

PENDLETON

Relay fights cancer one step at a time

Youngman to serve as Survivor Ambassador

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A familiar face will welcome participants during the upcoming Pendleton Relay for Life.

Serving as Survivor Ambassador, Kathryn Youngman will speak during the opening ceremonies Friday, June 17 at 6 p.m. at Sunridge Middle School, 700 S.W. Runnion Ave., Pendleton.

Survivors, as well as those currently fighting the disease, are invited to a special survivor dinner prepared by McKay Creek Estates. The meal will be served at the conclusion of the opening ceremonies.

A fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, the event runs all night — representing that cancer never sleeps. It concludes with closing ceremonies Saturday, June 18 at 7 a.m.

People will hit the track throughout the evening and night. There will be some themed laps featuring everything from glow-in-the-dark items, going backwards and flashlights to poker and noise makers. In addition, team encampments will offer a variety of activities to raise additional money for the cause.

People are invited to come out and participate — either all night or for just a few hours.

“We would like the community to take part in it, and embrace it as their own,” said Gert Hawthorne, a longtime Relay for Life volunteer.

Virgil Bates has participated as both a survivor and as a way to honor his brother, David Taylor, who died from pancreatic cancer. The Mission man said the



Members of Team Top to Bottom set up their encampment during a past Pendleton Relay for Life. This year's event kicks off Friday, June 17 at 6 p.m. at Sunridge Middle School.

Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini



EO file photo

Pendleton High School Spanish teacher Kathryn Youngman will serve as the Survivor Ambassador during the Friday, June 17 opening ceremonies of Pendleton Relay for Life at Sunridge Middle School.

event is a great opportunity to provide encouragement to others. It helps people know they aren't alone, Bates said.

A moving tribute to those who have lost their fight against cancer takes place at 9 p.m. The Luminaria Ceremony features glowing bags along the track, a speaker,

music and a silent lap. It offers a time of reflection and honoring those who died from the disease.

Karen Malcolm, a past chairwoman for the event, also fights the disease as an American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network volunteer. She said people

Relay for Life

STARTS: Friday, June 17; 6 p.m.
ENDS: Saturday, June 18; 7 a.m.
WHERE: Sunridge Middle School, Pendleton
INFO: www.facebook.com/PdtRelay

don't always agree on everything, but Relay for Life joins the community in a common cause.

“We stand together in the fight against cancer,” Malcolm said on the event's Facebook page. “See you at the track!”

For more information, call Gert Hawthorne at 541-215-9767, Carol Preston at 541-379-6294 or visit www.facebook.com/PdtRelay.

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

Fire season begins in Central Oregon

East Oregonian

Wildfire season begins Friday in the Oregon Department of Forestry's Central Oregon District, which includes nearly all of Grant County, as well as portions of Wheeler and southern Morrow counties.

District fire managers say forest fuels are drying at a rapid pace, with more warm and dry weather in the forecast. With the implementation of fire season, some burning permits issued earlier in the spring may no longer be valid, and industrial slash burning won't be allowed on ODF land.

Logging companies will need to have fire tools, water and watchmen on hand

for fire suppression when working in the area, while recreationists are reminded to exercise campfire safety. Sky lanterns, tracer ammunition and exploding targets are all banned during fire season.

Human-caused fires accounted for 60 percent of all fires during the 2015 fire season, which was higher than the 10-year average, according to District Forester Mike Shaw.

“We can't predict when and how many lightning fires we will get, but we can reduce the number of human starts by being smart and deliberate in our actions,” Shaw said.

More information is available at www.odfcentraloregon.com.

HERMISTON



Photo contributed by Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services

Hermiston firefighters work to extinguish a fire at Columbia Basin Onion southwest of Hermiston on Wednesday afternoon.

Onion shed fire caused \$1.2 million in damage

East Oregonian

A fire that consumed an onion shed outside Hermiston Wednesday afternoon caused an estimated \$1.2 million in damage to the building, according to Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services Chief Scott Stanton.

Stanton said that estimate does not include a pickup truck, tools and a piece of machinery

that were also inside the building at the time.

About 45 firefighters were on scene at Columbia Basin Spreaders' Westland Road location for more than two hours Wednesday after the blaze started about 3:30 p.m.

One person was injured in the blaze, and was flown to a Portland burn unit for treatment.

The cause is under investigation.

EOU Commencement set for June 11

More than 700 bachelor's degrees to be conferred

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Approximately 456 students will participate in Eastern Oregon University's formal commencement ceremony Saturday, June 11 in La Grande.

The event will be held outdoors at Community Stadium, beginning at 10 a.m. No tickets are required to attend, and seating will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Free parking will be available all day at lots on campus, excluding reserved spaces.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown will deliver the keynote address, which will focus on college accessibility and affordability. Also scheduled to speak is EOU President's Scholar Cassie Gray-Jeffries, of La Grande, who is completing her bachelor's degree with a double major in anthropology and history.

Shahayla Ononaiye, of Kuna, Idaho, will perform the National Anthem, and Haley Hill, of Eagle, Idaho, will sing the Alma Mater. Ononaiye will receive degrees in music and business administration, while Hill is completing her degree in English and writing.

For the 2015-16 academic year, EOU will confer more than 700 bachelor's degrees, about 85 master's degrees and nine associate degrees. Tim Seydel, EOU's vice president for university



Contributed photo

Eastern Oregon University will hold its formal commencement ceremony on June 11.

“Our new president ... has been doing great, and our board is doing great.”

— Tim Seydel, vice president for university advancement

advancement, said recent graduating classes have been inflated given an increase in college enrollment around the time of the recession.

Looking ahead, Seydel said administrators expect those numbers will decline in the coming years. However, new President Tom Insko and the university's board of trustees have their sights set on boosting on-campus enrollment by as much as 20 percent year over year.

According to a recent article in the Oregonian, full-time on-campus enrollment dipped to 1,190 last

fall — a 28 percent decline from 2003 — amid “rampant leadership turnover.” But Seydel said Insko's arrival, along with the new board, is helping EOU to find its footing. Retention rates are expected to be 71 to 72 percent for students returning to campus next fall, which already shows an increase.

“Our new president ... has been doing great, and our board is doing great,” Seydel said.

Other activities related to this year's EOU Commencement include the Oregon

Health & Science University's School of Nursing Convocation and Awards Ceremony, which will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, June 10 in McKenzie Theater in Loso Hall. The annual Student Awards Ceremony will be held later that same day, at 1:30 p.m., also in McKenzie Theater, where 36 awards will be presented.

That evening, at 5 p.m., is a celebration for off-campus graduates and their families in the Gilbert Center, located adjacent to Ackerman Hall.

More information and detailed schedules can be found online at www.eou.edu/commencement.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

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