



HEARING SET FOR POACHING CASE REGION/3A



PENDLETON SHUTS OUT MAC-HI SOFTBALL/1B



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EAST OREGONIAN

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140th Year, No. 128

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Stephanie Hughes, chair of Altrusa's International Relations Committee, hold something that most Americans take for granted: a glass of clean tap water. Hughes is challenging Hermiston residents to drink only tap water for two weeks and donate the money they would have spent on other beverages to the nonprofit The Water Project.

Take the water challenge

Altrusa to pour funding into African well-digging project

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Ignoring the relentlessly beating sun and the thorns that stab at their bare feet, millions of young girls in Africa trudge miles each day with a heavy jug of water.

They give up their education and their childhood, risking attacks from predatory animals and men along the trail, for a day's supply of muddy water that might harbor diseases.

Meanwhile in America, girls their age access unlimited clean water with the turn of a faucet handle.

That stark contrast is being thrown into relief by the Hermiston Altrusa Club's water challenge, which kicks off Saturday.

The two-week challenge asks Hermiston residents to only drink tap water during that time, then give the money they would have spent on sodas, coffee, tea or alcohol to the Water Project, a nonprofit that digs wells in Africa. The point is to allow people to donate without having to stretch their budget, and help people be more aware of



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Linda Hughes holds a pair of The Water Project bracelets she will be handing out to participants in the tap water challenge.

just how present clean drinking water is in their lives.

"For us, it just comes out of the tap. We don't even have to think about it here," Stephanie Hughes, chair of Altrusa's International Relations Committee said. "These kids are risking their lives for it."

The idea for the challenge started after

a member of the committee read "A Long Walk to Water" by Linda Sue Park. The book, based on a true story, presents alternating viewpoints of a boy and girl growing up in Sudan. One hundred and fifty copies are currently being distributed around the

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"They don't just build the well and walk away, they continue to work with the community."

— Stephanie Hughes, Altrusa's International Relations Committee

Take the challenge

Kickoff is noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at McKenzie Park, Hermiston. The challenge: From April 16-30, drink only tap water, and donate the money you save to Hermiston Altrusa's fundraising page at thewaterproject.org to help build a well in Africa.

PENDLETON

Bring out your hazardous waste

Last city collection was in June 2004

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton-area residents finally can get rid of old batteries, paint and more — for free.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is holding a hazardous household waste collection Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton. And small businesses, government agencies, ranches and the like can get rid of their hazardous waste, from pesticides to old printer cartridges, on Friday

at the same location.

The state environmental department collected hazardous waste in Morrow County and Milton-Freewater in 2014, but the last collection in Pendleton was back in June 2004. The DEQ at the time reported more than 700 people turned in 96,000 pounds of hazardous household waste, plus 16,000 pounds of waste from small businesses and farms.

The environmental department holds a few of these events each year throughout the state. Gina Miller, Umatilla County's code enforcement coordinator, explained local governments must apply for a grant for the waste

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What can you drop off?

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's free hazardous household waste collection is Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton.

Here is a partial list of what you can get rid of: aerosol cans, antifreeze, engine cleaners, fluorescent tubes, herbicides, household batteries, mercury products, motor oil, paint, pesticides, solvents, thermometers, weed killers and wood preservatives. Keep items and materials in their original containers if possible.

Do not bring explosives or products that contain radioactive waste, such as smoke detectors.

Oregon ed plan to get rework

Eastern Oregon gives input to help formulate new plan

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Recent federal legislation gives states more flexibility to create their own education plans, and the Oregon Department of Education took input from Eastern Oregonians as it formulates its own.

Salam Noor, Oregon's deputy superintendent of public instruction, led a discussion of the Every Student Succeeds Act and its implications at a public forum at the Pendleton Early Learning Center Monday.

Noor explained to the dozens of teachers, administrators and students in attendance from around the region that the Every Student Succeeds replaces the controversial No Child Left Behind Act.

While maintaining the standardized test requirements established under No Child Left Behind, Every Student Succeeds gives states more authority to make their own accountability standards, which will affect the way Oregon approaches assessments and underperforming schools.

As with any broad discussion about education, standardized testing and the Smarter Balanced assessment were hot topics.

"The SBAC is not the end-all, be-all," Armand Larive Middle School teacher Jennifer Cox said.

Noor agreed that the context of the

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HERMISTON

City deals with rising solid waste

Sewage lagoon filling up faster with better filtering

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston needs \$1 million to empty the plant's sewage lagoon — and time is of the essence.

"If we have two months (before it begins to overflow), you're lucky," plant supervisor Bill Schmittle told the council at a work session Monday.

The lagoon was last cleaned in 2014, when 855 tons of sewage were pulled out and taken to a landfill. But a growing population and better filtering means it already needs cleaned out again, at a cost of about \$1,000 per ton.

A proposed new project at the Recycled Water Treatment Plant could reduce the cost and frequency of emptying the lagoon, as well as the odor that emanates from it, but it would cost the city some cash upfront.

City councilors discussed purchasing new biosolids handling equipment during a work session Monday, before directing staff to explore how to come up with the roughly \$750,000 for new equipment.

The function of the Recycled Water Treatment Plant is to separate liquids from solids in the city's wastewater, then dispose of each separately.

Brett Moore of civil engineering firm Anderson Pery and Associates told the council that the city's recent \$20

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