

# New exhibit flows into Tamástslíkt

East Oregonian

An exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution that explores the beauty and essential nature of water is coming to Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute.

In addition, "H2O Today" examines the diversity and challenges of our global water sources. It is designed to promote conversation, creativity and innovation through art, science and technology.

The exhibit opens Friday, April 6 in the museum, which is near Wildhorse Resort & Casino, located off Interstate 84 at Exit 216 in Mission. The opening day event is free to the public.

The planet's lifeblood, water is the most vital resource for life on Earth. No living thing exists without it.



File photos

**From left: A computer-controlled center pivot irrigation system waters a field in Stanfield; Water in two of the spillways at the McNary Dam on the Columbia River near Umatilla; Richie Gardner of Pendleton kayaks on a raging Umatilla River in Pendleton. "H2O Today," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit that explores the challenges of maintaining adequate water sources, opens April 6 at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute.**

The "H2O Today" exhibit dives into what it means to live on a planet where 71 percent of the surface is covered in water, yet less than 3 percent is drinkable. It explores the science of

water from the hydrological cycle, weather and climate to its physical power as an architect and sculptor of landscape.

The exhibition highlights its criticality in daily life

worldwide through water power, industry, agriculture and home use. Visitors will learn the impacts climate change, population growth and pollution have on the water cycle and weather

patterns. In addition, it highlights the creative ways people around the world are tackling the challenges of water shortages and pollution.

"H2O Today" is part of

the Smithsonian's Think Water Initiative, which includes a goal of raising awareness of water as a critical resource for life through exhibitions, educational resources and public programs. The public can participate in the conversation on social media at #thinkWater.

The exhibit remains on display through July 14. Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is open Monday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$6 for youths 6-17 and free for ages 5 and under. Also, the Libraries of Eastern Oregon has provided many area libraries with passes that can be checked out.

For more information, call 541-429-7700 or visit [www.tamastslíkt.org](http://www.tamastslíkt.org).



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**A semi truck caught fire Wednesday in Pendleton, destroying the trailer and cab and requiring a hazardous materials team.**

## Semi catches fire on I-84

East Oregonian

A semi truck caught fire about 4:10 p.m. Wednesday on Interstate 84 at Pendleton, sending a plume of black smoke into the air and temporarily closing the highway.

The driver and a passenger escaped before the cab caught fire, according to law enforcement. No injuries have been reported.

The trailer was traveling eastbound when it caught fire. Witnesses said that the fire started just behind the cab.

According to the Pendleton Fire

Department, crews arrived on scene to find the truck fully engulfed.

Crews from multiple agencies responded, including a hazardous materials team.

Lanes were closed and traffic moved slowly through the area for more than an hour.

## Two teens denied gun sales file complaints

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

Two Oregon men have filed complaints with the Bureau of Labor and Industries alleging that Fred Meyer and Bi-Mart unlawfully discriminated against them by refusing to sell them a rifle and ammunition because they were younger than 21.

The March 14 complaints by Hayden Parsons of Sisters and Jackson Starrett of Canby, both 19, allege the discrimination violated their civil rights.

Parsons filed his civil rights complaint after an employee at Bi-Mart refused to sell him

ammunition for his rifle. Starrett lodged his complaint after an employee at Fred Meyer in Canby declined to sell him a rifle March 5 because of store policy.

Several retailers announced after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Feb. 14, that they would no longer sell guns and ammunition to customers younger than 21.

Under state and federal law, Oregonians 18 and older can buy rifles and shotguns, and the ammunition for those firearms. You must be at least 21 to buy a handgun and

handgun ammunition.

Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian has concluded gun retailers that have stopped selling to customers younger than 21 in the wake of recent mass shootings are not violating the state's anti-discrimination laws, according to a March 6 letter to lawmakers. The decision could be successfully challenged at BOLI or in a civil court complaint, Avakian wrote.

Oregon law has made exemptions to the anti-discrimination law for the sales of alcohol and marijuana, in which case retailers are required to refuse to sell

those products to people younger than 21. To raise the minimum age to buy firearms, state lawmakers would need to enact an exemption next legislative session. State legislative leaders, both Democrat and Republican, have said they would like to consider such a change.

"The retailers' policies to deny gun sales to those under 21 represents a common-sense effort to make public places safer," Avakian wrote in the letter.

## Riverfront property no longer for sale

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

A piece of Pendleton riverfront property near Northwest Seventh Street is officially off the market.

Acting as the Pendleton Development Commission, the Pendleton City Council unanimously voted to take the half-acre property off its surplus list, making it ineligible for sale.

The commission declared the property surplus with the thought that it could be marketed for housing purposes, but North Hill residents and conservationists packed the May commission meeting and have returned multiple times to request that the riparian land remain untouched.

The commission agreed to form a committee to explore conservation and at its last meeting, directed the city attorney to look into the legal ramifications.

With the land now off the surplus list, Councilor Paul Chalmers, the commission's chairman, said he would like to discuss the next steps at the next meeting.

The Blue Mountain Land Trust, a Walla Walla

conservation nonprofit, has expressed some interest in the property.

Later during the regular council meeting, the council took a few actions.

Department heads can now sell surplus property up to \$5,000 without seeking permission from the city manager, up from the previous \$500 limit.

The council voted 6-1 to amend the surplus property ordinance, with Councilor Becky Marks voting against it and Councilor Chuck LeValle absent. Marks said the amendment gave department heads too much leeway, preferring the limit be raised to somewhere between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

The council also unanimously voted to accept a \$92,744 bid from Patriot Building & Grounds Maintenance to regularly clean the city's wastewater treatment plant, public works shop and the water filtration plant for the next four years.

Kyle Willman, a wastewater operations technician, said the job had been performed by a part-time employee in the past, but it was a hard position to keep filled.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**The remains of a step ladder adorn a tree in a forested area on the north bank of the Umatilla River in Pendleton in this April 2017 file photo.**

## Warrant scam returns to Umatilla County

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported a warrant scam once again is circulating in the county.

"The scammer calls a potential victim, claims to be from our agency's warrant department and demands payment of money to resolve the issue," according to a statement from the sheriff's office.

One victim stayed on the phone while going to a store

to buy a prepaid debit card, then provided the caller with the card numbers.

"Please be aware, these calls are always a scam," the sheriff's office warned. Law enforcement does not call people to request payment to resolve a warrant or pay a fine.

"If the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office was aware of a warrant for your arrest, we would visit you in person to arrest you," the agency

stated. "You can be assured we will not be giving you a call ahead of time to alert you."

The sheriff's office reported that it notified the FBI about the scam.



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**The Hurricane Heist (PG13)**  
5:00 7:30 10:10

**Death Wish (R)**  
4:50 7:20 9:50

**Black Panther (PG13)**  
4:00 7:00 10:00

**\* Matinee Pricing**  
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850  
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

**Friday Meals**

**LENT**

March 23rd from 5 to 7:00 p.m.  
@ the St. Anthony Hospital Blue Mountain Cafe

**Cedar Wrapped Salmon - \$7.50/Adults**  
- \$7.00/Children & Seniors  
Baked Potato w/ Toppings & Vegetable of the day.

**Clam Chowder Bread Bowl - \$4.25**  
Single Cup \$1.25

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**CHI St. Anthony Hospital**  
2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton, OR 97801