

Workplace deaths rose in 2016 in Umatilla County and the state

New counting method leads to higher report

East Oregonian

Four people died on the job in Umatilla County in 2016 compared to one in 2015, according to preliminary data from the state. Workplace deaths statewide also rose during that span, from 41 to 61.

The state Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) and the Oregon AFL-CIO will honor Oregon workers who died on the job with a public ceremony Friday at noon at the Fallen Workers Memorial outside the Labor and Industries Building, 350 Winter St. N.E., on the Capitol Mall. The ceremony will include

a reading of the names of Oregon workers who died on the job in 2016.

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services reported the numbers are based on a new data collection program that started in 2015 to provide a more comprehensive review of workplace deaths. Previously, figures included only those deaths the Oregon workers' compensation system covered.

"The new Workplace Fatalities in Oregon program tracks on-the-job deaths, regardless of workers' compensation status," according to the written statement from Business Services. "As a result, the program now also includes workplace deaths involving self-employed people, city of Portland police

and fire employees, federal employees, and incidents occurring in Oregon to workers with out-of-state employers."

The data shows one person in 2016 in Umatilla County died in a transportation farming incident, one in an explosion related to agriculture or forestry and two after coming into contact with objects.

Morrow County had one workplace death in 2016 and two in 2015, all transportation related.

Vehicle crashes killed 29 people on the job in 2016 in Oregon, the leading cause of death, while contact with objects was No. 2, with 17 fatalities.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industries were the most deadly in 2016,

with 24 fatalities, including three fishermen who died when their boat sank.

Because the state started the new tracking program in 2015, comprehensive data — including total workplace deaths and numbers specific to industry, occupation, and injury — are available only for 2015 and 2016. However, using Workplace Fatalities in Oregon guidelines, the state estimated total workplace deaths for 2012 at 40, 2013 at 49, and 2014 at 63.

"Averaged over five years, there were approximately 51 on-the-job deaths annually," according to Business Services.

The WFO program excludes workplace deaths not directly linked to a work activity or harmful work exposure, such as suicides.

HERMISTON

Petersen selected as Sunset Elem. principal

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston School District has selected a new principal for Sunset Elementary School.

Christie Petersen has been chosen to fill the vacancy when current principal Devin Grigg leaves at the end of this school year.

Petersen is the school improvement coach for the Education Northwest Network and an assistant professor at Corban University, an adjunct professor at George Fox University and an administrative consultant for the Oregon Department of Education's Office of

Educational Improvement.

Petersen worked as a Title I teacher, coordinator and principal in the Hillsboro School District for nine years, and has also worked as a teacher in Virginia.

Petersen said she was looking forward to joining the Hermiston community.

"I am so excited to be serving with such an outstanding group of distinguished colleagues in such a strong district," she said.

Superintendent Fred Maiocco will officially recommend to the board that Petersen be hired at the school board meeting on May 8.



Petersen

LA GRANDE

Man killed, wife injured in I-84 rollover

East Oregonian

A Washington man died Wednesday in a crash near La Grande. Oregon State Police also reported his wife suffered serious injuries.

Troopers responded Wednesday at 2:59 p.m. to a single vehicle crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 277, about 14 miles east of La Grande. State police reported preliminary information indicates a 2005 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup was westbound on the interstate when it crashed through guardrail into the median and overturned.

Richard Arnold Cochran, 77, was driving and died from injuries. His wife Joanne Kay Cochran, 73, suffered serious injuries and was transported to the Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande. The couple was from Spokane Valley, Wash.

The wreck closed one lane of the eastbound and westbound lanes



A crash near La Grande killed a Washington man and injured his wife Wednesday.

Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

for approximately three hours. The La Grande Fire Department, North Powder Fire Department

and Oregon Department of Transportation.

State police also reported the cause of the crash remains

unknown. The agency stated it will release more information when it becomes available.

MISSION

Yellowhawk CEO resigns, to return to Alaska

MISSION — The Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center's CEO resigned April 27, according to a release from the The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Health Commission.

Tim Gilbert's last day at Yellowhawk is May 31.

"It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the CEO for almost exactly seven years," he said in a written statement. "We have accomplished much, not the least of which is the development of the new health center. I have struggled with this decision but I have personal needs to attend to back in Alaska."

Gilbert was instrumental in planning the new clinic and initial construction, Medicaid expansion, sustaining quality measures

at 100 percent, representing the highest scores in the region, as well as expansion of services and relationships with referral partners in the area.

CTUIR health commission chair Shawna Gavin in the statement said the commission "appreciates the hard work and positive impacts Tim has had on the patients at Yellowhawk."

Gavin added it is "bittersweet to make these kind of announcements, we wish Tim well."

The commission also appointed Sandy Sampson to the role of interim CEO. Sampson is an enrolled member of the CTUIR and brings more than 12 years' experience working on the commission and has been involved with the new clinic since its initial planning.



Tim Gilbert

Changes coming for Hermiston Police Dept.

HERMISTON — Hermiston police chief Jason Edmiston on Thursday announced several impending changes to the department.

Two long-time employees will retire from the department: Sandra Werner will retire April 30 after 11 years with the police records department, and Capt. Darryl Johnson will retire June 2 after 20 years of service.

As of May 1, Capt. Scott Clark will assume charge of all operations. Cpl. Chris Martin will be promoted to patrol sergeant.

Officer Victor Gutierrez will rotate to investigations as a general detective, and will continue to assist with coverage. Officer Tim Miears will rotate out of the schools and begin working as a training and evidence officer. Officer Chris McMahon will step into

the role of school resource officer, and will start shadowing Miears at the schools April 24.

Detective Randy Stuebaker and Martin will attend the Institute of Law Enforcement Administration School of Police Supervision in Plano, Texas in June. Stuebaker will be promoted to lieutenant July 1.

On June 9, officer Betty Nava will graduate from the 16-week basic police academy at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem, and will finish her field training program during the summer. She will then rotate back to her duties as a school resource officer.

On July 3, Cpl. Doug Gill will fill the traffic officer position.

On July 4, detective Leonard Stokoe will rotate to patrol and fill a corporal position.

Superintendent candidate meet-and-greet planned

PENDLETON — The Pendleton School Board has set a schedule for a meet-and-greet of the finalists for the school district's superintendent position, according to a district press release.

From 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the four candidates will rotate between meetings with the public, district staff, union representatives and administrators at Pendleton High School.

The meeting is open to the public will take place at the high school commons, where each candidate will get 30 minutes to make his case. The school board will also hold closed-door sessions for an in-person interview with each of the candidates.

Although none of the candidates are from Oregon, a departure from the 2016 superintendent interviews, three out of the four finalists are currently superintendents,

something none of last year's finalists were.

The candidates are Aaron Chavez, superintendent of the Wahluke School District in central Washington, Chris Fritsch, assistant superintendent of Longview Public Schools in southwestern Washington, J.T. Stroder, superintendent of Gardiner Public Schools in Montana, and Jim Wagner, superintendent of Kimball Area Public Schools in Minnesota.

After superintendent Andy Kovach's contract ends June 30, the new superintendent will take over July 1. The school board expects to make a decision May 5 and could make a hiring announcement as soon as the May 8 board meeting.

DVS holds awareness event

HERMISTON — As part of Sexual Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Services is hosting a fundraising event.

Walk a Mile "In Her Shoes" provides participants an opportunity to learn the path survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault may take. The event is Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at Riverfront Park, 302 S.W. 23rd St., Hermiston. Refreshments are provided. A fundraising walk begins at 9:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$15 per person.

In addition, T-shirts will be available for purchase. Also, raffle tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5 or an arm's length for \$10. All money

raised from the event will go toward providing shelter, meals and support services to victims of domestic/sexual violence in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Serving the area since 1977, Domestic Violence Services has a 24-hour crisis line. Its services include an emergency shelter for women and children, safety planning, peer support, community resource information, emergency transportation, emergency medical help, prevention education and referrals for temporary shelter for men.

For more information, call 541-276-3322, 541-567-0424 or visit www.dvs-or.org.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES OF PENDLETON, LLC

Dr. Stephanie Evans

541.278.2222
135 SE First Street, Pendleton
8 - 6 pm Mon - Thur
8 - 5 pm on Fri

Psychological Services of Pendleton LLC welcomes Dr. Stephanie Evans, Psy.D. Licensed Psychologist to our clinical staff. Dr. Evans completed her doctorate at the Washington School of Professional Psychology in 2014, her Psychology Internship at Monroe Correctional Complex in Washington State, and her Psychology Residency at Psychological Services of Pendleton LLC. Dr. Evans provides diagnosis and evidence-based treatments for both adults and adolescent issues, including anxiety, depression, relational challenges, and trauma. She is comfortable working with clients from a variety of cultural backgrounds, including members of the LGBTQ community. Her scope of practice includes evaluating competency, psychiatric diagnoses, behavior problems, and personality. She joins Drs. Terry Templeman, Connie Umphred, and Natalie Kollross at Psychological Services of Pendleton LLC.

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