

PENDLETON

'Pink day,' Children's Rodeo coming Thursday

Arena awash in pink for breast cancer awareness

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**
East Oregonian



Thursday is a big day at the Pendleton Round-Up.

Not only will the morning include the 33rd annual Children's Rodeo for kids with special needs, but fans are invited to participate in Tough Enough To Wear Pink at the Round-Up Grounds, which raises awareness and funds for breast cancer patients and survivors in the community.

For 12 years, the Round-Up has hosted Tough Enough To Wear Pink during Thursday's rodeo. This year's theme is "Spur the Cure," and all proceeds will go to benefit the St. Anthony Hospital Cancer Care Clinic and the Kick'n Cancer New Begin-

nings program.

Visitors are encouraged to wear pink to show their support. Volunteers will hand out free pink Mardi Gras beads inside the arena, and plenty of pink gear will be available for sale. Local cancer survivors will be honored on the field during a special presentation following the first Indian Relay Race.

In addition, rodeo fans

can purchase raffle tickets to win a pair of custom pink ostrich leather boots donated by Justin Boots, and a pair of one-of-a-kind spurs by Montana Silversmiths. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$12, and can be bought at any Tough Enough To Wear Pink booth at the Round-Up Grounds on Thursday.

The initiative raised more than \$19,000 last year and more than \$36,000 in 2015. Money for St. Anthony will go toward things like breast prosthetics, mastectomy bras, specialized swimsuits and wigs for cancer patients. The nonprofit Kick'n Cancer program, meanwhile, provides personal training and fitness classes for survivors.

The annual Children's Rodeo, sponsored by the Round-Up Association and InterMountain Education Service District, will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Round-Up Grounds, and provides

children ages 5-10 with special needs the chance to be cowboys and cowgirls for a day.

About 50 kids are expected to participate in this year's event, which includes horse-back riding, barrel racing on stick ponies, riding a pretend bull and American Indian drumming. Every participant will receive a T-shirt, cowboy hat, lariat, scarf, trophy and photo with their cowboy volunteer.

"We are so fortunate to have great support from the Round-Up, local businesses and all of our volunteers to provide such a valuable experience for these kids," said Karen Parker, Children's Rodeo director.

Admission is free and open to the public for the Children's Rodeo.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

HERMISTON

School district hires new HR director

East Oregonian

David Marshall has been hired as Hermiston School District's new human resources director.

Interim superintendent Tricia Mooney handled human resources for the district last year, and has continued with those responsibilities since she was named to her new position over the summer. Marshall will begin his new position Oct. 1.

Marshall is currently assistant superintendent for Milton-Freewater School District. He has worked for that district since 1994 in various roles, including human resources director and principal of Ferndale Elementary School.

He has also served as an adjunct professor for business computer lab classes at Blue Mountain Community College, adjunct instructor for

Lewis and Clark College, program director for the Seattle Indian Services Commission and a teacher at an American community school in Egham in the United Kingdom.

He has a bachelor's degree in English from Whitman College, a master's degree in teaching from Evergreen State College and an education specialist degree from Lewis and Clark College.

Marshall said in a statement that his experience in Milton-Freewater has been "wonderful" and he will miss the friends he has made there, but he is looking forward to working with Hermiston.

"I am very excited about becoming a part of the Hermiston School District Team," he wrote. "I have admired the work the district does with students for a long time."



Marshall

HERMISTON

Course provides art and science of growing plants

East Oregonian

People interested in enhancing their gardening skills and serving the community are invited to participate in the 2018 Master Gardener Training Course.

Green thumbs and novices alike are encouraged to register. Offered through the Oregon State University Extension Service, the upcoming course, which rotates locations within Umatilla County each year, will be based in Hermiston.

Gardeners of all skill levels can learn something new through the comprehensive training course that focuses on the art and science of growing and caring for plants. Relevant information can be utilized for home or community gardens. Participants will gain knowledge about lawn and tree care, vegetable gardening, and pest and weed management, and much more.

The classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 10 from 6-9 p.m. at Blue Mountain Community College, 975 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. Sessions are weekly (except Feb. 14) through March 21. Also, weekend workshops are every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Jan 13 through March 24. The weekend sessions offer hands-on learning activities. They will frequently include



File photo

As part of a plant identification exercise, master gardener Bill Dochnahl shows mint to students during the 2015 Watershed Field Days. Gardeners of all skill levels are encouraged to register for the 2018 Master Gardener Training Course, which will be offered in Hermiston.

field trips, technical skill building and demonstrations that provide enhanced understanding of the topic.

The cost is \$145, which includes the course textbook. Those who participate in volunteer hours in community-related garden projects, community outreach events or activities at the OSU Extension Service will be eligible for a \$50

registration rebate.

Classes are taught by OSU extension agents, specialists and other local experts. For an application, contact Colleen Sanders at 541-278-5403 or colleen.sanders@oregonstate.edu. Additional information is available at www.extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla.

PENDLETON

'Era of Megafires' coming to Vert Auditorium

Multimedia presentation focuses on growth of wildfires

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**
East Oregonian

A multimedia presentation on the growing threat of "megafires" in the West is coming to Pendleton, and not a moment too soon.

Firefighters are currently battling numerous large blazes from Montana to the Columbia River Gorge, which at times have left the region in layers of smoke. The National Interagency Fire Center reports there are currently 34 major fires in Oregon and Washington alone, burning nearly 650,000 total acres.

Enter Paul Hessburg, research landscape ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Wenatchee, Washington, who has compiled decades of research on the shifting of normal, healthy wildfires into raging, destructive infernos.

Hessburg's talk, titled

"Era of Megafires," blends hard data with personal stories, graphics and video clips about the effects these fires have on the landscape. It serves as a call to action for local agencies and communities to boost fire resiliency while also returning fire to its natural role in the forest.

Hessburg has given the presentation 77 times since September 2016, including March 1 at Whitman College in Walla Walla and March 2 at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. He will return to Eastern Oregon on Wednesday, Sept. 20 for an appearance at the Vert Auditorium in Pendleton, and on Thursday, Sept. 21 at the Grant County Regional Airbase in John Day. Both presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Pendleton event is sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla

National Forest, Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Umatilla County Forest Health Committee, Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition, Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Dave Powell, a retired forester for the Umatilla National Forest and vice chairman of the Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition, said he attended Hessburg's March 1 presentation and was impressed by the format.

"Just the whole package I thought was one of the better communication tools I have ever seen," Powell said.

Hessburg's data suggests that, by 2050, the West could see two to three times as much fire as it does now. Powell said that should resonate with

people in northeast Oregon.

"That really is sobering to me," Powell said. "I can think of quite a few folks around here who would be quite interested in this."

"Era of Megafires" is free to the public, but advance registration is requested at www.eventbrite.com. The program will run for 70 minutes, followed by a Q-and-A with Hessburg and other local experts.

In an email with the *East Oregonian*, Hessburg said this summer has served as a gentle reminder that wildfires are going to stick around into the future. The question is how people will choose to deal with them.

"We have options to turn things in another direction," Hessburg said. "But we need to come together and agree on what we collectively want for the future. How do we want our forests going forward? What are we willing to ask for and what are we willing to help bring about? It's up to us."

BRIEFLY

Outdoor sale features furniture, bikes and more

HERMISTON — Bargains are available during a parking lot sale to benefit Agape House.

Furniture and bicycles are priced as marked, knick-knacks are you-name-the-price and clothing is five items for \$1. The sale is Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Donations are welcome through Friday.

Agape House serves individuals and families in need. For more information, to volunteer or make donations, call Dave Hughes at 541-567-8774.

Maryhill hosts benefit auction

GOLDENDALE, Washington — A fundraising event offers people a chance to bid on an array of exclusive dinners, trips, wine and more — while supporting Maryhill Museum of Art.

Night on the Left Bank: Annual Benefit Auction is Saturday from 5-9 p.m. at the museum. The cost is \$100 per person, with \$50 tax deductible. Visitors can enjoy special hors d'oeuvres with a French flair, select wines and brews, and a view of the Columbia River.

Maryhill Museum of Art features a large permanent collection, rotating exhibits, an outdoor sculpture garden and a life-sized replica of

Stonehenge. It's located off Highway 97 near Goldendale, Washington. To get there, take Exit 104 off Interstate 84. It's open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Nov. 15.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the benefit auction, visit www.maryhillmuseum.org or call 509-773-3733, extension 20.

Artisan market fills TRAC Center

PASCO — Vintage, antiques, artisan handcrafts, furniture, signs, garden art and jewelry are among the items up for grabs during a weekend event in Pasco.

The Pickin' Tri-Cities Vintage Show & Artisan Market is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the TRAC Center, 6600 Burden Blvd., Pasco. Admission is \$7, which is good both days with a handstamp. Kids 12 and under are free.

The event is touted as central Washington's biggest and best vintage and artisan show. For more information, contact 509-543-2999, pastblessings@gmail.com or visit www.pastblessingsfarm.com.

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.

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