

PENDLETON

Resolute Eagle crash sparks fire at UAS range

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The drone that crashed March 31 near the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range had an 18-foot wingspan and weighed more than 100 pounds.

Range manager Darryl Abling said Friday that PAE, a defense contractor from Arlington, Virginia, had been testing the “Resolute Eagle” drone when it fell to the ground and started a fire in a nearby wheat field. Abling again declined to provide details surrounding the incident.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the crash, which took place just north of an east-west runway at the Pendleton airport.

FAA spokesman Allen

Kenitzer wrote in an email Friday that the vehicle was in the middle of a test when it crashed.

“No injuries were reported and there was no airport damage,” he said.

In a follow-up email, Kenitzer said FAA investigations of such crashes typically take one to two months. When the investigation is complete, Kenitzer said the details would be made public.

PAE issued their statement on the incident, while adding context on the company’s operations.

“All safety guidelines and procedures were observed during the event,” it states. “Field testing new equipment is standard procedure and essential to the continuous development of Unmanned Aerial Systems.”

Abling said he could not share any other details until PAE filed their own report on the crash, which he expects to come soon. Abling said it doesn’t usually take as long to determine the root cause of the crash as it does to devise a plan on how to prevent it from happening again.

PAE grounded its operations in Pendleton while the FAA conducts its investigation, although the range’s other customers are allowed to conduct testing without interruption.

A longtime UAS operator with Northrop Grumman before he was hired by the city, Abling said he expects the FAA to take no further action against PAE beyond reviewing the incident.

Test range officials frequently cite PAE as a customer, drawing attention

to the economic impact of work crews who spend money locally and the company’s effort to create jobs that are based in Pendleton.

PAE has been testing its Resolute Eagle drone, an unmanned vehicle that weighs more than 115 pounds empty but can take on more than 65 pounds of payload. The drone can fly at an altitude above 15,000 feet for more than 15 hours and can operate outside the line of sight.

Using its imaging and longterm hovering capabilities, PAE advertises Resolute Eagle as a UAS that can assist the military and other authorities with various missions, such as anti-poaching, anti-piracy, humanitarian aid and infrastructure protection and inspection.

HERMISTON

Skid Row joins Umatilla County Fair lineup

Blues Traveler, Sawyer Brown and Ned LeDoux coming to main stage

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian



Skid Row will perform Thursday, Aug. 9 at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

of a crowd and just the sound of it — it was freedom,” the younger LeDoux said about performing.

When his father died in 2005, Ned LeDoux picked up a guitar and belted out “Western Skies.” In 2015, LeDoux traveled to Nashville — digging through some of his dad’s unfinished songs for inspiration. While he wants to carry on his father’s legacy, he’s also bringing a new voice to the LeDoux name with music from his debut EP, “Forever a Cowboy.”

In addition, Brewer’s Grade Band (with frontman Zac Grooms of Hermiston) will perform Wednesday, Aug. 8. The band’s name is a tip of the hat to their roots in The Dalles and the vast array of microbreweries in the Pacific Northwest.

wrote songs and hit the road. We sunk our heart and soul into it, letting people know we weren’t doing it for lack of anything better to do.”

Blues Traveler emerged in the late ’80s and possess a reputation for improvisational live shows and tireless touring. Featuring John Popper (lead vocals, harmonica), Chan Kinchla (guitar), Tad Kinchla (bass), Brendan Hill (drums), and Ben Wilson (keyboard), the group’s most recent release, “Blow Up The Moon,” was its first collaborative album. It enlists a range of artists across the musical spectrum, representing country, pop, reggae and hip-hop.

The group’s 12 studio albums include four gold, three platinum and one

six-times platinum. Their hit “Run-Around” is the longest-charting radio single in Billboard history, earning them a Grammy for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals.

Reserved and premium seats for the fair concerts can be purchased at www.umatillacountyfair.net, by calling 541-567-6121 or by stopping by the fair office, located at EOTEC, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. The concert tickets do not include fair admission, which is \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for ages 6-12 and free for kids under 6.

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

Police look into wolf shot on CTUIR land

Confederated Umatilla Journal

MISSION — Umatilla Tribal Police, with assistance from Oregon State Police, are investigating the shooting of a wolf found dead in early March up Kanine Ridge on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The carcass was found partially skinned with its tail missing, according to Carl Scheeler, manager of the Wildlife Program for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The first indication that a wolf might have been killed came when the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was conducting exploratory flights looking for opportunities to get more collars on wolves in three separate packs that are moving across and through the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Scheeler said ODFW encountered a “mortality signal,” which emits when a radio collar becomes stationary for a long time, such as when it “falls off for some reason or when an animal is dead.”

ODFW contacted OSP, which asked the CTUIR Wildlife Program to assist in locating the collar.

Greg Rimbach, the local

ODFW District Wildlife biologist, and Scheeler hiked in with a radio receiver and located the collar. The carcass was nearby.

“The conditions indicated the animal was shot in the head,” Scheeler said. “It appeared to have been there several days. It had been scavenged heavily by coyotes and birds.”

Scheeler said the wolf packs have been roaming the reservation for a couple of years now with few problems.

“Apparently somebody thinks it’s OK to kill wolves,” Scheeler said. “The only instance when it is permissible in Oregon and on the reservation is when a wolf is actively taking livestock or pets, or is posing an immediate threat to human safety.”

Scheeler said that although wolf and livestock conflicts make headlines, “concerns of impacts to local big game here are overblown.”

Because wolves are coursing predators, they run their prey singling out the sick, weak and aged.

“That actually creates a positive demographic effect on the population, leaving healthier, more vigorous animals on the landscape,” Scheeler said.

Emergency drill planned for schools

East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Morrow County School District staff will get to prepare for every worst-case scenario next week, during the all-day emergency drill at all three Boardman schools.

On Friday, April 13, all district staff will congregate at Sam Boardman and Windy River elementaries, and Riverside Junior/Senior High School, to participate in an emergency drill that will go over how the district would respond in a situation like a natural disaster, a gas leak, or a violent incident.

The day of the drill is a no-school day for students, but some students will still assist with the practice, said Morrow County School District superintendent Dirk Dirksen. Staff members will play the roles of both staff and students in order to help school employees and law enforcement prepare for a

potential emergency. The drill will end with a “reunification,” with students and staff (both roles played by staff members) being bused to a separate location where their families would be reunited with them.

“This is more a staff training,” Dirksen said. “Maybe a next step would be getting students involved.”

Several local law enforcement and emergency services will participate, including Boardman police, fire and ambulance, the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police.

A press release from Morrow County School District said locals should be aware that during the drill, it will seem like a real emergency is happening, and that law enforcement will be traveling to and from the schools and performing work they’d do in a real emergency.

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\$5 Classic Movie • 4/11 • 12:00 PM Funny Girl

A Quiet Place (PG13) 12:10* 2:30* 4:50 7:10 9:40

Blockers (R) 12:20* 2:40* 5:00 7:20 9:50

Ready Player One (PG13) 1:00* 7:00 •  4:00 10:00

Sherlock Gnomes (PG) 12:00* 2:20* 4:30 6:40 9:20

Tomb Raider (PG13) 1:30* 4:10 6:50 9:30

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