

HERMISTON



Staff photo by Gary L. West
Umatilla Police Department Lt. Keith Kennedy talks on his cell phone while examining the scene of a two-car crash Thursday morning on Highway 395 near the Highway 730 interchange near Umatilla. The crash injured two women and snarled traffic for more than an hour.

Two injured in head-on crash

East Oregonian

Two women were taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center at about 8:10 a.m. Thursday morning after a head-on crash on Highway 395 north of Hermiston. The male driver of a red Dodge Charger fell asleep at the wheel, according to an Oregon State Police trooper at the scene, crossing the center line and crashing into an oncoming Pontiac Torrent SUV that tried to swerve to

avoid the collision. The Charger then left the roadway and crashed into the brush. Each vehicle had one passenger, and the driver and passenger of the Torrent were taken to the hospital. Neither the driver or the passenger of the Charger were transported by ambulance. According to OSP, the driver of the Charger was cited with failure to maintain a lane.

HERMISTON

City adds new library director

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
 East Oregonian

Hermiston Public Library has a new director. The library welcomed Mark Rose to its staff last week after former director Marie Baldo retired. Rose moved to Hermiston from Nampa, Idaho, and has been working in libraries since 1991. Before that he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany as a platoon leader. Baldo also came to the library with a military background, but Rose said head librarians with military experience are relatively rare. For Rose, he said he realized that Army life was not something he wanted to make a career out of, and when he thought back on his college experience he remembered time spent studying in the library. So he

returned to Brigham Young University for a master's degree in library science. "I always enjoyed being in the library, surrounded by books," he said. Rose said he and his wife have family in Idaho and Portland, so Hermiston seemed ideally situated to visit both. "We're a great bathroom stop for family now," he said. The couple have six children, two of which still live at home. Rose said their family looks forward to getting to know the community and he looks forward to helping the library continue to grow. "Every community deserves a good library," he said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BRIEFLY

Umatilla Co. enacts temporary burn ban

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners have approved a temporary burn ban — including all agricultural burning — effective August 25 through August 31. This burn ban is in response to poor air quality conditions caused by multiple wildfires in the area. For more information, call Gina Miller at 541-278-6300.

GEODC hires new director

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corp. appointed Susan Christensen as its new executive director. According to a press release, Christensen has been serving as interim director of Pendleton-based GEODC since April, having been hired as the community and economic development director the month before. Christensen has a master's degree in public administration, planning, public policy and management from the University of Oregon. She has established relationships with the public, nonprofits, tribes and private sector through her more than 20 years of economic development experience, according to the release.

The GEODC is a nonprofit that supports regional economic development in its district, which includes Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur and Wheeler counties.

Archery season for deer, elk to begin amid fire concerns

Dry weather could make for difficult hunting season

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
 East Oregonian

Archery season for deer and elk begins Saturday in Eastern Oregon, and officials are reminding bow hunters to beware of fire danger when heading into the woods. The Blue Mountain Inter-agency Dispatch Center reports there have been 110 fires so far this year, 57 of which were human-caused. Human-caused fires have also burned the vast majority of acres in the area, totaling 29,642.

Statewide, the Oregon Department of Forestry has recorded 575 fires on lands protected by the agency, with 514 of those started by humans. "It's already been a tough fire season," said Tom Fields, fire prevention coordinator with the Oregon Department of Forestry. "While we have been fortunate with minimal lightning-caused fires, our concern is with the human-caused fires."

Restrictions are in place on both ODF and national forest land to lower the risk of starting new fires. The most common regulations include:

- No campfires, except in designated campground and recreation sites.
- Smoking and off-road driving is prohibited in most areas.
- Vehicles must have either a gallon of water or 2.5-pound fire extinguisher and shovel, except on state highways or county roads.
- ATVs must have a 2.5-pound fire extinguisher.

Kristin Babbs, executive



EO file photo
In this Nov. 2014 file photo, a herd of elk grazes on private land near Weston.

Security breach of hunting, fishing license information

Oregon security specialists are investigating the impact of a reported information security breach involving the online licensing system used by Oregon and other states to process hunting and fishing applications. As a precaution, access to the online system is closed until further notice. "We are working with the vendor to determine if any personal information was indeed accessed, while ensuring their system is secure before allowing Oregonians to use it," said Alex Petit, Oregon's Chief Information Officer. Hunting and fishing licenses can still be purchased at ODFW offices and participating retailers.

director of the Keep Oregon Green Association, said there have been more than 50 illegal or unattended campfires that have led to wildfires this summer. "It only takes one of these careless acts to lead to the destruction of our forests," Babbs said. "Our plea to the hunters and public in general is to be vigilant and have fire prevention front and center in their minds when enjoying what our state has to offer." Mark Kirsch, district wildlife biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife in Pendleton,

said bow hunting typically draws more than 1,500 people to the district over 30 days. The most popular units for deer and elk include the Ukiah, Mount Emily and Walla Walla units. Kirsch said the animal populations have not changed considerably compared to last year. Deer and elk populations have rebounded to winter management levels in Ukiah after ODFW thinned out high-density cougar populations in the unit. As for weather, Kirsch said this year's conditions are a lot better than last

year's drought, but a recent string of hot, dry days has helped accelerate the drying of habitat. "It makes everything a little more brittle, and more of a tinderbox," Kirsch said. "Everything you step on makes noise. (Hunting) becomes more difficult." The heat also makes cow elk more lethargic, Kirsch said, and less likely to draw bulls into a rut. "When it's hot and dry like this, the cows are just trying to stay cool and get enough to eat," Kirsch said. "In archery season, I think most people would agree it just gets better and better as the season goes." Archery regulations for 2016 remain largely the same, though there are a few changes. Lighted arrow nocks are now allowed for bow hunters. In the Minam and Desolation units, the bag limit has also changed from bull-only to one elk of either sex this year. For more information on hunting regulations, visit the ODFW website at www.dfw.state.or.us. Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

PENDLETON

From bucking expectations to Let 'er Buck

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
 East Oregonian

Rod Retherford has taken up a variety of titles in his lifetime — football player, rodeo cowboy, professional speaker — but it's his current job that's bringing him to Pendleton. Retherford is moving his saddle making shop from Hermiston to Pendleton, replacing Miss Joni's Florals at 11 S.E. Court Ave. and fitting in thematically with his downtown neighbors — Stapleman Custom Boot Shop and Hamley's.

When Rod Retherford Saddlery and Art opens its doors in September, Retherford will offer custom-made saddles, repairs and an art gallery. But even with more than 20 years under his belt as a saddle maker, Retherford is still best known for his feats on the gridiron. Measuring under 5 feet and weighing less than 90 pounds as a freshman, the high school football coach at John Day told him he had no chance at making the team. Regardless, Retherford was able to play his way from John Day to Treasure Valley Community College to Washington State University as a walk-on in 1980. As if his football career



EO file photo
Rod Retherford stands in his saddlemaking shop at Horse Plaza in Hermiston in October 2015. He is opening a new shop in downtown Pendleton.

wasn't already unlikely enough, Retherford survived an accidental gunshot from a teammate and overcame temporary paralysis to become a starter at cornerback and play for the Cougars in the Holiday Bowl. After his playing days were over, Retherford returned to Oregon and began considering new career options. Retherford asked Richard Boyer, a longtime saddle maker at Hamley's, to teach him how to build saddles in 1995. Retherford used the lessons he was taught by Boyer to open his own saddle shop in Redmond

and also dabbled in his own unique art form, covering animal skulls in intricate leather designs. "I'm the only one in the world that does what I do," Retherford claims. Retherford tried to launch an art career in Texas, but the Lone Star State wasn't for him. "I got tired of ducking tornadoes all the time," he said. When Retherford returned to Oregon last year, he set up shop at Horse Plaza at 34287 Diagonal Road in Hermiston. Horse Plaza owner Joe Sturza had long sold Retherford's saddles in his store and was happy to have him

come aboard. Sturza estimates he's sold about 100 Retherford saddles over the years, a popular item customers buy in-store or on commission from locales throughout the West. While tending cattle or training horses, Wade Bertsch of Stanfield estimates he is on horseback 14-16 hours a day. He said he's bought two or three Retherford saddles because of their "impeccable" workmanship and good fit. Bertsch's comments were echoed by Jason Robinson, a farmer from Washington's Yakima Valley. Robinson, who started buying saddles from Retherford under the recommendation of some friends, said the saddles have a level of customization you can only get from an expert saddle maker. "They're well worth the wait," Robinson said. Although Retherford has only been based in Hermiston for a year, he said the location and price of the Pendleton space was too good to pass up. Retherford's saddles will continue to be sold at Horse Plaza, but they'll be made in the Round-Up City. Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

Music on the Lawn FRIDAY, AUG. 26
Mark Holt
 6:00-9:00 PM
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 COURT & MAIN, PENDLETON • 541.278.1100

Friday Night Dinner
 August 26th • 5:30 pm • \$12.00
BBQ RIBS
 • Corn on the Cob
 • Potato Salad
 • Watermelon
 Proceeds to benefit Pendleton Elks' Charities
Pendleton Elks Lodge #288 14 SE 3rd, Pendleton 509-948-2163 • 541-276-3882

MOLLY'S REVENGE
 at the Pendleton Center for the Arts
 FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
 7 pm | \$15 | Call 541-278-9201 to reserve a seat
 Made possible through the generous support of United Grain Corporation