

EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Patterson

Former newspaper manager dies at 77

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

General Manager C.K. "Pat" Patterson, who died Sunday at age 77, rattled more than a few brand new *East Oregonian* employees during his 20-year tenure at the newspaper.

Steven Brown, who later rose to become managing editor, started at the *EO* as a part-time reporter who covered agriculture, business and sports. Shortly after being hired, Brown burst into Patterson's office with a question, but got a shock.

"He stopped me in my tracks and said, 'Get out — don't ever come into my office without asking permission again,'" recalled Brown, now publisher/executive editor of *The (Gresham) Outlook, Sandy Post* and *Estacada News*.

Years later, Brown appreciates Patterson's scolding.

"He was trying to let me know what my place was in the world," Brown said. "At the time, I was a young punk. My place on the pecking order was on the bottom rung of the ladder."

Though the tall, brawny, necktie-wearing newspaper man could be intimidating to newbies, Patterson warmed up once employees became established.

"He was tough to work for when you first started. He ran you through your paces," said retired *EO* Publishing Co. Controller Diana Porter, "but then you were on his team and he had your back. He had a way of bringing out the best in people. I just sat at his feet and learned."

She described Patterson as an astute, savvy manager of people and money who knew everybody's name (plus family members and pets) and took an interest in their journeys. Patterson, who had only an associate's degree, had a varied back-

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HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Science teacher Lisa McElroy helps eighth-grader Jaime Ramirez build a bird's nest as eighth-grader Isiah Lopez works on his nest Monday at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston.

EUREKA!

Science teachers say fun is a key element in high test scores

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston School District has a lot of budding scientists in its classrooms, if state test scores are any indication.

For years, the district's middle school students have consistently beaten the state average on science tests by wide margins, and a similar trend has begun at the high school. Last year 79 percent of Hermiston eighth graders met or exceeded the science benchmark, compared to 63 percent statewide. Eighty-eight percent of Hermiston 11th graders showed proficiency compared with the state average of 63 percent.

Lisa McElroy, who has 15 years in education and five years teaching science at Sandstone Middle School, said the key to high test scores is to stop focusing so much on teaching to the test and instead make sure students are engaged in the subject.

"We make an effort to teach in a variety of ways, whether it's music, or art. We have so much fun you can't help but learn," she said.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Seventh-graders Evelyn Romero, left, and Marlene Valenzuela work on constructing a Ferris wheel out of Popsicle sticks on Monday at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston.

On Monday her classroom was covered in freshly gathered mud, sticks and grass as students built bird nests using only the materials and techniques of the birds they chose to study.

"No knots, you guys, and no

glue," McElroy reminded them.

Halle Thomas, a seventh grader, worked on lining a hollow in a cardboard "tree" with grass and other fibers to create a Mountain Chickadee nest. She said she feels like she "got smarter" from researching her chosen

Middle school science scores

	HSD	State
2015-2016	79%	63%
2014-2015	82%	65%
2013-2014	76%	67%
2012-2013	79%	67%
2011-2012	84%	66%

bird for the nest project, which is one of the reasons she likes McElroy's class.

"I like that we don't have to sit in a desk always," she said. "We get to get up and walk around and be active. I don't learn very well in a desk."

She said she didn't always do well in science at other schools, but since she moved to the Hermiston School District this year her grades in the subject have improved.

Aeric Allbee, an eighth grader, echoed the idea that hands-on projects helped him learn. He was crossing long sticks together to

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PENDLETON

Post office celebrates 100 years



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pamela Birdsell, right, carrier supervisor with the U.S. Postal Service, gives a tour of the post office to guests Monday on the 100 year anniversary of the John F. Kilkenny Post Office and Courthouse in Pendleton.

Building also home to federal court, used to have railroad underneath

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The stately brick façade of the John F. Kilkenny Post Office and Courthouse in Pendleton betrays the sea change in the postal industry since the building was completed in 1916.

Stamps may no longer cost 2 cents each, but the post office is still standing, a fact that was celebrated during the building's 100th birthday party Monday.

Pendleton's first post office was established around 1870 on the corner of Main Street and Court Avenue and moved several times around the downtown area

before finding a permanent home at 104 S.W. Dorion Ave.

Built for \$100,000 between 1903 and 1916 (about \$2.2 million today), the building also housed the U.S. Department of Forestry, federal district court and the U.S. Biological Survey in addition to the post office.

"The new building will stand as symbol of the new Pendleton," the *East Oregonian* proclaimed at the time.

Although the building now stands as a symbol of old Pendleton, it still contains bits of former ingenuity that makes it a unique piece of history.

Leading a tour of the building, post office supervisor Pam Birdsell, a 36-year post office veteran, pointed to a register cage in the

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