

ANNIVERSARY

Doug and Rita Nelson

Doug and Rita Nelson are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in August with a gathering at Wallowa Lake for family and friends.



Submitted photo
Rita and Doug Nelson in 1967

The Nelsons were married Aug. 19, 1967, at St. Pius Catholic Church in Billings, Montana. They are 35-year residents of Umatilla County.



Doug is a retired service manager for Ford and Dodge dealerships, and the couple now farms near Adams, Ore.

Rita, a retired teacher, volunteers for RIF and Heritage Station Museum. She enjoys garden club and

PEO activities, and seeing all the students she taught in preschool and second grade.

The couple has three children, Darin, Gary and Colette, and four grandchildren.

ENGAGEMENT

Punch-Struthers

Eleanor Cherie Punch and Patrick Struthers announce their engagement, with the ceremony set for September 24, 2017, on "some beach on the Olympic Peninsula." Both are longtime residents of Pendleton.



Eleanor Punch and Patrick Struthers

Eleanor, 48, grew up in Beavercreek, Ore. She currently works for the Umatilla County Historical Society as the manager of the Community Thrift Store. She enjoys decorating, both at her store and her home, and is a tiny house enthusiast.

Patrick, 51, is a native of Morrow County. He is an independent IT consultant

and works part-time for Murray's Drug in Heppner. He also volunteers for several local organizations, and reads a lot of books.

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton

AUG. 1, 2017

MADRIGAL — Mayra Mendoza of Pendleton and Jose Madrigal; a girl, Xyla Julianna Madrigal.

AUG. 2, 2017

WINNETT — Toni R. Brown of Pilot Rock; a girl, Lillie Faye Winnett.

AUG. 3, 2017

FINCH — Julia Finch and Tripp Finch of Heppner; a girl, Rebecca Hope Finch.

AUG. 6, 2017

MAVIS ARTERBURN — Michelle R. Mavis of Echo and Christian Garcia;

a girl, Kimber Quinn Mavis Arterburn.

AUG. 7, 2017

WILSON — Kendal H.M. Isbell and Randy D. Wilson of Pendleton; a girl, Maddix Michelle Kay Wilson.

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

AUG. 2, 2017

MADRIGAL CALDERON — Azucena Madrigal Guzman and Junior Calderon Rosales of Hermiston; a boy, Alan Madrigal Calderon.

RANSLAM — Alyssa M. Benshoof and Aaron W. Ranslam of Umatilla; a boy, Krystopher Wayne Ranslam.



Photo contributed by Vicky Hart

A group of regional high school students used a drone to capture this photo July 26 while visiting STEM industry sites in Baker County during an annual camp hosted by Greater Oregon STEM.

STEM Camp offers exploration

The **Greater Oregon STEM Partnership** and **Umatilla High School** recently coordinated a three-day camp exploring science, technology, engineering and math concepts.

Held at **Eastern Oregon University**, 24 high school students from five Eastern Oregon counties attended the second annual STEM Camp July 25-27. Participants visited a local wind farm, practiced assembling and

flying drones, and performed physics experiments. They also toured EOU's campus and visited Blue Mountain Community College.

Two students from each school were selected to attend the camp and organize a project to impact STEM education in their school or community during the upcoming year.

"It's exciting to hear the impact of these experiences on local high

school students," said **Julie Keniry**, GO-STEM facilitator. "When they have the opportunity to meet with students and learn more about what is happening at other schools in Eastern Oregon, they feel they can make a difference at their own school."

For information about upcoming events and programs, visit www.go-stem.org or contact Keniry at jkeniry@eou.edu.

S.U.R.E. effort cleans up river parkway



Contributed photo

Michael Ward, executive director of the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, enjoys a lemonade after the Aug. 5 Stewards of the Umatilla River Environment cleanup event in Pendleton.

A cleanup of the **Umatilla River Parkway** and riverbank through Pendleton on Aug. 5 netted 480 pounds of trash plus half a dozen bags of recyclable bottles and cans.

More than 60 people came out for the event, organized by the **Stewards of the Umatilla River Environment (S.U.R.E.)**, an organization dedicated to enhancing the riparian environment along the parkway.

Among some of the more unusual items found that day were the bumper of a car, carpeting, a square nail, a toy canoe and a purple water pistol. Also, two mangled, algae-filled grocery carts were pulled out from below the Bedford Bridge.

Wildlife spotted along the river that morning included a green racer snake, mink, great blue heron, osprey, yellow warbler, belted kingfisher, brewers blackbirds, spotted sandpiper, killdeer, Eurasian

collared dove and a non-feral house cat (with collar).

Thanks are extended to all who volunteered despite the heat, with special thanks to:

Betty Klepper, founding member of **S.U.R.E. VFW Post #922** for staffing the grills for the barbecue lunch. **Umatilla Basin Watershed Council** for organizational support. **East Oregonian** for providing printing and publicity. **Pendleton Parks & Rec** for disposing of the trash. **Les Schwab Tire Center** for donating plastic bags for recyclables. **Baha'i Community** for bringing dessert. **SOLVE Oregon** for trash bags and logistical support. **Pendleton Robotics** team for taking away the recyclables

For more information or if interested in participating in future river cleanups, email **Kathryn B. Brown** at kbbrown@eastoregonian.com to be added to the S.U.R.E. email list.

Umatilla High School brings home hardware

Umatilla High School brought home a couple of awards from the **Technology Student Association's** national conference, held June 21-25 in Orlando, Florida.

Teacher **David Dever** received the Advisor of the Year award. And the Viking

technology students were recognized for **Chapter Excellence**.

The Technology Student Association features 230,000 middle and high school students across the nation who aspire to be future engineers, scientists and technologists. The organization provides

leadership and opportunities that focus on in technology, innovation, design and engineering. Members apply STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) concepts through co-curricular programs.

For more information, visit www.tsaweb.org.

Students cash in with Community Bank

The seventh year of **Community Bank's Earn While You Learn Program** has set an all-time high in cash awards paid to student-customers for their academic success.

For the 2017 pay-out period, 748 students in the Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington area cashed in on their good grades. Community Bank's student customers earned a total of \$17,135.

Since the bank's program began in 2011, earnings have steadily increased. In the first year of the bank's Earn While You Learn Program, 190 students were paid \$3,895. This year's payouts

bring the program's grand total of academic award money to \$79,608.

The program is designed to encourage students in their academic success by awarding **Community Bank Youth Savings** accounts customers for their good grades. During the months of June and July, all Community Bank branches accepted end-of-the-year report cards from students in first through 12th grades.

For every top grade (indicated on the grading system used for each school) in a main school subject that appeared on the report card, Community Bank deposited \$1 into their Community

Bank Youth Savings Account.

The Earn While You Learn Program is an annual reward of \$1 per top grade, up to \$50 annually per student, with payments given for the whole school year in June and July.

Community Bank was founded in 1955 by a group of Joseph business leaders as the Bank of Wallowa County. Since then, it has grown to 14 branches, with 11 in Eastern Oregon and three in southeastern Washington.

It also operate a Loan Production Office in The Dalles. For more information, visit www.community-banknet.com.



Photo contributed by Jesse R. Strong

A woman uses a spear to fish recently on the Umatilla River near Mission.

Regional organizations receive innovation award

The **Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation** and **North-east Oregon Economic Development District** are being recognized for its **New Natural Resource Economy** project.

GEODC and NEODD have been chosen for a 2017 Innovation Award from the **National Association of Development Organizations**. Innovation awards are given to nationally to honor economic develop organizations for creative approaches to advancing regional community and economic

development and improving quality of life.


The **New Natural Resource Economy** program of GEODC and NEODD is an effort to assist small firms in Eastern Oregon that are taking advantage of emerging opportunities in agriculture and natural resources. NNRE businesses are finding new ways to use natural resources and agricultural outputs by developing new products, such as organic wheat and lumber from juniper, and by finding new markets for traditional products, such as direct farm-

to-store marketing of meat and produce.

GEODC and NEODD partnered with the **University of Oregon's Community Service Center** to identify barriers facing NNRE businesses and ways to overcome them. They range from financing to the complexity of regulations to technical management problems.

The innovation award presented to GEODC and NEODD is in acknowledgment that the **New Natural Resource Economy** project is making a significant impact on Eastern Oregon.

Pet of the Week



Marcy is a friendly 2 year old domestic medium hair kitty who's a new member of our free roam room at PAWS. Her adoption fee includes her spay, all shots including feline leukemia, flea treatment and de-worming. She is also litter box trained, good with kids and other cats. Come to PAWS Tue-Sat to meet Marcy and give her a new loving home forever.

Visit Marcy at the Pioneer Humane Society/Paws
Tues - Sat • Noon - 4pm • 517 SE 3rd ST, Pendleton • 541-276-0181
Check out the PAWSABILITY Thrift Store

Pendleton Book Co.
125 S. Main St.,
Pendleton
541-276-9292

Pupcakes
Pet Grooming~Boarding
Day Care
541-429-8787 for Pendleton
541-910-2727 for La Grande
www.letterbark.com

415 Pets
Adopted
in 2017!

