

Former DA treks near the top the of world

Former Umatilla County district attorney and Pendleton attorney **Dave Gallaher** recently visited the monument to **Tenzing Norgay**, the Sherpa who guided **Sir Edmund Hillary** to the summit of **Mount Everest** in 1953.

The statue is at the headquarters of Sagarmatha National Park — which is the Nepali name for Mount Everest — in the Khumbu region of Nepal. It's located in the ancient trading city of Namche Bazaar.

The region, Gallaher said, is home to the Sherpa people famed for their mountaineering skills. With no roads, all travel is by foot, jokyo (a cross between a yak and a cow), an occasional mule train and very rarely by horseback.

Gallaher began the trek, a 14-day REI-guided tour, at Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Flying to Lukla in a small plane the group of four were strangers until arriving in Nepal, where they began a nine-day hike. The itinerary includes Phak Ding, Namche Bazaar, Tengboche Monastery, Khumjung, Ghat and back to Lukla. Part of the trail, Gallaher said, is on the route to Everest Base Camp and the ancient salt route between Tibet and India.

"We stay in 'lodges,' which are fairly rustic but gracefully old and I love them," he said.

The trek includes 12 REI Nepali staff companions, a Sirdar, head man, assistant guides, cook, cook's boys, porters and jokyo drivers,



Dave Gallaher, former Umatilla County district attorney and Pendleton attorney, poses with a copy of the *East Oregonian* at the monument to Tenzing Norgay at the headquarters of Sagarmatha National Park in the Khumbu region of Nepal.

and, of course, some handsome black and gray jokyos. "We are extremely well taken care of and babied," Gallaher said. "But, even so, the hiking is kicking my butt big time."

The second day, the group hiked up — with emphasis on up — from Phak Ding to Namche Bazaar, which is about 8,000 to 12,000 feet. It took about eight hours. Often, the ancient stone staircases

are hundreds of yards, nearly straight up, he said.

"And I was sucking air like I never have before," Gallaher admitted.

Gallaher said the trails are difficult, and they were scheduled to go even higher on a six-hour hike to Tengboche. The trekker said the guide calls it "going to a higher place," which Gallaher said is true in many ways.



Photo contributed by Melissa Porter

Parks commission recognizes dedicated service

Pendleton Parks & Recreation Commission presented plaques of appreciation for their dedicated service to **Joe Engum** and **Rick Oliver** during the Nov. 8 meeting. Pictured from back: **Rick Guenther**, **Deb Airoidi**, **Dawn DiFuria McClendon**, **Vern Willcox**, **John Blessinger**; front, **Alan Kendrick**, commission president, **Joe Engum**, **Rick Oliver** and **Donnie Cook**, parks department director.

Wildhorse Foundation announces third quarter grants

The Wildhorse Foundation recently announced its third quarter grants, which included the largest disbursement of \$20,000 going to two different organizations — the **Helix School District** and Boardman's **Windy River Elementary School**.

In Helix, money will be used to provide an upgrade for its dirt track, which will be resurfaced with a rubberized track. With its first ever Wildhorse grant, Windy River will purchase new equipment and instruments as well as repair instruments for its beginning band program.

The quarterly awards totaled \$210,896, which was distributed to 30 recipients. Other local entities receiving grants include:

PENDLETON:

Arts Council of Pendleton, \$3,600 for materials and fixtures used in gallery preparation and ArtZoom sessions; **Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon**, \$4,000 to purchase supplies and pieces for exhibits; **Lost & Found Youth Outreach**, \$10,000 to purchase a van for transporting youths for activities, trips and services projects; **Harris Park - Pendleton Parks & Recreation Commission**, \$15,938 to purchase a building, freight charges, heavy equipment rental and installation of a pit-style toilet facility;

Helping Hands, Inc., \$5,000 to assist persons facing imminent eviction, other potential homelessness or who are homeless; **Nixyaawii Community School**, \$10,500 for replacing teacher desktops, projectors and cameras, and to add a set of Chromebooks and a printer; **Oregon East Symphony**, \$5,000 to compensate adult teachers and student assistants; **Pendleton High School**, \$9,396 for 35 Chromebooks and a charging cart to be used in college level math classes.

HERMISTON:

Hermiston Warming Station, \$8,000 for operating expenses; **Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start**, \$10,000 to purchase a Toyota Corolla to be used by the Healthy Family home visiting staff.

MILTON-FREEWATER:

Freewater Elementary School, \$7,600 for new Lego system and science curriculum for fourth and fifth graders; **Friends of the Milton-Freewater Public Library**, \$5,000 to perform kindergarten readiness assessments, purchase program incentives and fund educational performances; **Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council**, \$1,269 for supplies, testing reagents, student equipment for the STELLAR Camp.

WESTON:

Weston Food Pantry,

\$3,000 to hire a licensed and bonded contractor to remove the current door and replace it with an ADA-compliant door.

OTHER AREAS:

American Red Cross, Building Healthy Families, Camp Fire Boys and Girls Walla Walla Council, Confluence Project, Elgin Museum & Historical Society, Fishtrap, Inc., Fort Walla Walla Museum, Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Imbler Education Foundation, La Grande High School, SMART (Start Making A Reader Today), The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Wallowa County Project Heartbeat.

The foundation manages a community benefit fund established by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The board considers quarterly grant applications in the areas of public health and safety, education, the arts, historic preservation, gambling addiction services, salmon restoration, environmental protection and cultural activities. The next application deadline is Jan. 1, which is the first time the foundation is utilizing an online application process.

For more information, visit www.thewildhorsefoundation.com or contact **Tiah DeGroff** at 541-966-1628 or tiah.degroff@wildhorseresort.com.



Photo contributed by Michele Madril

Students from McNary Heights Elementary students enjoyed a tour of Nike headquarters in Beaverton, which included meeting **Galen Rupp**, 2016 Olympic bronze medalist; **Mo Farrah**, Great Britain's four-time gold medalist; and former Olympian and current coach **Alberto Salazar**.

Umatilla students run into world-class athletes at Nike

A group of 26 McNary Heights Elementary students recently got to tour the Nike headquarters in Beaverton.

During the Nov. 4 visit, the students met **Galen Rupp**, 2016 Olympic bronze medalist and American record holder; **Mo Farrah**, Great Britain's four-time gold medalist; and former Olympian and current coach **Alberto Salazar**.

The students were participants in McNary USA, a nutrition/track class organized by teacher **Brandt Lind**. He developed a curriculum where students participated in a rigorous work-out routine, while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts where they also learned how health, nutrition and the brain work together to benefit their body while running.

McNary USA started out with 40 students under the direction of **Francisco Garcia** and **Max Bedolla**, who both teach at McNary Heights. Many of the students had a deep desire to learn and do as much as possible with running. During the eight-week session, the class participated in four events, including the final A Very Poplar Run at the Boardman Tree Farm.

Tina Ridings, STEM site coordinator, and the teachers felt they should do something big for the end of the class to recognize the students' hard work.

"It was felt their dedication and attitude deserved a significant reward so Mr. Lind reached out to Nike to discuss a tour. STEM Academy was happy to make it happen for them," Ridings said.

In addition to the tour

and meeting the athletes, the students were able to take a lap around the Nike track, encouraged by coach **Salazar**. They had planned to do a community cleanup during lunch at a local park, but due to unforeseen circumstances were unable to. Beaverton Police officer **Chester Lamb** stayed with the group, seeing them safely off to the next leg of their adventure to the tune of the McNary Heights fight song.

Following some fun at Pump It Up indoor obstacle course and a stop for dinner, the students arrived home two hours later than expected.

Ridings was extremely proud of the students. There were no complaints the entire trip and they were very respectful, enthusiastic and appreciative of the opportunity to participate, she said.

Pendleton Senior Center salutes Veterans Day



Contributed photo

Ted Culbertson and **Jim Leinweber** donned their military uniforms during the Nov. 10 lunch at the Pendleton Senior Center.

Veterans and others who attended the Nov. 10 lunch at the Pendleton Senior Center enjoyed a special presentation.

Ken Garrett of Pendleton brought a **Bennington Flag** and shared about its features. The blue field is emblazoned with "1776," representing the year the Declaration of Independence was signed. In addition, it features 13 stars — with 11 in a semicircle and one in each upper corner of the blue field. The flag also has 13 stripes — alternating white and red, with the white as the outermost (in contrast to other flags that have the red on the top and bottom).

Among those in attendance were **Ted Culbertson**, who retired from the Army after serving 42 years, 2 months and 12 days.

The Pendleton Senior Center is located at 510 S.W. 10th St. For information about meal service, activities and the thrift store, call 541-276-7101.

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton

NOV. 15, 2016
CHRISTENSEN — Rena Christensen Walsborn of Pilot Rock: a girl, Isabelle Rae Christensen.

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

NOV. 14, 2016
HOOD — Rebecca J. Hood and Daniel E. Hood of

Hermiston: a boy, Elyzion Leviticus-Jude Hood.

NOV. 15, 2016
MOSQUEDA — Katie J. Mosqueda and Michael A. Mosqueda of Irrigon: a girl, Elayna Mae Mosqueda.

NOV. 18, 2016

FARIAS — Jasmine N. Sandoval and Fernando Farias of Hermiston: a girl, Alani Jay Farias.
SWANGER — Felicia M.

Lara and Glen V. Swanger Jr. of Echo: a boy, Ira Cain Swanger.

NOV. 19, 2016
PASCHAL — Tiffany Paschal of Hermiston: a girl, Zoe Rae Paschal.

NOV. 20, 2016
PAULLUS — Morgan A. Paullus and Kristopher A. Paullus of Hermiston: a girl, Brooklyn Avery Paullus.

Pet of the Week



Hi my name is Husk! I romp and play all day with the other dogs so I might be a great fit with your canine family members. I don't give my heart away at the drop of a hat, but if you will give me some time and space to settle in and adjust to my new life, we can be buddies. Once I'm comfortable, I love to go on walks, play, and spend time curled up with my best friends. If you like to relax on the couch with a good book or a favorite movie, I'll be right there with you.

Have a Happy **HOLIDOGS!**

Visit HUSK at the Pioneer Humane Society/Paws
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