

Japanese dog groomer sets up shop in Pendleton

East Oregonian

One of city's newest business owners went from Japan to Pendleton and it had nothing to do with the Sister City Exchange Program.

Megumi Takayama spent part of her Friday putting the finishing touches on her dog grooming business, Samurai Doggie, ahead of its anticipated Tuesday opening.

Located in basement suite 105 at 920 S.W. Frazer Ave., the grooming room included a mural of a dog in traditional Japanese attire and a whole wall painted to resemble the Japanese Rising Sun Flag.

Takayama said she first moved to the United States in 2003 when she and her then-husband moved to Nebraska. While living in the Cornhusker State, Takayama was inspired to become a professional groomer while washing her own dog and started studying under



Photo by Antonio Sierra
Megumi Takayama stands in front of a mural at her Pendleton dog grooming business, Samurai Doggie.

an experienced groomer. "I just followed her like a stalker," she said, laughing.

Takayama moved to Washington and bounced around from Olympia to Tacoma to Kennewick. She eventually divorced her husband and met her boyfriend, a Pendleton native who decided to move

to his hometown two years ago.

Recognizing the city from the Pendleton Woolen Mill blankets and clothing that were used in Japan, Takayama said she grew up in a small town and enjoys the similar experience Pendleton offers.

When she decided to

start her own dog grooming business, she consulted with her brother and came up with the name and an "eye-catching" logo.

Takayama said she'll offer bathing, trimming and other grooming services at Samurai Doggie, although her diminutive stature means she won't be able to take on larger dogs.

Samurai Doggie can be reached by phone at 541-276-6220.

Samurai Doggie is one of four business licenses the city of Pendleton issued in November. Below are the rest of the business names, their physical or mailing address and their owner or contact person.

- Jimco Fence Co., 9493 Porter Road, Suite B, Aumsville
- Simplicity Homes, 2464 S.W. Glacier Place, Suite 110, Redmond
- James Challis Construction, 64427 Airport Lane, La Grande

Hermiston man warns against contracting scams

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

A local man is warning others about falling victim to contracting scams, claiming an unlicensed contractor has taken him for thousands of dollars by starting a concrete pouring job, then asking for more money and repeatedly delaying completion.

Chris Waine, who lives outside Hermiston, said he has been having trouble since September with a man who claimed to be a contractor and whom Waine and his wife hired to pour a concrete slab in their yard.

Since their initial interactions, Waine has filed a small claims case against the contractor, Ben Wood, and Wood has responded by requesting a hearing. Waine said they are now waiting for a specific date.

Waine said his wife posted on Facebook that they were looking to have some concrete work done, and the two got in touch over Facebook.

Waine said he asked Wood if he was licensed and certified, and that the man said no. Waine said he told Wood he wanted him to get certified before he started the job, and Wood agreed. Waine said he also asked for a written contract. Waine paid Wood \$5,040, a portion of the money Wood said he needed up front to complete the project. Waine said Wood then claimed he needed more funds to complete the job. Although he poured concrete,

Waine said Wood did a poor job and it had to be removed with a jack hammer.

Waine said he reported Wood to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, but the sheriff's office said because it was not a criminal matter it was out of their purview.

Wood said he did not want to comment on the situation, as it was a civil matter.

According to Stan Jessup of the Oregon Construction Contracting Board, Wood is not licensed and there is no record of him having applied for a license. He said Wood has been listed under several different business names, such as Wood Interior/Exterior Designs, Wood Designs and BC Constructions. Jessup said Wood has been fined about \$5,000 for his activities.

Jessup said in a situation like this one, a claimant can try to file a complaint. But if the contractor is not licensed, the complaint is referred to the compliance section of the CCB. They can try to contact the person, and issue the notice of intent. The person can admit wrongdoing and pay the fine, or ask for a hearing.

If the person doesn't respond to any efforts by the CCB to get hold of them, the debt gets referred to the Department of Revenue, and can affect their standing in other accounts, such as if that person gets a tax refund.

There are several tips the Oregon Construction Contracting Board

suggests to avoid getting scammed by a contractor. The board's website has a database where people can search a contractor's name to see if they are licensed. There is a "buyer beware" list, comprised of people who don't have a valid contracting license, but have taken money from homeowners or failed to pay CCB fines for violating regulations.

The website also has tips for how to avoid common scams, red flags, and ways consumers can protect themselves.

Working as an unlicensed contractor can result in thousands of dollars in fines from the state. A man was fined in April for doing unlicensed contracting work in several counties around central and Eastern Oregon. Gregory Mason Miller of Bend spent several months working as a home inspector, but had no license or certification. According to the CCB "Buyer Beware" list, Miller was using another contractor's license number.

Earlier this month, the CCB reported that Miller had pleaded guilty in nearly all of the 58 cases for which he had been charged. Felony charges included identity theft, and misdemeanor charges included unlicensed contracting. Currently, Miller is being fined \$298,000 by the state of Oregon.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4534

BRIEFLY

Athena library director to retire at end of year

ATHENA — After nearly 20 years of service as library director at Athena Public Library, Carrie Bremer is set to retire on December 31, 2017.

Bremer started in 1998. During her time in the position, the library saw significant growth and expansion, including becoming a part of Umatilla County Special Library District, fully automating the entire library collection and becoming a department of the city of Athena. One of Bremer's most important accomplishments was overseeing the



Bremer

completion of a new building in 2008, said Kristin Williams, Athena Library Friends Association chairperson.

"Between her faithful service at preschool story time to overseeing high school aides and hosting adult book clubs, Carrie has been an important part of the lives of most Athena citizens," Williams said.

A farewell event is planned Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 6-8 p.m. at the library, 418 E. Main St. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, call 541-566-2470.

Santa Claus heads to Stanfield boutique

STANFIELD — Santa Claus is coming to town and plans to stop in at Fun Fashions Boutique.

People are invited to enjoy coffee, hot cocoa and cookies. In addition, special Santa sales will be available.

The free event is Saturday, Dec. 16 from 3-5 p.m. at 165 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield.

For more information, call 541-571-6388 or search www.facebook.com.

State Farm agent opens office in Hermiston

HERMISTON — State Farm insurance agent Nydene Moore is now taking customers at 395 East Highland Avenue in Hermiston.

The business offers home, auto, life, health and business insurance as well as financial services.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with closure for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening and weekend assistance is available by appointment.

For more information call 541-289-3075.

DEATH NOTICES

Steven M. Shockman

Hermiston

July 29, 1957 - Dec. 6, 2017

Steven M. Shockman, 60, of Hermiston died Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, at his home. He was born July 29, 1957. Services are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Juan Rodolfo 'El Venado' Cardoza Jr.

Hermiston

March 28, 1962 - Dec. 6, 2017

Juan Rodolfo "El Venado" Cardoza Jr., 55, of Hermiston died Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, in Richland, Wash. He was born March 28, 1962, in Raymondville, Texas. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Hermiston Assembly of God, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave. Burial will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Eunice M. McElligott

Ione

Feb. 5, 1925 - Dec. 6, 2017

Eunice M. McElligott, 92, of Ione died Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, at her home. She was born Feb. 5, 1925, in Heppner. Recitation of the rosary will be held at 10 a.m., followed by a funeral mass at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. Concluding service and burial will be at High View Cemetery in Ione with a meal to follow at the Ione American Legion Hall. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

Pauline Bauman

Condon

Feb. 19, 1933 - Dec. 6, 2017

Pauline Bauman, 84, of Condon died Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, at her home. She was born Feb. 19, 1933, in Kellogg, Idaho. Recitation of the rosary will be held Friday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Condon. Funeral mass will be held Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. at the church. A luncheon will follow the service at St. John's parish hall. Sweeney Mortuary of Condon is in care of arrangements.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

MUTH, LINDA — Memorial service at 1 p.m. in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

WOOD, JIM — Public memorial at 2 p.m. at the Jesuit High School auditorium, 9000 S.W. Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, Portland. A reception will follow.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

GRISEL, PETE — Memorial service from 2-6 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Elks Lodge, 611 N. Main St.

MONDAY, DEC. 11

STENSRUD, DEKE — Celebration of life at 3 p.m. at Maxwell Event Center, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

CARDOZA, JUAN — Funeral service at 11 a.m. at the Hermiston Assembly of God, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave. Burial will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services. Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

IRRIGON FIRE DISTRICT, 7 a.m., Irrigon Fire Department, 705 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. (541-922-3133)

PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6 p.m., Pendleton School District office, 107 N.W. 10th St., Pendleton. (541-276-6711)

HERMISTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6:30 p.m., district office, 502 W. Standard Ave., Hermiston. (541-667-8000)

MILTON-FREEWATER SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6:30 p.m., Central Middle School, 306 S.W. Second St., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-3551)

HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Heppner. (541-676-9618)

MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

PILOT ROCK FIRE DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock Fire Department, 415 N.E. Elm St., Pilot Rock. (541-443-4522)

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall council

chambers, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

ADAMS CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Adams City Hall, 190 N. Main St., Adams. (541-566-9380)

ATHENA-WESTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Weston Middle School library, 205 E. Wallace, Weston. (Kim Thul 541-566-3551)

LOTTERY

Thursday, Dec. 7

Lucky Lines

03-06-09-14-FREE-17-23-25-32

Estimated jackpot: \$16,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 1-3-4-1

4 p.m.: 1-1-9-1

7 p.m.: 9-4-2-0

10 p.m.: 2-2-4-6

Friday, Dec. 8

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-8-1-4

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Thursday, September 21st at 2:00pm

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) Facts

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Thursday, October 19th at 2:00pm

Living Without Depression is Possible

You can help your loved one living with depression.

Thursday, November 16th at 2:00pm

Skip the Holiday Blues

Enhance your loved one's spirit during the holidays.

Thursday, December 21st at 2:00pm

Eating Is Essential to Promote Health

Learn to identify factors that may affect loss of appetite.

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

Call us at (541) 276-1987 for more information or to reserve your seat(s).
Hurry space is limited. Refreshments provided.

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