

Fair enters year of 'traditions, transitions'

Volunteers honored, grand marshal named at dinner

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Change was in the air at Saturday's Umatilla County Fair Appreciation Dinner.

"This will be the last year that the fair will be on what we all have come to know as 'The Fairgrounds,'" said Umatilla County Fair Board Chairman Lucas Wagner to diners inside a packed Thompson Hall. "It promises to be a year of traditions and transitions."

With the latter remark, Wagner segued into this year's theme: Traditions and Transitions.

In 2017, the fair will move to a newly constructed Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, located on 90 acres just south of the Hermiston Airport. The site will house a rodeo arena, barns, exhibitor venues, rough stock pens and something in short supply at the current location — parking.

Fundraising Committee Chairman Dennis Barnett said the fair is moving from "a pig we've been putting lipstick on for a number of years to something special." It hasn't come cheap and the fundraising isn't over yet. He said there is another \$1.2 million to raise in short order.

"Our finish line is March 1," Barnett said.

That was enough talk about money. The rest of the night was all about honoring standout volunteers, announcing the grand marshal and introducing the fair court and new fair manager.

This year's grand marshal, Pilot Rock 4-H leader Lea VanHouten, is accustomed to spending fair week behind the scenes, encouraging members of the Pilot Rock Woolly Wranglers as they compete. This year, she will be the face of the fair as she carries her grand marshal duties.

VanHouten, who is an instructional aide at the Pilot Rock Elementary School, brushed away a tear or two as she accepted a bouquet of roses and a plaque.



Lea VanHouten reacts to being chosen as 2016 Grand Marshal for the Umatilla County Fair at Saturday's Umatilla County Fair Appreciation Dinner. Fair Board Member Don Miller did the honors.



Luke



Slone



VanHouten

Robert Luke, a retired civil engineer from Hermiston, was named male volunteer of the year. Luke volunteers hours and hours as fair photographer, seeing the events mostly through his camera lens. Board member Gay Newman, who presented the award, said Luke was an easy selection.

"This is someone who understands the fair is more than one week. He's a man who takes no payment," Newman said. "He's a man who a lot of people in town call the historian and he does so through his craft of photography."

Female Volunteer of the Year June Mills wasn't able to attend. Mills, of Stanfield's Mills Mint

Farm, is a fixture at the fair, doing a variety of volunteer jobs such as overseeing the Kids' Corner.

The board also presented an award given out rarely — the Business Partnership Award — to Noble Panel & Gate of Milton-Freewater. Presenter Dan Dorran said he could remember only three other partnership awards given out. Owners Don and Pat Noble accepted flowers and plaque.

The crowd got a look at new Umatilla County Fair Manager Don Slone, who took the mic and said a few words. Slone, who managed the Harney County Fair for 25 years, replaces Peggy Anderson who resigned in August to become the



Pat and Don Noble, owners of Noble Panels & Gates, received the Business Partnership Award at Saturday's Umatilla County Fair Appreciation Dinner.



Umatilla County Fair Princesses Kira Krumbah-Kuhar, of Milton-Freewater, JanNessa Prewitt, of Hermiston, and Raylee Lehnert, of Pilot Rock, were introduced and crowned at Saturday's Fair Appreciation Dinner.

Josephine County Fair Manager.

Incoming Umatilla County Fair royalty received their crowns. The trio of princesses are JaNessa Prewitt, of Hermiston, Raylee Lehnert, of Pilot Rock, and Kira Krumbah-Kuhar, of Milton-Freewater.

Fair organizers announced a partial list of musical entertainment for the 2016 fair. On Tuesday night, A Thousand Horses will perform and

the Bellamy Brothers will take the stage on Wednesday. Entertainment for Thursday, Friday and Saturday is yet to be announced. Concert tickets will go on sale in March.

The board also unveiled the 2016 Fair logo, designed by Sofi Smith of Master Printers Northwest.

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

HERMISTON

Two men injured in ATV crash with car

East Oregonian

Two local men are in the hospital after crashing an all-terrain vehicle into a car Saturday near Hermiston.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office in a statement Monday morning reported the crash is under investigation and did not release the names of the people involved, but family members confirmed the younger victim was Kelly Nobles, 18, from Umatilla.

The crash happened a few minutes before 6 p.m. at Kik and West Punkin Center roads, according to the sheriff's office daily bulletin. The written statement from the department reported a 53-year-old Hermiston man was driving the four-wheeler and an 18-year old Umatilla man was a passenger. They were going south on Kik Road and drove into the side of a vehicle that was traveling westbound on West Punkin Center Road.

"Both men were thrown from the four wheeler onto the roadway; neither was wearing helmets," the

statement said.

An ambulance took the driver to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, and then an air ambulance flew him to Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland, Washington.

"At last report, he was unconscious and in critical condition," according to the sheriff's office.

An ambulance also took Nobles to Good Shepherd, which transferred him to Legacy Emmanuel Hospital, Portland. Nobles' father Kelly Nobles Sr. said Monday afternoon that his son had a fractured skull and bleeding on his brain, but the bleeding was from the skull fracture and not the brain itself. He is awake and talking and expected to be released from Legacy Emmanuel in a few days.

"They do not expect any permanent damage," Nobles Sr. said. "... It looks like he is going to be very lucky."

The driver of the car was not injured.

The sheriff's office stated it would release more information as it becomes available.

PENDLETON

Judge keeps rape defendant locked up

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Rape defendant Shaun Allen Dick of Pendleton lost a bid Monday to get out of jail.

Dick, 38, has been in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, since his arrest on Feb. 25 for multiple sex crimes against one woman. Defense attorney Robert Klahn of Pendleton argued Monday for Dick's release.

Klahn told Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer the bail at the time of the arrest was \$70,000, but jail staff on March 3 refused to take a

check for \$7,000 — the 10 percent for bail — because they were expecting an indictment and warrant in the case and a larger bail.

Klahn argued the warrant was valid only if the state served it before his client tried to make bail. He said the court should lower the bail from \$325,000 to the original \$70,000. And if that would not suffice, Klahn said, the court should release Dick on his recognizance because he has deep ties to the



Dick

community and a job he can start.

Prosecutor Jackie Jenkins said Dick being free scared the victim, who came to court, and Klahn's argument was perplexing because a warrant is valid as soon as a judge

signs it.

"It may be perplexing to you," Brauer said, "it's preposterous to me."

Klahn then urged the court to free his client so he could check serial numbers of guns

he lost in a burglary. Brauer told Klahn he should be able find an alternative way to find that information.

"Release is denied," the judge said.

Brauer also told Klahn the case has lingered long enough and needs to move toward a resolution.

The state has accused Dick, 37, of raping and sexually abusing a woman on Jan. 18, 2015, and of threatening to harm her if she revealed his actions. He faces eight counts in all, including first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and unlawful sexual penetration.

BRIEFLY

AAUW hosts economic development update

PENDLETON — Steve Chrisman, Pendleton's economic development and airport manager, is the guest speaker for AAUW's February program meeting.

The no-host luncheon gathering is Saturday at 11 a.m. at The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. The public is encouraged to attend.

Chrisman will present an update for the city of Pendleton, the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport and the UAS range. A short business meeting will follow Chrisman's presentation.

Boardman gets ready for awards banquet

BOARDMAN — Love is in the air as the Boardman Chamber of Commerce is using a French romantic theme for its annual awards banquet.

The event is Friday, Feb. 12 with the social hour beginning at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the awards and a live auction following. The events is at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. Tickets are \$35 each. In addition, sponsorships are still available for the event.

For more information, call 541-481-3014.

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