

Rear-facing car seats required by law for children younger than 2

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Children are now required by law in Oregon to stay in a rear-facing car seat until they turn 2.

Oregon's previous law only required children to be rear-facing until age 1 or until they weighed twenty pounds. Now, after Governor Kate Brown signed House Bill 3404 into law on May 25, they will be required to stay facing the back of the vehicle until age two as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The bill passed 48 to 9 in the House of Representatives and 27 to 3 in the Senate. The offense of not keeping a child under 2 properly buckled into a rear-facing car seat is a ticketable Class D violation, in the same category as failure to wear a seatbelt.

Children who had already turned 1 before the law was passed on May 18 are exempted from the law, although parents are still encouraged to consider safety information concerning rear-facing and front-facing car seats.

Rear-facing car seats for infants and toddlers are meant to lessen the trauma to the child's still-forming vertebrae during a front-end crash, which is the most common type of collision. The force is more evenly distributed and the child's head and neck are kept even with their spine when the force of the crash pushes the child backward against the seat instead of forward against the restraints.

Placing infants' car seats facing the front of the vehicle is only one mistake that parents and guardians sometimes make when attempting

in good faith to safely buckle up their child.

Tabitha Woodie, one of the certified car seat technicians who provides free car seat checks at Umatilla-Morrow Head Start's Hermiston office, said that the most common problem that she sees is that car seats are not secured well enough to the car, allowing them to move back and forth too much.

She noted that the breastplate of the restraints should be at armpit level, not belly level, and said parents should only be able to fit one finger between their child's shoulder and the shoulder strap.

She also said that many people don't know car seats expire after six to 10 years of use (check manufacturer's tag for expiration information), and that they should be thrown away if they are ever

involved in a crash or a recall. That's why it is important to know a car seat's history.

"Buying one at a yard sale is not a good idea," she said.

Woodie said she also sees a lot of parents who think that adding the car's adult seat belt over the anchor system is a good idea because "if one is good, two are better." Always read the safety manual and follow the instructions precisely, Woodie said. And even if it seems everything is installed correctly, it is always a good idea to seek a second opinion from a certified car seat technician at Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, or a fire station or hospital that offers the service.

"It's always better to be safe than sorry," she said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BRIEFLY



File photo

Merrick Tarter and his dad, Sean Tarter, check out a display of old faucets during the 2016 Old Iron Show. A nearby 1930-vintage engine owned by Jim and Jeanne Bronson of Boise pumped water from a tub through the faucets. This year's event is Friday through Sunday at Roy Raley Park.

Free event showcases antique iron treasures at Roy Raley Park

PENDLETON — An assortment of iron machinery, vintage farming equipment, antique automobiles and even locomotive engines have been on display over the years during the Old Iron Show.

After featuring just six entrants the first year, the free event now attracts hobbyists and their old iron machinery from across the Pacific Northwest. In its 14th year, upwards of 100 entries showcase all types of antique treasures. In addition, those displaying equipment are often on hand providing demonstrations and sharing about their interest in old iron treasures.

The Old Iron Show is Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to dusk and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's held at Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. From Model A Fords to a corn sheller, the fascinating family-friendly event is free for exhibitors or spectators.

For more information, call Heritage Station Museum at 541-276-0012 or visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org.

Sandstone students to perform 'The Little Mermaid Jr.'

HERMISTON — Music and artistic exploration by Sandstone Middle School students crescendos with a trio of upcoming performances.

Students and staff will present "The Little Mermaid Jr." Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Sandstone Middle School commons, 400 N.E. 10th St., Hermiston. Tickets are \$3 or \$2 with a canned food item. In addition, the play will be live-streamed on the district's website for those unable to attend the performance.

Under the direction of Dan Allen and Lisa McElroy, nearly 100 are participating in the musical. The performance features 25 dancers, with Kelsey Tew in charge of choreography.

The spring musical is made possible by funds from the Hermiston Education Foundation. Allen, McElroy, Chelsea Geer and Ray Davis wrote a grant request in the fall and were awarded about \$3,000 to assist in putting on the theater production.

For more information, contact Maria Duron at 541-667-6036, maria.duron@hermiston.k12.or.us or visit www.hermiston.k12.or.us.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

PENDLETON

Adult Prom features Sherlock Holmes theme

Annual fundraiser for friends of the library

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

The public is invited to tap into their inner sleuth as the Pendleton Friends of the Library hosts the fourth annual Adult Prom.

With a theme of "Sherlock Holmes: The Prom is Afoot!," people are urged to attend the event, which promises to be an evening of fun, while serving as a fundraiser for the library friends.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created the fictional private detective, who was known for his keen observational skills and logical reasoning. Even an excerpt from one of Doyle's books could be used as an invitation to the event:

"Come, Watson, come!" he cried. "The game is afoot. Not a word! Into your clothes and come!" — from "The Adventure of the The Abbey Grange."

The Adult Prom is Saturday, June 10 from 7-10 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. Open to ages 18-and-older, tickets are \$20 each or \$38 for a couple. The fee includes light hors d'oeuvres and one free beverage. Beer and wine will be available for purchase



Photo contributed by Jennifer Costley

Shelby McQuinn, Noele Mead, Angel Phelps and Kendra Alvarado get into the "Star Wars" theme during the 2016 Adult Prom. A fundraiser for the Pendleton Friends of the Library, this year's event, which features a Sherlock Holmes theme, is June 10.

Those in attendance are encouraged to dress as their favorite Sherlock Homes character and enjoy an evening of DJ music by Joe Pitt. The event also features a large photo booth, silent auction, costume contest and a whole lot of dancing.

The prom committee tries to think of themes that will appeal widely, said Jennifer Costley, assistant library director. In addition, while dressing up for the theme is not required, Costley said it adds to the event's ambiance.

"We hope that it will bring in fans of the books, movies, and TV show, which currently enjoys a vast fandom," she said. "People tend to either go all out on the theme and come in costume or merely attend in prom attire."

Among the raffle items are Sherlock Holmes themed attire and a full-sized cutout of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson, as well as toys, books, bottles of wine, and gift certificates for food, drinks, products or services

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at local businesses.

Proceeds from the event will help with purchasing materials, providing services and events for library patrons and the community by Pendleton Friends of the Library. In addition to raising approximately \$3,000 each year, the past events have attracted upwards of 100 guests.

Tickets can be purchased at the library, Pendleton Center for the Arts, Pendleton Art + Frame or via at www.pendletonfriendssoft-helibrary.wordpress.com.

For more information, contact Costley at 541-966-0380, jennifer.costley@ci.pendleton.or.us or stop by the library at 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

Ayala faces local murder charge in Nelson homicide

East Oregonian

Edward Duarte Ayala is back in local custody to face charges in the January 2016 homicide of Thadd Nelson of Meacham.

Ayala, 47, was in the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, Oregon, while the United States Attorney's Office prosecuted him in Nelson's shooting death. Federal court records show Ayala took a deal April 20 and pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous

weapon and use of a firearm in connection with a crime of violence. He will receive a 20 year sentence for the crimes.

Part of the deal entailed answering to charges in Umatilla County for his role in the deadly event. Local circuit court records show the district attorney's office filed charges Thursday accusing Ayala of conspiracy to commit burglary and murder.

He has a hearing Friday afternoon in circuit court in Hermiston to change his plea and receive his sentence.

According to federal court documents, Ayala will plead guilty to the manslaughter and the burglary charge, and District Attorney Dan Primus will recommend a maximum prison sentence of 16 years to run concurrent with the federal prison time.

Federal records also show Primus plans to bring charges against the other defendants pending prosecution stemming from Nelson's death: Joseph Aaron McIver, Armando Ruben Vargas and Nicholas Benjamin Jones.