

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

141st Year, No. 126

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Umatilla County Sheriff's Department dispatcher Ben Johnson talks with a Pendleton Police officer while handling a call Monday at the Umatilla County Justice Center in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Roadkill bill cruises through Senate

Oregon would join other states that allow salvage permits

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**
East Oregonian

Oregonians may soon be able to salvage the meat from roadkill deer and elk under a bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena) and Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove).

Senate Bill 372 would allow the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to issue salvage permits for deer and elk that are accidentally killed in a vehicle collision. The bill passed the Senate on April 6 by a vote of 29-0.

Approximately 20 other states have a similar law on the books, including neighboring Washington and Idaho. Washington enacted its roadkill salvage program on July 1, 2016, issuing 1,100 permits over the first six months, according to Hansell.

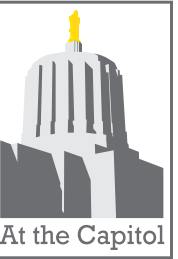
That's 1,100 animals that were salvaged in one degree or another, Hansell said, rather than simply being left to rot on the side of the road.

"Those accidents are very unfortunate," he said. "It seemed there's just got to be a better way to take care of that."

The bill applies only to deer and elk, and does contain a few provisions to discourage poaching. For example, the animal cannot be hit and killed off road, and salvage is allowed only for human consumption of meat. Antlers must be turned over to ODFW.

One potential pitfall revolves around a state law that allows people to kill crippled or helpless wildlife "when the killing is done for humane purposes." SB 372 would not grant salvage permits under that rule, unless the person asking for a permit was the driver who hit and crippled the animal first in a vehicle collision.

ODFW staff — including Shannon Hurn, deputy director for fish and wildlife programs, and Doug Cottam, wildlife division administrator — testified on



At the Capitol

LIFE ON THE LINE

County dispatchers respond first in emergencies



Umatilla County Sheriff's Department dispatcher Justine Griffith talks with a caller Monday at the Umatilla County Justice Center in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

The voice you hear when you call 911 is going to pepper you with questions, but the most crucial one is simple: Where are you?

"The most important thing for us to find out is where the person is," said Eva Van Beek, a dispatcher for Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. "If the call gets disconnected, we know where help is needed."

Though all their work is away from the public eye, the first point of contact in any call for help, whether a house fire or a home invasion, is a dispatcher. They are looking to quickly get key information

Editor's note: April 9-15 is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

from their callers: Where is the problem, what's going on, who's involved, when did it happen, and are there any weapons involved? While they're getting this information, they try to keep the caller calm.

"We're able to ask people questions without knowing (them) they're giving info," said Communications Sergeant Karen Primmer. "With 'in-progress' calls, we try to stay on the phone with the person."

With the exception of

See DISPATCH/8A

See ROADKILL/8A

PENDLETON

Radio show to broadcast live from Slick Fork Saloon

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Live Wire will record its public radio show live in

Pendleton later this month.

The show, based out of Portland, will be hitting the road and traveling to the Slick Fork Saloon at Hamley SteakHouse on Saturday, April 29.

Host Luke Burbank described Live Wire as a variety show that features "creative people, musicians and people who have had crazy experiences" with the energy of a live audience.

Pendleton's show will feature James Lavadour, the founder of Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and world renowned print



Burbank

artist, and Jim Brunberg, a former Live Wire producer who has since created a podcast called "Roam Schooled" where he and his twin seven-year-old daughters travel around the country in search of answers to his daughters' questions. Brunberg's daughters, Vern and Dana, will join him as guests.

Burbank said the show is lining up musical guests to fill out the program.

Burbank said that Pendleton is the smallest city the program ever broadcast in by "a factor of 20," but it

See LIVE WIRE/8A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Sasquatch scrum with Salem

Beau Skinner, of the East Oregon Sasquatch rugby team, tackles Salem's Luke Weber during Saturday's game at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton. For more on the game see Sports 1B.

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