

**HERMISTON**

# New butcher shop, grocery to open soon

**Carniceria Julissa will sell meat, fresh produce**

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
East Oregonian

Carniceria Julissa is a new addition to Hermiston, but for owners Jose and Alicia Valle, it's another expansion of their business.

"I have a couple in the Tri-Cities by the same name," Jose said. The Valles are busy preparing to open up the butcher's shop on 292 W. Hermiston Ave. which, in addition to meat will sell fresh produce, deli products, hot food and beverages.

Alicia's brother, Roman Orozco, will serve as the manager. The family does not have an official opening day yet, but hopes to be open to the public sometime in the next couple of weeks.

In addition to groceries, the store will sell some medicine, other general items, and provide services to send money to family members in different parts of the world.

The store will provide some services to a part of town that doesn't currently have a grocery store. Many parts of Hermiston are considered "food deserts" — which is a USDA definition based on the ratio of grocery stores to residents.

While the Valles and Orozco put up shelves, cleaned and prepared the inside of the store, Gabriel Villasenor was busy on the outside of the building, painting a colorful mural. The murals span four walls, and depict farm animals, the cast of Spanish cartoon "El Chavo Animado," pigs dressed in mariachi outfits, and a watermelon — with the word "Hermiston" painted above it.

"With the weather, it takes me about a month," Villasenor said, "because I have to wait when it rains sometimes."

On a Monday afternoon, Villasenor had about half an hour's work left on the



Staff photo by Daniel Wattenburger  
**Gabriel Villasenor paints the final of four murals Saturday on the side of Carniceria Julissa on Hermiston Avenue.**



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan  
**Jose Valle, Alicia Valle and Ramon Orozco are busy preparing the store on West Hermiston Avenue for opening in the next few weeks. The Valles own two other stores in the Tri-Cities, and Orozco will serve as the manager of the Hermiston store.**



Staff photo by Daniel Wattenburger  
**One of four murals on the side of the Carniceria Julissa on Hermiston Avenue.**



Staff photo by Daniel Wattenburger  
**One of four murals on the side of the Carniceria Julissa on Hermiston Avenue.**

painting. He stood on a ladder in the sun with a small brush and carefully painted shadows on the letters of the word "Hermiston." Below, his wife used a roller with bright green paint to touch up the grass behind the watermelon painting.

Villasenor owns Three Brothers Signs, and has painted murals for several businesses in the Tri-Cities and Yakima.

The Valles have been in the Tri-Cities for about 7 years, having previously lived in Yakima and other

towns around Washington. They moved to the United States from Mexico in 1998.

Contact **Jayati Ramakrishnan** at [jramakrishnan@hermistonherald.com](mailto:jramakrishnan@hermistonherald.com) or 541-564-4534.

**PENDLETON**

# Thurman eyes new spot for marijuana store

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
East Oregonian

Bryson Thurman indicated he could withdraw his application for a conditional use permit to operate a marijuana store at 1292 S.W. Tutuilla Road, Pendleton.

The Pendleton Planning Commission approved the permit, but the city on Friday received an appeal, which sends the matter to the city council. Thurman in an email Tuesday morning said he now is looking at another site for the business.

"We have a new property we applied for on Monday," Thurman said in an email. "We are most likely going to withdraw our application at the 1292 S.W. Tutuilla address, but I will need to talk to my attorney further on the subject."

Thurman filed a copy of a land use compatibility statement with the city on Monday for 1616 S.E. Court Ave. as the new site. The lot is near the old St. Anthony Hospital location. Julie Chase, city permit technician, said Thurman has to submit the statement to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for review and approval before the city takes action on a new conditional use permit.

Cindy and Richard Jennings and Roger Easley, all of Pendleton, filed the previous appeal. The Jennings own and operate Creative Signs,

1280 S.W. Tutuilla Road, which would be next door to Thur's Smoke Shop, and Easley listed his address on the appeal as a few blocks away.

Richard Jennings said their primary objection was having the marijuana shop operate in an area that has so many children. The other three marijuana businesses in Pendleton have locations without that concern, he said.

Jennings also questioned whether Thurman's proposal would even fit on the lot in question. The site plans lacked any detail, he said, such as the size of the parking lot. While Thurman did as the city wanted, Jennings said, the planning commission should have demanded more information.

Jennings also said he heard Thurman proposed the new site, and he did not plan to object to that.

Thurman said he was born and raised in Pendleton, and his family's roots here go back to when his great-grandparents homesteaded out in Juniper Canyon.

"I plan on being in Pendleton a long time," he stated. "This is a small community and we want to work with our city and the people of the Pendleton, not against."

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

**BRIEFLY**

## Five taken to hospital in head-on crash

HERMISTON — Two adults and three children suffered injuries in a head-on crash Monday night just outside Hermiston.

Oregon State Police reported the driver of a mid-size Jeep SUV was northbound on Highway 395 near the Punkin Center intersection when she looked away from the road and nearly struck a vehicle in front of her. To avoid the collision, she swerved into the opposite lane and struck a Honda CR-V head-on.

Ambulances took the drivers of both vehicles to the hospital, as well as three children who were in the Honda. A spokesperson for Oregon State Police said Tuesday morning she did not know the conditions of any of the people involved and did not release their names.

J.W. Roberts of Umatilla County Fire District 1 said the fire department used hydraulic tools to free one of the passengers, but he didn't know the extent of the injuries of any of the passengers.

Roberts said everyone involved was hurt and went to the hospital, but all were conscious at the scene.

## Prescribed burns to begin on Wallowa-Whitman forest

Prescribed fire is coming to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

As the snow melts and drier weather sets in, the forest service plans to start prescribed burning to reduce dead and down fuels, selectively thin densely forested stands and improve resiliency of the landscape.

Fire managers will work closely with the Oregon State Smoke Forecast Center to determine when, where and how much is burned on a daily basis. If the forecast shows that a burn may produce smoke that would affect neighboring communities, it will be rescheduled.

The Wallowa-Whitman forest plans to burn roughly 8,000 acres during spring, though the actual acreage is subject to change based on weather.

For more information, contact Steve Hawkins at 541-523-1262. A map of scheduled burns is also available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Fire-Aviation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Fire-Aviation).

## Recreational sturgeon fishing closed downstream of McNary Dam

Recreational sturgeon season will come to a close Thursday on the Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam.

Fishery managers in Oregon and Washington anticipate anglers will reach the 105-sturgeon retention limit by Thursday, bringing an end to the season. Catch-and-release for sturgeon will still be allowed, except in spawning sanctuaries defined in the 2017 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

Sturgeon retention is also closed on the Willamette River downstream of Willamette Falls.

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

# Hemp bills would move crop into mainstream

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Hemp would be brought further into the mainstream of Oregon agriculture under two bills that create a commodity commission and seed certification process for the crop.

"Industrial hemp has a huge potential in Oregon, we just need a few tweaks to help move it forward," said Matt Cyrus, who grows hemp in Deschutes County, during a March 28 legislative hearing.

Under House Bill 2372, Oregon's hemp industry would join 23 other crop, livestock and seafood sectors to have a state commission aimed at promoting and researching a commodity through fees raised from producers.

Breeders of new hemp varieties could also get the purity of their seeds certified under House Bill 2371, similarly to other crop species, through a system overseen by Oregon State University.

"It's truly about a certified seed, one we know Oregon can count on," said Jerry Norton, a hemp grower.

To comply with federal provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill that allow hemp research, HB 2371 would also create a hemp pilot program at OSU, among other changes to Oregon hemp statutes.

Commercial hemp production is illegal under federal drug laws that lump hemp, a form of cannabis, in the same category as its psychoactive cousin, marijuana.

Aligning Oregon's hemp laws with the 2014 Farm Bill provisions will likely ease financial transactions for hemp growers, since many banks are otherwise leery of dealing with the crop, Cyrus said.



EO Media Group  
**Hemp grows in a field in Oregon in this 2016 file photo. Under House Bill 2372, Oregon's hemp industry would join 23 other crop, livestock and seafood sectors to have a state commission aimed at promoting and researching a commodity through fees raised from producers.**

"The banks are looking for specific language in statute," he said.

If there's ever a change in federal law regarding cannabis, Oregon's seed certification process would let hemp breeders patent their varieties, said Jay Noller, head of OSU's crop and soil science department.

Because cannabis is illegal under federal law hemp varieties can't be protected, he said.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has authorized Noller to import high-quality hemp seeds from Canada and elsewhere.

At this point, though, foreign compa-

nies are reluctant to export hemp seed into Oregon due to a provision in state law allowing growers to save and plant it, he said.

Under HB 2371, that provision would be struck from Oregon law, hopefully opening the way for new hemp genetics to enter the state, Noller said.

Oregon's hemp statutes are already setting an example for other states and the proposed changes will let growers "get off the airstrip and into the air," said Norton.

"We feel that hemp in Oregon is going to be the new crop of the decade, if not the century," he said.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**  
**WILLOW RUN LADIES GOLF CLUB**, 8 a.m., Willow Run Golf Course, 78873 Toms Camp Road, Boardman. Rain or shine. Need not be a member to play. (541-481-4381)  
**CAY-UMA-WA TOASTMASTERS**, 12-1 p.m., Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 46510 Wildhorse Blvd, Pendleton. Everyone welcome. (Jeannette Taylor 541-276-9492)  
**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF PENDLETON**, 12 p.m., Red Lion Inn, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton.  
**HERMISTON ELKS DINER**, 5:30-8 p.m., Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main St., Hermiston. (541-567-6923)  
**OREGON GRASS ROOTS**

**CRIBBAGE CLUB NO. 2**, 6:30 p.m., Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. All levels of players welcome. (541-567-6594)  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 30**  
**TUMBLEWEED TOASTMASTERS**, 6:30 a.m., Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center, 980 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. Visitors welcome. (541-567-3360)  
**ARTS AND CRAFTS FROM THE DRY SIDE**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Hermiston Assembly of God Church, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston. Use Seventh Street entrance. Monthly business meeting at noon. (541-567-4446)  
**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF HERMISTON**, 12 p.m., ARC

Umatilla County, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.  
**HERMISTON HORSESHOE CLUB**, 5 p.m., Hermiston High School Weber Field, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. (Rick Rebman 541-720-6402)  
**PENDLETON EAGLES BURGERS AND KARAOKE**, 6 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Members and guests welcome. (541-278-2828)  
**INLAND NORTHWEST ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL**, 6:30 p.m., Harris Jr. Academy gymnasium, 3121 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton. (RaNiel Dunn 541-289-4696)  
**MOVE ON**, 7 p.m., Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton.

**HERMISTON ELKS LODGE NO. 1845**, 7 p.m., Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main St., Hermiston. (541-567-6923)  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 31**  
**PENDLETON MASTERS SWIM CLUB**, 5-6 p.m., Roundup Athletic Club pool, 1415 Southgate, Pendleton. \$5 per session coaching fee; non-RAC members pay \$8 pool fee per session. (Tania Wildbill 541-310-9102)  
**PENDLETON EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY KITCHEN**, 6-8 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. St. Patrick's Day feast includes corned beef, cabbage, sides and dessert for \$10 per person. Members and guests welcome. (541-278-2828)

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