

# TEEPEE: Minthorn will be handing out fry bread Friday

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signed a proclamation to honor the nine sovereign tribal nations in the state, and thank them for the contributions to the communities, environment and economy.

Minthorn said the teepee is a simple way to share that culture at the high school, where about 8 percent of the students are American Indian, according to Oregon Department of Education demographic numbers.

On Friday, Minthorn will continue the cultural outreach by handing out fry bread at the Snack Shack at the school — but it comes with a catch. Minthorn has distributed some facts about the local Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to a few students, and they have been instructed to share them in their social media circles.

To get a slice of the bread, students must share with Minthorn what they've learned. She said the information is already "spreading like wildfire."

Minthorn is in her first year at the school, and her goal is to create an open dialogue about Indian culture with students. Even some of the Indian students are surprised to learn about the history of the Tribes in the area and the purposes behind the ceremonies and traditions.



Senior Jack Peterson, right, winds a rope around the tops of a group of teepee poles while learning how to put up a teepee with other students Thursday at Pendleton High School.

"There's an imaginary wall," she said, "and people aren't sure whether they can ask questions or if they will accidentally offend the person they are talking to."

There's no such thing as a dumb question, Minthorn said, and the only way to

learn is to ask.

The governor's proclamation was signed specifically for the week of May 14-21, 2016, but Minthorn hopes to see another American Indian Week next year, and to bring even more events to the high school.

# SCHNITZER: Has one of the country's largest personal art collections

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much fun," Schnitzer said of the Round-Up. "I went up and schmoozed the rooms manager at the Red Lion, and I've had rooms there (during Round-Up) ever since."

His close friends include Pendleton families like the Lorenzens, Thornes and Cimmiyottis. He has provided college scholarships for members of the Pendleton Round-Up court and Happy Canyon princesses for years, and has long been a vocal and financial supporter of Crow's Shadow, the Pendleton Center for the Arts and other local nonprofits.



Schnitzer

economic investment never penciled out. But perhaps with Schnitzer's help, that could become more viable.

Roberta Lavadour, executive director of the Pendleton Center for the Arts, said she too is interested in watching how Schnitzer moves forward. But the step he has already taken — putting up money and becoming a part of Pendleton development — is big news in itself.

"He saw it as a valuable investment," she said. "He thinks investing in Pendleton is a smart thing to do."

Schnitzer said the long-term outlook for cities like Pendleton — and other larger inland locations like Tulsa, Omaha and Salt Lake City — are strong.

He said millennials will start to move away from the crowded, expensive coasts toward places that are smaller, more affordable, have good schools and a slower speed of life. But those cities must have the cultural amenities needed to attract new residents. Oftentimes, rural towns lag behind in that regard.

"We need the culture to improve, so there is more for people to do," said Schnitzer. "And we need to create jobs."

Schnitzer lives in Portland. His personal art collection is one of the country's largest, and includes many important contemporary works. He currently lends pieces from that collection, which has enabled more than 100 exhibitions at more than 75 museums. Schnitzer is also president of Harsch Investment Properties, a privately owned real estate investment company that owns 23 million square feet of property and boasts a billion-dollar real estate portfolio.

# ART: 'Everyone wants to go someplace that looks nice'

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since I remember the mayor thinking it had been stolen when it was taken off for repair," she wrote in an email.

Other public art includes water features in front of city hall and the Stafford Hansell Government Center, the marble peace pole in front of the police station and an antique wagon placed near one end of the Oxbow Trail.

Last year, at the request of Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter, Hermiston artist Chris Huffman sculpted a set of cattails and installed them in a metal saucer located on the sidewalk along Highway 395 near Main Street. Huffman said he is working on a second set of cattails that will be placed around the small stone fountain in front of city hall.

Huffman, who has completed numerous works of public art for Stanfield, Umatilla, Echo and the Tri-Cities, said he was pleased to see Hermiston working on an official art plan.

"I think their direction is right," he said.

## Potential art projects

Consultant Rebecca Couch will be at the Saturday Market on Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to noon in McKenzie Park collecting feedback on a public art plan. A sampling of ideas presented includes:

- A mural on the side of the building at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center
- Murals on the sides of the wellhead building at Newport Park and various stormwater stations
- A sculpture gallery on Elm Avenue near Good Shepherd Medical Center
- Decorative fencing along the Public Works property on Elm Avenue
- A large sculpture at West Park Elementary
- Utility box art
- A Main Street arch
- Functional art like decorative benches downtown
- Interpretive displays along the path at Riverfront Park
- A sculpture at Butte Park
- "Yarn bombing" on bike racks

Huffman said he believes the best kind of public art is something that "makes people think or brings back an emotion." The cattails, for example, could make people nostalgic for their childhood fishing spot or make them think about the role that rivers have played in Hermiston's growth.

He said public art helps

people slow down and notice their surroundings more — including businesses where they might like to shop — and helps people relax and feel more positive.

"Everyone wants to go someplace that looks nice," he said.

Morgan expressed similar sentiments, noting that in today's information-based

economy people tend to have more flexibility in where they can live, instead of having to move where the jobs are. As a result, it is more important for cities to increase their livability to attract new residents.

"If we're not cognizant of making sure people want to live here, they won't," Morgan said.

Rebecca Couch, a consultant from Moscow, Idaho, is working to gather input for a public art plan and a set of policies for the city council to adopt. That includes discussion about how art is acquired and whose responsibility it is to maintain. She will be present at the Saturday Market in McKenzie Park this Saturday, and Morgan encouraged residents to give feedback on her ideas and make proposals of their own.

After the plan and policies are completed they will go to the city's Community Enhancement Committee for review and the city council for adoption. Future acquisition of art will happen as opportunities arise through grants and donations.

# REFUGE: Willingham arrested in Mt. Vernon

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U.S. District Court Judge Anna J. Brown ordered that Willingham remain in custody until sentencing, which she set for Sept. 23.

Dan Perry, an owner of the Blue Mountain Lodge in Mt. Vernon, said Willingham showed up at the motel office on the evening of March 16, though he had not been staying there.

"He walked into the motel, into the front desk, and asked me to call 9-1-1 and have a sheriff deputy come out," Perry said. "I asked him what it was about, and he said, 'Well, I talked to Sheriff (Glenn) Palmer the other day. Tell them my name is Scott (Willingham), and they'll know what it's about.'"

After Perry called 9-1-1, he said, Willingham walked outside to the corner of Highway 395 and Highway 26 to wait for a deputy

According to a press release from Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter, Willingham demanded to be taken to jail immediately and threatened to begin shooting federal law enforcement agents the following morning unless he was jailed.

Carpenter said Willingham was in possession of a Springfield Armory .308, an assault rifle-style weapon, and more than 230 rounds of ammunition. He said Willingham stated the gun belonged to Ryan Payne, who was arrested Jan. 26 in an Oregon State Police and FBI operation on Highway 395 north of Burns. When Payne was taken into custody on charges related to the occupation, Willingham said he took the gun and fled the refuge, according to Carpenter.

Willingham was originally arraigned on a felony charge of unlawful use of a weapon

and a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge March 17. Carpenter said a grand jury did not indict Willingham on those charges.

It was determined, however, that Willingham had been convicted of felony crimes — larceny and taking a motor vehicle — in Michigan and Washington, so the grand jury indicted him on a class C felony charge of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Carpenter said.

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## 8th Annual Return to the River Salmon Festival

Saturday, May 21, 2016 • 10am – 1pm  
At Walla Walla Community College  
by the ball fields on Tausick Way

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10am – 1pm: Interactive Exhibit Booths  
Wildlife Cartoon Drawings  
First Foods & Medicinal Plant Display

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11:30am: Chinook Salmon Release

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11am – 1pm: Wine Country Culinary Institute Food Truck  
Sockeye Salmon Tacos, Salmon Chowder, Titus Creek Burger,  
Mediterranean Chicken Gyro, Garlic Fries  
(Prices rang from \$5 - \$9)  
Children's Hot Dog Lunch Available

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12pm – 1pm: Tribal Dance Performance

Presented by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
and Walla Walla Community Colleges Water and Environmental Center.  
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