planning unit, wrote in the email that a computer model had predicted that \$400 million in technological improvements to improve traffic flow could reduce carbon emissions by 2.02

million metric tons over a decade.

Nonetheless, transportation officials continued to provide documents to the bipartisan group of lawmakers negotiating the transportation package — known as the Gang of Eight — that showed the state could achieve the same 2.02 million metric ton reduction in carbon emissions at half the price, \$200 million over a decade.

The ODOT estimates continued to sink lower, with Garrett passing along an updated prediction of 0.87 million metric tons in carbon reduction from \$200 million in transportation improvements in a June 10 email to Fore and Brown's energy policy adviser Margi Hoffman. However, ODOT and the governor's advisers continued to tell lawmakers in updated briefing documents that they could achieve 2.02 million metric tons in carbon reductions for \$200 million.

On the eve of the legislative hearing on the transportation package, Garrett asked his staff to double-check the numbers. Angela Crowley-Koch, legislative director for the Oregon Environmental Council, also questioned the calcula-

tions in an email to ODOT assistant director Travis Brouwer that evening.

"Can we please see the ODOT models for the carbon reductions from transit and transportation operation?" Crowley-Koch wrote. "I'll admit surprise at the high level of carbon reductions from just \$20 mil (annual) investment in transportation operations!"

Chris Pair, a press secretary for Brown, attributed the failure to pass along updated information to lawmakers to the fast pace "in the waning hours of session" and the complexity of the legislation. "That said, Governor Brown has asked the Oregon Transportation Commission to oversee a third-party review of (ODOT's) management practices," Pair wrote in an email.

Brown did not address her advisers' handling of the information in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"If we are to ask Oregonians to step up and provide additional resources for our transportation system, they must first be confident that the resources currently available are being used responsibly," Brown said in a statement.

QUIT: E-cigarettes not on the list of FDA-approved interventions

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Eighteen percent of the county's 11th graders smoke. Jones stays positive.

"The amount of kids smoking has come down," she said. "We've made progress."

Smokers aren't blind to the long list of health risks associated with smoking — cancer, pulmonary disease, stroke, coronary heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes and more. Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is the leading preventable cause of death. Then, there's the cost of smoking. Pack-a-day smokers spend about \$1,825 a year. Though smokers have plenty of motivation, many still struggle to pull away.

"Every smoker on this planet knows they should quit smoking," said Kristi Gartland, employee wellness coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Wildhorse. "It just matters when the time is right for you."

Dayle Stinson, of Pendleton, quit almost cold

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turkey a year ago, but the successful attempt came 15 years after her first try. Stinson, a multimedia consultant at the East Oregonian, said that first time around she quit for six months. She was so cranky that her 10-year-old son told her half-jokingly that she should start smoking again. One day, Stinson walked into the employee breakroom where some co-workers were smoking and asked for a cigarette.

"Someone flipped me one and that was it," she recalled.

A year ago, Stinson was finally ready to try again. She smoked e-cigarettes for a few days, then stopped smoking completely. She hasn't looked back.

"It was my time," she said.

The former pack-a-day smoker said her sense of smell has returned and she no longer coughs.

Gartland works one on

one with CTUIR and Wildhorse smokers who want to quit. Employees who stop for at least six months receive \$100.

"Ten to 12 people quit that way every year," she said.

She said that Stinson's experience with quitting is not unusual.

"They can smoke for 30, 40 or 50 years and then something triggers a desire to quit," she said. "If the method, motivation and timing come together, it can happen in the blink of an eye, but you have to be a 10 on the readiness scale."

Gartland believes smoking is more a mental addiction than a physical one. Cigarettes become old friends.

"Nicotine leaves the body within 48 hours," she said, "but people can crave cigarettes for six months."

Jones assures smokers that it's never too late to quit. As an example, Jones

pointed to her own mother, a veteran smoker who finally had a heart attack.

"She quit smoking in the hospital at age 65," Jones said. "She's going to be celebrating her 86th birthday very soon."

She urged smokers to reach out for help. Those who call the toll-free Oregon Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW will receive advice from a quit coach and may be eligible for patches or gum.

She said the jury is out on whether vaping helps conquer nicotine additions.

"No studies have proven they help people to quit," Jones said. "E-cigarettes are understudied and under-regulated."

E-cigarettes are not on the list of FDA-approved interventions. The list includes skin patches, nicotine gum and lozenges and prescription-only medications such as Chantix and Zyban.

Jones urged smokers to keep trying to quit.

"Don't give up," she said. "It's never a wasted effort. Even quitting for one day shows you have power over nicotine."

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

PILOT ROCK: Has paid about \$43,000 so far for no public purpose

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brief stint, paid the \$300 a month to Koch's widow, Mary Koch.

City recorder Teri Porter told the council at its Tuesday meeting that after conferring with three law firms in recent years, there seems no way out of continuing the payments. The 2006 city council OKed the checks and set a precedent, and if the city stopped and the Koch family sues, Porter said, the city

would probably lose.

Councilman Ray Corwin criticized the "good old boy handshake deal" and suggested there could be an escape hatch — terminating the lease with U.S. Cellular. The city has paid about \$43,000 so far, he said, for no public purpose.

Pilot Rock resident John Taylor pointed out using public money for no public purpose could be a violation of Oregon law, and the council members could be

on the hook for that.

The council after some deliberation voted unanimously to have city staff look into terminating the lease.

Mary Koch nor her representatives were present. City staff and councilmen said she refuses to talk to them

and only uses lawyers to communicate. She also did not return a phone message Wednesday to the *East Oregonian*.

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

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