

**BRIEFLY**

**Local researcher named soil scientist fellow**

PENDLETON — A locally based research soil scientist has received the highest recognition awarded by the Soil Science Society of America, an international scientific community based in Madison, Wisconsin.

Hero Gollany, who works at the Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center north of Pendleton, has been elected as a fellow of the SSSA, a distinction bestowed on less than 1 percent of members. She will be honored during the organization's annual meeting Oct. 24 in Tampa, Florida.

Gollany is widely recognized as an authority on the biological, geological and chemical processes that affect soil carbon and plant nutrients. She is an active member of the SSSA, and has received numerous invitations to present her research and modeling work at national and international conferences.

Gollany received her bachelor's degree in soil science from the University of Minnesota, and master's degree in agronomy from South Dakota State University. She holds adjunct graduate faculty positions at both Oregon State University and Washington State University. Her current research programs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture include the impact of cropping systems on soil organic carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Burglary suspects burn field during chase**

IRRIGON — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office called off a pursuit last week but still got their burglary suspects after their vehicle caught fire in Washington.

Amer Cravens, 26, and Brandon Scott Ulrey, 36, both of Yakima, face charges on both sides of the Columbia River.

The sheriff's office in a written statement reported a deputy at 3:38 p.m. Thursday responded to a possible burglary on Fourth Street, Irrigon, which led to a car chase.

The sheriff's office reported it stopped the pursuit after three minutes due to danger to the public. The suspects continued to flee, and the Umatilla Police Department gave chase about seven minutes later.

The suspects crossed over into Washington on Interstate 82, where they made it to Coffin Road, according to KAPP/KVEW TV, then drove into a dry field, which caught fire. The Benton County Fire District quenched the fire before it got out of

control.

The Washington State Patrol arrested Cravens and Ulrey and booked them into the Benton County Jail, Kennewick, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, which charged them with first-degree burglary, second-degree theft and felony attempt to flee. The sheriff's office also

reported Umatilla Police has charges pending against the pair, as does the Washington State Patrol.

The Benton County jail's online inmate roster does not show Cravens is in jail, but Ulrey remains there for second-degree trespass, obstructing law enforcement and tampering with physical evidence. Morrow County Circuit Court also shows no hearings for Cravens or Ulrey.

**UCSO warns, cites 20 drivers during blitz**

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported its recent seat belt safety blitz resulted in multiple warnings and tickets.

Between Aug. 21 and Sept. 3, according to a written statement from the sheriff's office, deputies worked 38 additional hours of traffic enforcement and patrols and issued more than 20 warnings and citations for traffic-related offenses.

The sheriff's office joined law enforcement agencies across the nation in providing the extra patrols and enforcement. The sheriff's office reported the goals of the blitz were to educate the public about the importance of seat belts and child restraints and the dangers of texting while driving and speeding.

**Dinner and auction to benefit Pendleton FFA**

PENDLETON — The seventh annual Pendleton FFA Alumni and Friends dinner and auction is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the Pendleton Convention Center, with proceeds to benefit Pendleton High School FFA members and programs.

Last year's event raised \$8,800, including money toward scholarships, convention fees and classroom expenses. FFA is an organization that not only supports future farmers, but future entrepreneurs, scientists, veterinarians and engineers. Pendleton High School FFA includes approximately 200 members.

The Pendleton FFA Alumni and Friends is seeking donations for this year's dinner and auction. For more information or to donate, contact Chrissy Nelson at 541-571-8138.

**SAGE Center celebrates the harvest**

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

More locally grown and locally made products than usual were on display at Boardman's SAGE Center Saturday during the annual Morrow County Harvest Festival.

The event drew families from all over the area to shop for produce and participate in free mule rides, games and crafts. Activities were spread between the outside of the building and indoors, where attendees could also check out the SAGE Center attractions.

Anita Meinke, from Umatilla, brought her son, 6, to the event for their first time at the SAGE Center.

"I really enjoyed the inside," she said. "It was our first time and I was really impressed with what they have in there. It's very educational."

She said they also had fun riding the mule-drawn wagon, and she was glad her son had somewhere to run around outside.

"It's a fun family event," she said.

In addition to offering residents a family-friendly activity, the Harvest Festival was an opportunity for vendors to show off their wares and gain new customers. Nathan and Keri Heideman of Crappy View Farm and Stuff near Ione said it was their first time participating in the event. They had a table upstairs with jewelry, crafts and other items made from things found on their farm.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell  
**Families participate in mule-drawn wagon rides at the Morrow County Harvest Festival in Boardman on Saturday.**

"It's a good event," Keri said. "I like that it really shows our community off and what we're about. I think a lot of people don't understand agriculture. It's nice for people to see where their food comes from."

Jolene O'Neal of Boardman has a small business selling items she crochets, paintings of her husband's and crafts made by a friend. She goes to a few bazaars a year and last year sold more than 100 crocheted hats with a hole at the top for a ponytail or messy bun. At her booth Saturday she said she wished she had more time to go look around at other vendors' displays.

"I like being involved in local stuff," she said. "I know a lot of people, so it's nice to

see some familiar faces."

She said she also wanted to support the SAGE Center, which she said was "awesome" about working with the schools when she was a teacher in Boardman. The center even let her drama students use the auditorium for performances.

Virginia and Ken Harris of Umatilla were on hand selling watercolors by Virginia and photos by Ken. Virginia said they have been to every Harvest Festival since its beginning four years ago.

She said they were impressed with how the Port of Morrow had created so many jobs for so many people, and wanted to come out and be part of a community event there.

"We like what's happening in this community," she said.

The free event was hosted by the SAGE Center in partnership with Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon chambers of commerce. It included fresh produce from Threemile Canyon Farms to support 4-H programs, displays by local artisans and growers, pumpkin painting, games for children, wagon rides, a photo booth and a chance to see the SAGE Center museum, which features a variety of hands-on exhibits about local agricultural and industrial operations.

Contact Jade McDowell at [jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4536.

**Second fire strikes Weston Mountain**

East Oregonian

WESTON — Firefighters from multiple agencies Friday battled another blaze near Weston.

Crews from the local district of the Oregon Department of Forestry and the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District were first on the scene around 4 p.m. Forestry department spokesperson Jamie Knight said the fire was about one mile above the Kirk Road Fire from earlier this summer.

The fire burned mainly in grass with some timber, she reported, and prompted the closure of Highway 204 for a few hours. The fire did not damage any structures.

The fire departments of Pendleton, Milton-Freewater and the Umatilla Indian Reservation responded to help, along with the U.S. Forest Service. Firefighters battled the flames into the night before achieving control. Knight said crews returned Saturday to check on hot spots.

The fire burned around 74 acres, she said, and the cause remains under investigation. She also said the department is keeping a close watch on fire indicators to determine when fire season is over.

"We just want to be sure," Knight said, rather than end restrictions in forests and have a fire endanger the public and firefighters.

**UMATILLA**

**SUV crashes through post office**

East Oregonian

A sport utility vehicle crashed through the side of the Umatilla Post Office Saturday, traveling through the outer wall, a line of mailboxes and into an employee-only area.

Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said one woman who had been in the building at the time was taken by a private vehicle to seek medical care for minor injuries.

The driver was Edward Olwell, 80, of Plymouth, Wash. Huxel said he was at the fuel station next door shortly before noon when the vehicle crossed the street and struck the post office. The driver reported that it was accidental, and he was not cited.

"I'm not sure if he made a mistake and hit the gas or there was a malfunction with the pedal," she said.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell  
**A black SUV is towed from inside the Umatilla Post Office after it crashed through the side of the building Saturday just before noon, destroying mailboxes and parts of the building.**

Umatilla Police Department and Oregon State Police responded, and the vehicle was pulled out of the inside of the building and towed away.

The post office was closed Monday for

Columbus Day, but a sign posted on the door stated that mail for customers with boxes 1121-1818 would be delivered at the window to customers with identification starting Tuesday.

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**Location:** St. Anthony Hospital, conference room #1: 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton, OR 97801

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**A Talk with Teddy**

Presented by  
**Umatilla County Historical Society**

**Heritage Dinner 2017 at Hamley's Slickfork Saloon**  
**Tuesday, October 10, 5:00 pm**

Treat yourself to a dramatic and engaging evening with the 26th President of the United States! Joe Weigand, the nation's foremost interpreter of Teddy Roosevelt, offers a vivid and rousing one-man theater experience, sharing stories about Teddy that are full of adventure, laughter and inspiration.

Tickets: \$50 UCHS Members; \$55 General Admission.

Available at Heritage Station Museum.  
A catered dinner is included and no-host bar offered.