

PENDLETON



Staff photo by Phil Wright

Vehicle catches fire Monday on Interstate 84

Pendleton firefighters put out a vehicle fire Monday morning near milepost 207 on Interstate 84. Pendleton fire Lt. Dan Hergert said the driver was heading west on Interstate 84 when the engine started cutting out in 1993 Jeep Cherokee. He pulled off the road near milepost 207, set the emergency brake and saw paint bubbling on the hood. Hergert said the driver got out and the blaze quickly entered the cabin on the passenger side. The driver also complained of smoke inhalation but refused treatment.

PENDLETON

'A Soldier's Tale' features symphony, ballet theatre

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Regional audiences will be treated to a collaborative effort between the Oregon East Symphony and the Pendleton Ballet Theatre as they present Igor Stravinsky's theatrical ballet work "A Soldier's Tale" (L'histoire du soldat).

"A Soldier's Tale" is the Faustian story of a soldier exchanging his fiddle to the devil for the Book of Knowledge. It was composed by Stravinsky in 1917 in Switzerland while World War I was raging across Europe. During the period, he experimented with scaled-down productions due to the lack of available musicians and dancers who were preoccupied with the war.

The production is Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bob Clapp Theater at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors or \$45 for a family of four.

In addition to a chamber ensemble of seven musicians, "A Soldier's Tale" features dramatic and choreographed elements.

Actors include Oregon East Symphony board members and seasoned thespians Gary Ferguson as The Narrator, Bill Mayclin as The Devil and Murray Dunlap as The Soldier. All three have previously appeared in College Community Theatre productions and are all members of the Pendleton Men's Chorus. Acting direction has been provided by Chris Ferguson.

Choreography for the production is directed by Julie Sneden-Carlson, owner of the Pendleton Ballet Theatre. Sneden-Carlson has danced professionally with San Diego Ballet, City Center Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. She founded the Pendleton Ballet Theatre as a studio and performance group



Contributed photo

Madison Cates of the Pendleton Ballet Theatre rehearses for Stravinsky's "A Soldier's Tale." The production, which also includes the Oregon East Symphony, is March 10 at Bob Clapp Theatre at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

dedicated to classical and contemporary ballet. She turned her focus to teaching after a dancing injury. She has been teaching ballet in Pendleton since 2007.

"I love teaching ballet," Sneden-Carlson said. "It is so much more than just teaching dance steps. It is so much more than teaching strength, grace and beauty. I have the opportunity to help kids learn about life through their desire to dance."

Dancers include Madison Cates as The Princess and Austin Ford as The Devil. Cates has danced the leading roles in past Pendleton Ballet Theatre productions of "The Nutcracker" and "Cinderella" and is an accomplished makeup artist. Ford is in his fourth year of studying dance and has performed the role of The Prince in Pendleton Ballet Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker."

The performance also will include the bassoon feature "Dead Elvis" by Michael Daugherty. The contemporary work re-examines the legacy of the King of Rock and Roll.

"Dead Elvis" features Oregon East Symphony principal bassoonist Kirsten Boldt-Neurohr as The King, who is simultaneously alive and dead. Boldt-Neurohr is an advisor and music instructor at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.

Advance tickets for the production are sold out, but there will be tickets available at the door. For more information, contact the symphony office at 541-276-0320 or oesofficeinfo@gmail.com.

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

PILOT ROCK

Elementary school closes due to oil leak

East Oregonian

Pilot Rock Elementary School is closed Monday and Tuesday because of an oil leak in the building as officials worked to sop up the estimated 8-10 gallons of oil that seeped into the school.

Steve Staniak, the elementary school principal and superintendent of the Pilot Rock School District, said a school custodian arrived at the building early Monday morning and noticed a strong oil smell.

Staff discovered oil coming from the boiler room, and with Staniak fearing it could be a health hazard, he closed the school for the day.

Staniak said he was bringing in Eastern Oregon Environmental Recovery to clean the spill and profes-

sionally assess the situation.

The current operating theory, according to Staniak, is that a pipe running from the boiler room to a decommissioned tank underneath the school parking lot is leaking into the building. Eastern Oregon Environmental Recover will spend Tuesday digging into ground to find the tank, which hasn't been in use in about 40 years.

Staniak said the elementary school will remain closed on Tuesday while air quality tests are performed. Students will not have to make up the days they missed because Pilot Rock is on track to come in well above the state's minimum number of instructional hours, he said.

The oil leak didn't affect the high school, which is operating on normal hours.

STANFIELD

Students celebrate as centenarians



Staff photo Jayati Ramakrishnan

Second-grader Tyson Taruscio and his mom Jonie dressed up as 100-year-olds for the Read Across America/100th Day of School assembly at Stanfield Elementary School.

'Read Across America' event coincides with 100th school day

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Stanfield Elementary School students have lots of reasons to read — but perhaps none so compelling as the chance to douse their principal in whipped cream.

Several school districts throughout the community celebrated Read Across America week with dress-up days, reading challenges and days dedicated to their favorite books and characters.

Stanfield's Read Across America assembly coincided with the 100th day of school, so students and teachers dressed up as 100-year-olds for the day.

To top off "Read Across America" week, which marks beloved children's author Dr. Seuss' birthday each year, Stanfield students attended an assembly where principal Lacey Sharp recognized those who had read a certain number of books over the course of two weeks.

Sharp read out the names of students who had read 20, 40, 100 120 and 200 books.

The students who had read the most in each category got to show off their physical strength as well — participating in a tug-of-war lead by team captains dressed as the Cat in the Hat, and the Stanfield Tigers mascot.

Then, students who had read a certain amount were entered into a drawing. Those selected got to choose a book to take home, from several displayed at a prize table in the gym.

Third grade teacher Kim Chavez said students are entered into a drawing when they read to learn.

"Every six weeks, we do prizes," she said. "They could be shirts or Tiger swag, but since it's Read Across America week, we're doing books and pencils."

Sharp said the students had two weeks to read books, and some topped out at about 400. For some of the older students, she said, they counted chapters if they were reading longer books.

"We had really good participation," she said. "Of course, spraying cool whip on the principal is an incentive."

BRIEFLY

Summer camp jump starts healthcare careers

LA GRANDE — High school students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field are encouraged to attend a special summer camp.

MedQuest Health Career Exploration Camp assists in jump-starting a future career in the healthcare field. Current high school students will participate in individualized job shadows, emergency response lessons, a mock wilderness rescue atop Mt. Emily, simulation lab activities at the OHSU School of Nursing and much more.

Space is still available for the residential camp, which includes housing students at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The camp, which is June 18-22, costs \$400. The tuition includes all meals, lodging, extracurricular activities, camp materials and transportation during the program. A limited number of scholarships are available. Those interested in attending

need to pay a \$25 deposit and register by Thursday, March 15.

Many of the past camp participants have gone on to pursue careers as doctors, nurses, dentists, physical therapists and many other healthcare professionals. For more information, contact 541-962-3422, bhargrove@neoahcec.org or visit www.neoahcec.org.

Columbia Grange hosts breakfast, vendor sale

HERMISTON — A breakfast and flea market is planned this weekend at the Columbia Grange.

The event is Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the grange hall, 32339 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. People can rent vendor space for \$8.

For more information, call Doris at 541-567-8663 or Pat at 541-567-5706.

BMCC reschedules workshop, powwow

PENDLETON — The upcoming powwow workshop and powwow event have been rescheduled at Blue Mountain Community College.

The public is invited to learn more about various dance categories and hear the different types of songs during Powwow 101. The

free workshop is Tuesday, April 10 at noon in Morrow Hall Room 100 at BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

Also, the BMCC Powwow is Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m. in the college's McCrae Activity Center, which is also free of charge.

People will have an opportunity to observe and ask questions. For more information, contact Annie Smith at asmith@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5935.

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Information or to register call (541) 667-3509 or email healthinfo@gshealth.org www.gshealth.org

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