

HERMISTON

Space heater sparks trailer fire

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A Hermiston woman escaped injury Monday night after her 1966 travel trailer caught fire.

Patricia Marie Roosa was visiting the Tom Able RV Park office, 1845 S. Highway 395, Hermiston, when her older model trailer caught fire. When she returned to her RV space, she saw smoke. Fire marshal Tom Bohm of Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services said Roosa attempted to enter the structure to rescue her cat, but couldn't find it.

Several extension cords were running into the trailer, including at least one connected to a space heater, Bohm said.

"We can't tell whether an extension cord shorted out or if the heater was too close to combustibles," he said about the cause of the blaze.

Bohm urged area residents to refrain from using extension cords with heaters.



Firefighters from Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services mop up a small travel trailer fire Monday night at Tom Able RV Park, south of Hermiston off Highway 395. Fire marshal Tom Bohm said no one was inside at the time of the blaze.

Nearly two dozen firefighters, along with eight vehicles, responded to the fire, which was reported to authorities at 6:30 p.m.

Monday. Firefighters remained on scene until about 8 p.m. The 12- to 14-foot trailer, Bohm said, was a total loss.

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

PENDLETON

Police identify suspect, troopers involved in chase

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Pendleton man remains at a Portland hospital after a high-speed chase with Oregon State Police.

Bryan Alberto Corona, 24, is in fair condition at Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, according to a hospital spokesperson. Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts in an email stated the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office plans to take evidence to a grand jury next week to consider charges against Corona.



Corona

Troopers Ryan Sharp and James Eslinger and recruit trooper Mitch Pace were involved in the pursuit, according to Roberts. Corona tried to flee from police early Jan. 2 at milepost 2 on Fulton Road, Pendleton, according to police. Sharp and Pace pursued the vehicle, according to Roberts, with Eslinger in tow.

The chase continued over mostly rural, gravel and dirt roads. Roberts also said Corona fired a gun at the lead police car, hitting it multiple times. One trooper set out a spike strip, flattening at least one tire on Corona's Honda.

Sharp and Pace maneuvered their car to crash the Honda on South Market Road, according to Roberts, and Eslinger came around the crash and struck Corona, then fleeing on foot, with his patrol car. Police recovered several firearms from the Honda, Roberts reported.

Corona was involved in a bloody fight October 2014 in Pendleton that was connected to a now-defunct white supremacist gang. He pleaded guilty to a charge of riot in that case.

State police Lt. Mike Turner of the Pendleton command said the three troopers involved in the chase remain on paid leave, but he anticipated they soon would return to work.

HERMISTON

Comics bring laughter to Melonville

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Over the years, nearly 100 comedians have appeared in Hermiston during the annual Melonville Comedy Festival.

"The comics we bring in are some of the top performers in stand-up comedy," said Warren Smith, the show's producer.

This year's event features Greg Hahn as the headliner. Also set to tickle people's funny bones is Drew Barth, who is making his second appearance on the Melonville stage. And rounding out the trio of funny men is Travis Nelson, who also will serve as the show's emcee.

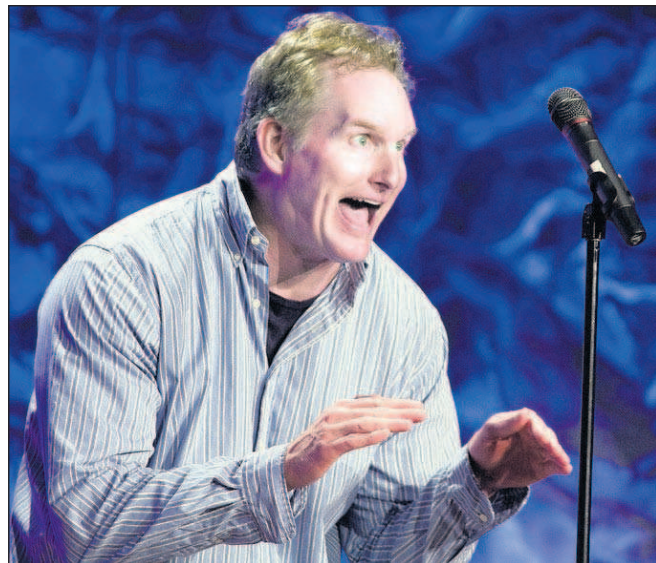
The Melonville Comedy Festival is Saturday, Jan. 30 with the doors opening at 7 p.m. and the laughs starting at 8 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets for the 21-and-over event are \$35 each. They are available at the conference center, www.melonvillecomedyfestival.com or by searching Facebook for "Melonville Comedy Festival."

Hahn and Barth, who have paid their dues in comedy clubs, are now primarily corporate comics, performing for events put together by Fortune 500 companies to entertain their executives, stockholders, clients and employees, Smith said. They perform a "clean" and funny show, he added.

"We have been after Greg (Hahn) for several years, he stays booked up on the corporate circuits," Smith said.

Hahn, a favorite on the Bob and Tom Radio Show and Mornings on 97 Rock, has appeared on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Comedy Central and most of the major networks and then some.

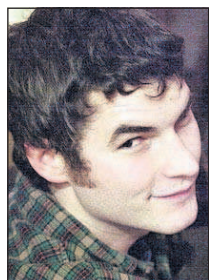
After some time in the corporate world, Hahn decided to take work less seriously, pursuing a career in comedy. He landed a gig as the emcee for a theme park show. Shortly thereafter, he was a stunt man in the Wild Wild West Stunt Show at Universal Studios,



Greg Hahn is the headliner for the Melonville Comedy Festival Jan. 30 at the Hermiston Conference Center.



Barth



Nelson

according to his website's biography. "For \$20 an hour I'd run out, fall down a few times, then get whacked in the head with a stick — dream job!"

Heading to New York City, Hahn gained more exposure and success before landing in Los Angeles where he currently resides.

Born and raised in Seattle, Barth headed to Los Angeles after making the finals in the Seattle International Comedy Competition. Performing in the top clubs in Los Angeles, Barth later returned to his roots in the Emerald City, where he continues his craft as a comedian, actor and voice-over artist.

Hailing from Hoquiam, Washington, Nelson now resides in Seattle. Described as "cynically sarcastic and uncommonly sincere," Nelson is an up-and-coming comedian who has toured across the United States and Canada.

Producing shows as far back as high school and college, Smith cut his teeth arranging for national acts at the

Umatilla County Fair in the late 1980s. He also worked on entertainment for the Umatilla Speedway, as well as outside promotions for KOHU.

The comedy festival started out in 1994 as a fundraiser for the fair. When the fair board discontinued the event, Smith took it on and has continued bringing top comedians to town.

"I guess I'm a junkie without rehab," Smith said. "My biggest thrill is to stand in a line at Safeway and hear people that I do not know visit with excitement about going to a show that I am working on."

A no-host bar is available. In addition, food sales help support the local Special Olympics program.

For more information, contact Smith at 541-561-7488 or melonvillecomedy-festival@gmail.com.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

CREDIT PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL, 7:30-9 a.m., Shari's, 319 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. (LaFrance Grubbs 541-276-5318).

WILLOW RUN LADIES GOLF CLUB, 8 a.m., rain or shine at the Willow Run Golf Course, Boardman. Participants do not need to be a member to play with the club. (541-481-4381).

LATINO BUSINESS NETWORK, 9 a.m., Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Everyone welcome. (Debbie Pedro 541-567-6151).

DEMOCRATS OF MILTON-FREEWATER, 11:30 a.m., Oasis Restaurant, 85698 Highway 339, Milton-Freewater. (Nora Connors 541-938-3432).

BOOKMINDERS, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Our Place, 164 E. Main St., Hermiston. (541-567-2882).

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF PENDLETON, 12 noon business meeting, Red Lion Hotel, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton.

CAY-UMA-WA TOASTMASTERS, 12 noon-1 p.m., Wildhorse Casino & Resort Birch boardroom, 46510 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Everyone welcome.

HERMISTON KIWANIS CLUB, 12 noon, Desert Lanes restaurant conference room, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. (Doug Barak 541-567-6728).

IRRIGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 12 noon, Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place. Guest speakers: Irrigon High School FFA students. (Phyllis Danielson 541-922-3857).

HERMISTON ELKS DINNER, 5:30-8 p.m., 480 E. Main St.

OREGON GRASS ROOTS CRIBBAGE CLUB NO. 2, 6:30 p.m., Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. All levels of players welcome. (541-567-6594).

MILTON-FREEWATER JAYCEES BOARD, 6:30 p.m., Elks Lodge, 611

N. Main St. **PENDLETON EAGLES AUXILIARY AND AERIE MEETINGS**, 7 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge #28, 426 S. Main St., Pendleton.

QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER ORDER OF EASTER STAR, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Hall, 200 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. (Elaine Myers 541-289-5189).

THURSDAY, JAN. 14 **TUMBLEWEED TOASTMASTERS**, 6:45 a.m., Conference Room 3&4, Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Visitors welcome. (541-567-4349).

PENDLETON KIWANIS CLUB, 7 a.m., Roosters Restaurant, 1515 Southgate, Pendleton. Guests welcome. (541-278-5785).

ARTS AND CRAFTS FROM THE DRY SIDE, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., basement of Assembly of God Church, 730 East Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston. Use the Seventh Street entrance. (541-567-4446).

GOOD SHEPHERD MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY, 9:30 a.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center conference rooms 1&2, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. New members and junior auxiliary members welcome. (Cindy Schaan 541-667-3690).

UMATILLA DOG WALKING CLUB, 10 a.m., 630 Switzer St. at the dog wash in front of Umatilla High School.

NARFE CHAPTER 2115, 11:30 a.m., Shari's Restaurant, 319 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. (Janet 541-980-3268).

ROUND-UP REPUBLICAN WOMEN, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Red Lion Inn, 304 S.E. Nye Ave. Guest speaker: Sheriff Terry Rowan will discuss immigration in Umatilla County. Luncheon admission \$10; RSVP to Marcia Stewart by Jan. 13. (541-276-1206).

HEPPNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 12 noon, Heppner Senior Center dining room, corner of Main

and Willow streets, Heppner.

HERMISTON LINEBACKER CLUB, 12 noon to 1 p.m., Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. Hear HHS football coach David Faateete discuss last week's game and talk about the upcoming tilt. RSVP by Wednesday at 3 p.m. to 541-567-5215. Cost is \$11 for members, \$13 for non-members.

HERMISTON ROTARY CLUB, 12 noon, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Parish Hall, Fifth Street and Locust Avenue.

PENDLETON LIONS CLUB, 12 noon, Roosters Restaurant, 1515 Southgate, Pendleton.

UMATILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS LUNCH, 12 noon, Desert River Inn, 705 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. RSVP to 541-922-4825 or tasha@umatillachamber.net three days prior to meeting.

DESERT BELLES GARDEN CLUB, 1:15 p.m. For more information on location call 541-567-8019.

HERMISTON

School district hires pre-bond architect

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston School District's board of education approved the appointment of a "pre-bond" architect during Monday's school board meeting.

The board approved YGH/LKV Architects for the job.

Deputy superintendent Wade Smith said the architects would assist in some preliminary design work while the district "starts wrestling with finding longterm solutions to some of our population challenges."

In June 2015 the district approved a Comprehensive Master Plan that recommends the district build an additional elementary school on Theater Lane and expand Sandstone Middle School and Hermiston High School at an estimated cost of \$73.7 million. More expensive versions of the plan would pay for larger expansions and replace Rocky Heights Elementary, Highland Hills Elementary or both.

The district recruited a Citizens Review Committee to study the recommendations, with an eye on refining a plan by March, drumming up support in the community and making a final decision in January 2017 about whether to pursue a bond issue during the May 2017 election.

Enrollment in the district is currently 212 students higher than during the same time period last year and 112 more than had been forecast.

On Monday night the school board also listened to an informational presentation by assistant superintendent Brynn Browning about the district's English Learner program.

Overall the district's English language learners are outpacing their peers in other school districts, noted Browning.

In third grade, for example, 30 percent of students in the English Learner program passed the state test for language arts, compared with 13.5 percent of EL students statewide. In math 28.6 percent of district EL students met or exceeded the standard compared to 16.6 percent statewide.

She said because English Learner students were only pulled out of the classroom for special instruction for 30 minutes per day, the district had implemented language-teaching strategies into everyday curriculum for all students, and had seen increased reading, writing and verbalization skills across the district as a result.

"This is not just for our English Learners, this is across the board," she said.

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

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Delaney Clem
PENDLETON HIGH SCHOOL

Delaney Clem is a senior at PHS and currently has a 4.26 GPA while involved in many sports and activities. She runs cross country and track, and is currently on the swim team. Delaney is a member of National Honors Society, Leadership, and is a student director of Link Crew. She is interested in majoring biology at Central Washington University next year, where she will also run cross country and track. Lastly, Delaney participates in the community by doing volunteer work such as Round-Up City Racers, elementary school carnivals, and multiple Salvation Army charities.

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