

# SWEET: ‘These guys do all the desserts for 1,700 inmates every day’

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have worked in the prison bakery for years.

Michael Hoffman, a tall man with a droopy mustache, is a former truck driver who has worked at the prison bakery for 10 years and is Emory’s lead baker. Juan Dedio Cruz-Rojas has been a baker here since 2012. He is serving a life sentence.

They gathered in the bakery Friday morning ready to make chocolate magic. Emory described the vision.

“We are creating a chocolate mint julep with a chocolate pecan base,” she said. “We’ll add a chocolate mousse to the center and top with a simple chocolate garnish and a sprig of mint.”

The end result would be a chocolate confection shaped like a tiny oil drum.

They got cracking.

Hoffman baked thin chocolate pecan brownies and then used a pastry cutter to punch out small circles of brownie for the dessert’s base.

Meanwhile Cruz-Rojas stood at a stove using a whisk to stir a mixture of dark chocolate, whole milk, vanilla and mint extract over a double



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**EOCI bakers Juan Dedios Cruz-Rojas and Michael Hoffman work together to make a chocolate mint julep confection with mousse and brownies to enter in Saturday’s Chocolate Derby on Saturday at the Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery. The competition is a fundraiser for Dream Catcher Therapeutics, a therapeutic riding nonprofit.**

boiler. Emory watched him approvingly. The baker was taking it slow. He took the mixture off the heat and started cooling it in a similarly patient fashion with a giant rubber spatula.

“Chocolate is a very delicate process,” she said. “It’s all about timing. Every step is

really important. There’s a lot of hurry up and wait with this.”

They added heavy cream to the chocolate and stirred patiently. Then it was time to put the mousse on the brownie base. Hoffman loaded mousse into a pastry bag and piped it slowly into silver ring moulds with brownie at the base. Cruz-

Rojas used a knife to scrape off the excess.

Emory stood with a radio on one hip and a ring of keys on the other. She smiled like a proud parent.

“These guys do all the desserts for 1,700 inmates every day,” she said. “Something this small in scale and so



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Inmate and baker Juan Dedios Cruz-Rojas slowly stirs chocolate in a double boiler Friday in the EOCI kitchen. Cruz-Rojas was helping to create a chocolate mint julep confection to enter into the Chocolate Derby, a benefit for therapeutic riding nonprofit Dream Catcher Therapeutics on Saturday.**

intricate is incredibly new to them.”

The mousse-filled rings went inside a cooler for chilling. The next day, they slid them out and topped them with a thin layer of chocolate and sprigs of mint.

Saturday night was showtime. Three judges tasted and evaluated confections from about 10 competitors. Attendees, some in elaborate hats, piled their plates with

chocolate treats.

At the end, EOCI came away with the win and also garnered the people’s choice award. Emory accepted the accolades, though the rest of the team waited back at the prison to hear the results.

On Monday morning, she toted the trophies to the prison to show the two bakers.

“They were speechless,” Emory said. “They were ecstatic.”

# TOUR: Kids ‘come with all sorts of skills, goals, expectations and motivations’

Continued from 1A

co-chairwoman of the committee. “Everybody has their next great idea about how to reform education.

“Our goal is not to come in and say, this is what you should do districts. It is to say, how do we set up funding structures and accountability structures for every district to make the system work for them?”

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, told the committee after a bipartisan effort lawmakers used to develop a \$5.3 billion transportation funding plan they passed last year.



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

**Students read in a classroom at Rocky Heights Elementary School in Hermiston in this file photo. The Joint Committee on Student Success visits Eastern Oregon next on its statewide search for best education practices.**

‘There are lots of answers’

The committee kicks off activities Tuesday, April 24, with a round-table discussion with Baker City area business leaders, followed by a listening session with students from local schools. Lawmaker have lunch reservations at the Baker Technical Institute’s culinary program and later that day plan a tour of the culinary school and Baker Web Academy. A roundtable discussion with area education leaders precedes the 7 p.m. public hearing at Baker High School.

The schedule Wednesday,

April 25, starts with a morning listening session with area students. After lunch, committee members will tour the Umatilla Head Start, meet with the Hermiston Kiwanis Club, visit Morrow School District for a discussion about wrap-around services and tour the Pendleton Tribal Attendance Pilot Program. Lawmakers will hold a roundtable discussion with area educators and a dinner meeting with local business leaders before the 7

p.m. public hearing at Hermiston High School.

The next morning, Thursday, April 26, the committee will tour the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program in Hermiston before traveling to Arlington for a listening session with students and a tour of Arlington High School.

During their first stop in Eugene on the statewide tour, lawmakers said they found roundtable discussions

with middle and high school students particularly enlightening.

They have increased the amount of time they’ll spend with students at upcoming stops to 90 minutes. Lawmakers said they have asked schools to provide a cross section of students from different backgrounds, performance levels, charter schools and more traditional school models.

“They helped to make

### Joint Committee on Student Success meetings

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April 24, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Baker High School</b><br><b>2500 E St., Baker City</b>                      | <b>July 11, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Arts &amp; Communication Magnet Academy</b><br><b>11375 S.W. Center St., Beaverton</b> |
| <b>April 25, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Hermiston High School</b><br><b>600 South First Street, Hermiston</b>       | <b>Sept. 13, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Ridgeview High School</b><br><b>4555 S. Elkhorn Ave., Redmond</b>                     |
| <b>May 9, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Clackamas High School</b><br><b>14486 S.E. 122nd Ave., Clackamas</b>           | <b>Sept. 27, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>President James Madison High School</b><br><b>2735 N.E. 82nd Ave., Portland</b>       |
| <b>May 24, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Woodburn High School</b><br><b>1785 N. Front St., Woodburn</b>                | <b>Oct. 10, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Auditorium</b><br><b>Marshfield High School</b><br><b>972 Ingersoll Ave., Coos Bay</b>                      |
| <b>June 5, 7 p.m.</b><br><b>Pawlowski Athletic Center</b><br><b>Central High School</b><br><b>815 S. Oakdale Ave., Medford</b> |                                                                                                                                          |

it very clear there is no one thing that fits all kids but that they come with all sorts of skills, goals, expectations and motivations and having everything from sports to drama and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), all of those are really

important,” said Sen. Amie Roblan, D-Coos Bay. “Some people think we’re going out to find the answer to Oregon education system, but there are lots of answers. How do we make sure there are opportunities in each and every one of the schools?”

## UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

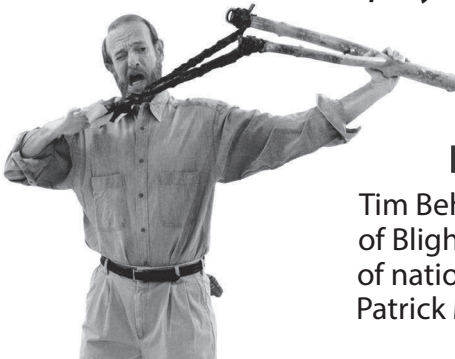
# MEMBERSHIP DINNER

### & ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**  
**Hermiston Community Center**  
**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**“It’s the Water... Powering Our Communities”**  
*This year’s theme celebrates the many benefits of hydropower in shaping our culture.*

**As always, attendance is free to UEC members.**  
**We hope you will join us!**



### Featured Entertainment

Tim Behrens, brings to life the denizens of Blight, Idaho, the fictional home town of nationally renowned humor writer Patrick McManus.

# EASTERN OREGON FORUM

*Presents*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BMCC), 2411 NW CARDEN, PENDLETON, OR.**  
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM ST-200**

**THE HEALING POWER OF ANIMALS FEATURING:**  
**BRIAN HOHSTADT, JOY ST. PETER, DAWN WAGNER AND MORGAN MATTESON**



**Brian Hohstadt** grew up on a large dairy farm in Eastern Oregon with a very strong work ethic and a dedication to animals. He spent his career in health insurance but returned home to care for his parents, and in doing so, decided to establish a small hobby farm to support his interests and hobbies. Mr. Hohstadt began pet therapy with his therapy dog, Blake, and knew he wanted to expand the program but felt it was not fair to add additional dogs. He grew up riding horses and knew mini horses could be registered as pet therapy animals.



**Joy St. Peter** is the Founder and Director of the Joys of Living Assistance Dogs (JLAD), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. She launched JLAD in 2004 after attending the Assistance Dog Institute’s Service Dog Instructor Training Course in Santa Rosa, CA, led by Dr. Bonnie Bergen (inventor of the Service Dog Concept).



**Dawn Wagner** has worked for the Oregon Department of Corrections at Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla for 19 years. She is currently the Statewide Business Services Manager, where she oversees the staffing and operations of the Business Services offices at the individual institutions. She became involved with the TRCI Rehabilitating Offenders & Canines (ROC) program when she was asked to put the contracts together three years ago.



**Morgan Matteson** took over leadership of Dream Catcher Therapeutics (DCT) as Executive Director and Instructor in 2017. She first became involved with Dream Catcher Therapeutics in 2002, and after volunteering until 2005, she then attended Rocky Mountain College where she earned a B.S. in Therapeutic Horseback Riding in 2011. She interned at Healing Reins, in Bend, and went on to work at Bright Horizons in Siletz, OR. She is happy to be back home in Pendleton where she is excited to implement changes to grow the Dream Catcher Program.

**NO COST FOR THIS FORUM – FREE TO EVERYONE. BUT WE WILL GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR OUR SPEAKERS’ ORGANIZATIONS.**

*For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.*

*The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College, InterMountain Education Service District, the East Oregonian, American Association of University Women, and Harriet Isom, a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College’s annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to [www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu).*