

# Pinwheels raise awareness for child abuse prevention

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Pinwheel gardens will sprout all over Morrow County and Umatilla County during the month of April to bring awareness of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The shiny blue and silver pinwheels were provided by a grant from Children's Trust of Oregon and the Wildhorse Foundation.

Often awareness programs for the month focus on grim statistics about child abuse, but Erin Richards of Umatilla Morrow Head Start said they are trying to focus on the happier side of recognizing all of the work people in the area are doing or could do to help children.

"Pinwheels are whimsical and carefree and we think that's what every child should have is a happy, safe, carefree childhood," she said.

Gardens with 150 pinwheels will be "planted" at 10 locations across the two counties, mostly at elemen-



Staff Photo by Jennifer Colton  
**Norma Jaime plants a pinwheel at Umatilla-Morrow Head Start's Main Office on Friday. The organization is planting more than 2,000 pinwheels this month as part of child abuse prevention month.**

ary schools. Richards said schools will be encouraged to let children place the pinwheels in the ground themselves.

"The idea is when a child plants a pinwheel in the garden they are celebrating someone making their childhood a happy and safe one," she said.

The project is meant to make people aware of how to prevent child abuse, and Richards said one of the things proven to reduce the rate of abuse is parenting classes. Umatilla Morrow Head Start offers 10- to 12-week courses to any parent for free, including childcare provided during the classes.

Richards said UMCHS is trying to break the stigma of parenting classes, because people get the idea that they're only for parents who have done something wrong. But she said the concepts taught in the classes can help any parent better communicate with their child.

"It's not because they're a bad parent, it's because they want to be a better one," she said.

In April UMCHS will also offer "learning picnics" in several

communities. The dates have yet to be determined, but families will have the opportunity to bring their children and "play with a purpose" to promote literacy. Children who participate will take home a free book, and there will be a drawing for a home library of 27 children's books at each picnic site.

Richards said there will be trained facilitators there, but the playtime will mostly be parent-driven.

"Parents are their child's first and most important teachers," Richards said.

The dates of the picnics will be released later, but the dates of local parenting classes in general can be accessed online at [umchs.com/](http://umchs.com/) events.

The pinwheel gardens set up during April will be located at elementary schools in Athena, Weston, Umatilla, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, Heppner, Irrigon, Boardman, Lone and at the Sage Center in Boardman.

## BRIEFLY

### Korvola crash sends two to hospital

PENDLETON — Two 16-year-old girls were injured Friday afternoon in a single-vehicle rollover crash on a gravel stretch of Korvola Road outside Pendleton.

Sgt. Adam Gregory with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office said the injuries were not life-threatening. Nobody else was in the vehicle, which came to rest upside down in a grassy field off the road, fenced by barbed wire. Emergency crews helped the girls escape the wreck, and one was carried off on a backboard.

Gregory did not immediately know what caused the crash. He believed one of the victims may have had a broken arm. They were taken to St. Anthony Hospital.

### 90-year-old man struck, killed Wednesday

MILTON-FREEWATER — A 90-year-old man died Wednesday evening, several hours after being struck by a minivan while crossing Highway 11, the Oregon State Police told the *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin* on Friday.

Everett Leon Carson of Milton-Freewater was crossing the highway at 12:15 p.m. at the 84200 block of Highway 11 when he was struck by a 2003 Dodge Caravan driven by Magdalena Gomez, 52, of Walla Walla.

Carson was transported to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, where he died at 10 p.m. Wednesday. No citation was given or fault noted in the state police report, according to officials.

### Council to consider convention center rent hikes

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Convention Center Commission is recommending the city council raise convention center rental rates by 20 percent.

The council will consider the recommendation at a meeting Tuesday.

In a report to the city council, convention center employee Kathy Marshall wrote the commission was proposing the increases to bring more revenue to the center's operating budget



Staff photo by George Plaven  
**Emergency crews responded Friday afternoon to a rollover crash on Korvola Road in Pendleton.**

and stay competitive with other event centers in the region and with similar square footage.

Marshall estimated the increase in rental rates to the 13,216-square-foot convention center will bring an extra \$4,000-\$9,000 in revenue.

With the 20-percent increase, use of the entire facility will cost between \$660-\$1,780, up from \$550-\$1,485. The recommended rental charges for just the main hall ranges from \$330 to \$1,320.

The rental increase will price the Pendleton Convention Center between the not-yet-open Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center, which will charge \$1,200 for use of its facility, and the Hermiston Conference Center, which rents out at \$1,850.

The council meeting will be held Tuesday at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Avenue.

### Last fireside features area authors, open mic

ENTERPRISE — A trio

of Walla County writers will share their works in the last Fishtrap Fireside of the season.

Featured writers are Abbie Amabisca, Cameron Scott and Janie Tippet. Amabisca developed a passion for helping others pick up a pen through a project at Arizona State University and Florence Prison education programs. Scott, who writes a monthly outdoor column for the *La Grande Observer*, recently received the Blue Light Poetry Prize for his second book of poems. Tippet, a Fishtrap favorite, has been an *Agritimes* columnist for 30 years, and is the author of "Four Lines a Day: The Life and Times of an Imnaha Ranch Woman."

The event is Friday, April 8 from 7-9 p.m. at 400 E. Grant St., Enterprise. There is no admission charge and light refreshments are available.

The fireside also includes an open mic for audience members to share their stories. The Fishtrap Fireside is the second Friday of each month from October through April.

For more information,

contact Mike Midlo at [mike@fishtrap.org](mailto:mike@fishtrap.org), 541-426-3623 or visit [www.fishtrap.org](http://www.fishtrap.org).

*Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to [news@eastoregonian.com](mailto:news@eastoregonian.com). Submit community news and events to [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com)*

## Hermiston woman in critical condition after crash

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

A Hermiston woman is in critical condition after she crashed Wednesday afternoon into a semi hauling two tankers.

Oregon State Police Sgt. Seth Cooney said airbags and a seatbelt likely saved the life of Carole Ann Bozarth, 69.

Bozarth drove a 2012 Ford Taurus westbound on Highway 730 near milepost 195 when she drifted into the eastbound lanes, according to a report from state police. Cooney said Garth Welsh, 43, of Walla Walla, drove the 2007 Kenworth as far over as he could, but the Ford kept coming.

Bozarth's car hit the semi's running boards, then the dual tires. The car spun back across the westbound lanes, struck the guardrail and came to a stop facing northwest against the rail.

The Kenworth traveled 122 feet after the collision, state police reported, went into a side skid, crossed the westbound lanes and smashed into the guardrail.

One of the tankers came to a stop facing north, and the second jackknifed and rolled onto the first.

State police reported the wreck totaled the car, the semi and the two tankers.

Firefighters freed Bozarth from the Ford and an air ambulance flew her to Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland. Nikki Ostergaard, hospital spokesperson, said Friday afternoon Bozarth was in critical condition.

The crash shut down Highway 730 in both directions and damaged 113 feet of guardrail. Welsh was uninjured.

Cooney also said state police do not know why Bozarth veered into the wrong lane and may never know. He said it was not uncommon for crash victims to experience memory lapses.

State police also have a citation pending for Bozarth for failure to drive within the lane.

Contact Phil Wright at [pwright@eastoregonian.com](mailto:pwright@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0833.

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