

PENDLETON

# Phish, 'phans' donate \$10K to rock camp

Arts Center awarded grants for music ed

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Center for the Arts has reeled in two major grants for this year's 11th annual Rock & Roll Camp, courtesy of the renowned jam band Phish.

The Mockingbird Foundation, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization founded by Phish fans, recently awarded \$5,000 to the arts center in support of music education for kids. The grant was then doubled by the band's own Waterwheel Foundation for a total of \$10,000.

J.D. Smith, development director for the arts center, wrote the initial grant application and said they plan to use most of the money on Rock & Roll Camp, which brought in 80 teens to learn about creating and performing music — for free.

"It was cool to have something as big as Phish liking our project," Smith said.

Phish has been around since the 1980s after forming at the University of Vermont and continues to tour. "Phans" of the band created the Mockingbird Foundation in 1996, and have contributed more than \$918,000 to music programs at schools, centers and nonprofits across



The band Sabotage practices a new song in a small dressing room during the 2014 Rock & Roll Camp at the Pendleton Center for the Arts.

the country.

The organization awarded just 11 grants out of 877 applications this spring, including the Pendleton Center for the Arts. Of those, only five were doubled by the Waterwheel Foundation, which oversees the band's own charitable activities.

Roberta Lavadour, executive director of the arts center in Pendleton, said it costs \$22,500 to put on Rock & Roll Camp, which includes snacks, renting instruments and paying about 20 camp counselors. As far as they know, she said it's the only completely free rock camp

anywhere in the Northwest.

"We've always had very strong support from the community, but it doesn't get any cheaper as the years go by," Lavadour said.

Peter Walters, who has led the camp since it started more than a decade ago, said they continue to bring in quality musicians from places like Portland, Seattle and Boise to help teens tap into their inner rock star. The week culminates with a free concert for the community, filled with original performances. Campers also put out a zine, podcast and learn about studio recording and

post-production.

Walters said they are grateful to Phish and their fans for these grants.

"It's a testament to the good work the arts center has done in helping to shape the landscape of music education in this community," he said.

This year's Rock & Roll Camp will be held Aug. 8-14 and spots are still open to sign up. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, call the arts center at 541-278-9201.

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# Local circuit courts go (mostly) digital

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
East Oregonian

probably will not see digital documents.

Eastern Oregon circuit courts disconnected Monday from the state's old electronic court management system and signed on to the new eCourt.

The Oregon eCourt Case Information System — aka OECIS, aka Odyssey — went live for circuit courts in Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa counties. The state rolled out eCourt in phases, starting with Jackson County in March 2013, and the eastern counties were the last in the state to plug in. The state aims to use the new system to cut down on paper documents, rely on digital copies as official court documents and speed up handling information.

David Factor, the staff council for the state court's department of education, training and outreach, said the main component is the Odyssey case management system, effectively the case registry for the court system.

Odyssey replaces the 36-year-old Oregon Judicial Information Network — or OJIN — which required users to master function keys and type in specific codes to find criminal and civil court information, including case history and offender convictions. But OJIN did not include copies of court documents, which the new system does, at least in part.

Accessing those, however, requires paying for a subscription to the Oregon Judicial Case Information Network. That costs \$100 to establish an account and another \$35 a month, according to information from state courts, and new users will have to fill out an application as well.

Factor said most subscribers are government users and court filers, such as attorneys. News organizations also often subscribe to get access to court information.

The *East Oregonian* is a subscriber.

The public also can go to state court offices and use a computer terminal to access court information, but they

Roy Blaine has been on the front row of the local transition to eCourt. He is the trial court administrator for the 6th District Circuit Courts of Umatilla and Morrow counties. He said for the time being, the public will have to ask court staff to see documents.

He also said Eastern Oregon counties still do not have electronic filing of court paperwork, but that is coming in July when it will be "permissive," meaning an attorney, for example, will have the choice of handing staff a paper document or emailing a digital one.

"But by the end of August it will be mandatory," he said.

Until the permissive period begins, hard copies are a must in local courts. Blaine said staff makes digital scans of those and keeps the paper copies in a box until other workers compare the paper and digital copies to make sure they are identical. At that point, he said, staff destroys the hard copy.

Electronic court has been in the works more than a decade, and the state estimates the whole project will cost around \$93 million. And while the state promises the new system will work better than clunky OJIN, some public information is an early casualty.

State courts used to provide online copies of courtroom schedules, which included names of defendants, attorneys, a summary of criminal charges in criminal matters.

Now an online search engine replaces those digital copies, but the search results — when they appear — lack lists of charges.

Blaine said the public end of providing information remains in process, but he would check into the issue. He said it makes sense someone can look at a court calendar and tell what charges defendants are facing.

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

BRIEFLY

## BMCC pool deep in the hole

PENDLETON — Faced with \$2.3 million in swimming pool repairs, Blue Mountain Community College is getting the word out that it is in hot water.

Tammie Parker, BMCC vice president of administrative services, discussed the pool at a Pendleton School Board meeting Tuesday.

Parker said BMCC has had to defer pool maintenance while directing budget money toward academic programs. While pool repair was a part of the unsuccessful bond campaign in 2013, it was not a part of the bond passed in 2015.

Additionally, Parker said the pool has seen declining use from BMCC students.

Tony Nelson, a coach with the Pendleton Swimming Association and the Pendleton High School swim team, said the pool was important to youth swimming and the Pendleton and Hermiston high school programs.

"Without a pool, we will not have a program," he said.

Nelson said alternatives like the Roundup Athletic Club and Pendleton Aquatic Center pools can't meet the needs and requirements of the high school team.

Although in serious need of repair, Parker said in an interview after the meeting that BMCC does not have definitive plans to close the pool.

The Pendleton School Board did not have a quorum and took no action at the meeting.

## Death investigation continues for body at rest area

BOARDMAN — A Bremerton, Washington, man died at the eastbound Interstate 84 rest area near Boardman.

Oregon State Police Sgt.

Seth Cooney said passersby at about 10:45 a.m. Monday found Andrew Wallace, 49, in a black 1993 Toyota 4Runner. There was no indication of foul play, Cooney said, and police notified Wallace's relatives, but the investigation is not over.

Wallace had a number of medical issues, Cooney said, and Morrow County medical examiner Brian Snyder, who also is a detective with the sheriff's office, is waiting to hear from Wallace's doctor to determine if an autopsy is necessary.

In addition to the sheriff's office, Boardman police also assisted at the scene.

## Band sells Krispy Kreme donuts

HERMISTON — A sweet deal for Krispy Kreme fans will help support the Stanfield High School band.

The group is selling the donuts to help raise money for a 2017 spring break trip to the Pacific Rim Band Festival in Hawaii.

The cost is \$12 per dozen and can be purchased Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wal-Mart, 1350 N. First St., Hermiston. For more information, call band director Deborah Wryn at 541-240-1513.

## BMCC graduation changes venue

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College will graduate so many students this year that the school has moved commencement exercises from campus to the Pendleton Convention Center. The school's 54th commencement ceremony, taking place at 7 p.m. Friday at the convention center, will honor 348 graduates and is open to the public.

The graduates range in age from 17 to 63. They hail from Oregon, California,

Idaho, Montana and Washington. Thirteen are military veterans and 125 will graduate with honors or high honors.

Hermiston insurance agent and realtor Tim Mabry will give the commencement address. Mabry, who served as student body president, graduated from BMCC in 1972. BMCC President Cam Preus and two students — Associated Student Government President Emily Sexton and graduate/BMCC employee Jennie Wolfe — will also speak during graduation.

In addition to Friday's ceremony, BMCC's inmate education program will host a commencement for graduates at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution at 9:30, Friday. The program leads the state in GED completers. BMCC's nursing program will host its pinning ceremony for graduates of the Associate of Applied Sciences degree in nursing at 2 p.m. in the Bob Clapp Theatre.

## ODFW to release spring chinook in Powder River

BAKER CITY — Anglers will have the opportunity to fish for spring chinook in the Powder River starting Wednesday.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife plans to release approximately 150 salmon into the river just below Mason Dam, and establish a season that will run through Sept. 1. The open area will extend from the dam to Hughes Lane Bridge near Baker City.

ODFW is anticipating a fair return of spring chinook to Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River, which allows fishery managers to trap some of those fish and move them into tributaries. The actual number of fish released into the Powder River will depend on trapping conditions at the

dam. The daily bag limit will be four chinook. Anglers are also reminded to ask first before entering private land.

## HSD bringing computer science to classrooms

HERMISTON — Hermiston School District is bringing computer science to elementary school classrooms next year.

The district is partnering with the nonprofit Code.org to offer free one-day workshops to elementary school teachers interested in taking their students through a 20-hour computer course.

Code.org's mission is to bring computer science to every school in the country, helping to bring more women and underrepresented minorities into the industry.

According to a news release by Hermiston School District, incorporating computer science into classrooms starting in kindergarten helps students adapt to modern technology and use higher-order thinking such as logic, problem-solving and creativity. Lessons offered by Code.org are adapted to age, align with Common Core State Standards and include hands-on and "unplugged" lessons.

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

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~George M. Cohan

There will be a ceremonial disposal of the retired flags that are collected.

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