

Trailer burns down in Hermiston



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Umatilla County Fire Department crews extinguish the remains of a travel trailer Thursday that was fully engulfed on Sunshine Lane in Hermiston. No one was injured and no other structures were threatened.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Lynn Tompkins, executive director at Blue Mountain Wildlife, mimics a flying bird while giving a presentation on raptors to a group of McNary Heights Elementary kindergartners at McNary Dam on Thursday in Umatilla.

STUDENTS: Took part in tree scavenger hunt

Continued from 1A

and interact with nature in their own back yard. “They learn about different types of energy, about macroinvertebrates, about things related to biology,” Sheller said.

A few miles down the road, students from Echo School learned about trees at the city’s 29th Arbor Day celebration. Echo is a designated “Tree City USA,” said city clerk Peggy Haines.

There were several Arbor Day stations scattered throughout Echo.

Students heard from Jimmye Turner, a fire prevention specialist for the Umatilla

National Forest. Turner drew pictures of different animals to show how fires affect certain creatures, and how they survive.

“A rabbit will burrow under ground, and stay there until the dirt cools down,” he told the group of students.

Turner said he works with all age groups, teaching older students about fire in the ecosystem.

A group of third graders gathered in the park behind city hall to do a tree scavenger hunt. They had to identify different types of trees, and collect bark rubbings using crayons and paper, and draw pictures of the trees on the list.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A barn owl, named Helen, sits with other educational birds at a presentation from Blue Mountain Wildlife during Earth Day activities at McNary Dam on Thursday in Umatilla.

SCIENCE: People come into the world as scientists

Continued from 1A

break into small groups and discuss certain issues for a few moments, starting with how comfortable they are with science on a scale of feeling like an Albert Einstein on the top end of science aptitude to Mad magazine’s fictitious mascot Alfred E. Neuman on the low end.

Several identified themselves akin to Neuman, a couple were closer to Einstein, and most raised their hands for being somewhere between the extremes.

People come into the world as scientists, she said. Infants are curious about how the world works and test it all the time. We need to hold onto that curiosity, she said, but science as a practice or social enterprise is difficult.

Audience members said we need science to understand an array of topics, from global warming to

immunization to GMOs. Building on that, Wells said people tend to like science but they also tend to dislike findings that disagree with their personal beliefs. While the vast majority of scientists agree human activity is causing global warming, Wells demonstrated, only 50 percent of people accept that as reality.

Wells and the participants touched on several possibilities behind the gap, including the tobacco industry’s long misuse of science and covering up findings that linked tobacco use with cancer. And she said the skepticism that feeds into fringe notions such as the government faked the moon landing also leads to real government actions to block science, such as the Trump administration scrubbing all references to climate change from the website for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Assessing the validity of

science and findings also takes some work, she said. Mainstream journalism generally does a pretty good job of reporting on science, she said, but most journalists are not scientists. And some journalistic practices can get in the way of reporting accurately on science findings, such as requirements to find voices representing all sides of a topic.

That kind of work muddled the public discussion of global warming for years as coverage gave equal weight to scientists and skeptics critical of the overwhelming evidence about human-caused climate change.

Wells also took the stance that science and faith can co-exist. Science is about the material world while faith is ineffable and about the spiritual, she said, thus they inhabit separate domains. The notion is similar to how the late evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould

argued science and religion were “non-overlapping magisteria,” one dealing with reality and the other with values.

Wells also asked the crowd to consider how to engage science. Sometimes, as the presentation showed, that can start with a conversation.

**WILDHORSE**
RESORT & CASINO

4/20-22

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 4/25 • 12:00 PM
The Big Chill

I Feel Pretty (PG13)
11:40* 2:10* 4:40 7:10 9:40

Rampage (PG13)
12:20* 2:40* 7:30 • **ED** 5:10 10:00

Blumhouse's Truth or Dare (PG13)
12:10* 2:30* 5:00 7:20 9:50

A Quiet Place (PG13)
12:00* 2:20* 4:50 7:00 9:30

Blockers (R)
11:50* 2:10* 4:30 6:50 9:20

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR 97150 • Exit 216

BRIEFLY

Work begins on Eighth Street Bridge

The Eighth Street Bridge replacement project in Pendleton is officially underway.

According to a press release from Public Works Director Bob Patterson, the bridge will see temporary closures in May as work crews do drill work on the bridge. The city will inform residents about the closures through AlertSense, the city’s community notification system that sends notice through text and email.

Citizens can sign up for AlertSense on the city’s website.

The bridge’s longterm closure will start in mid-June and run through March or April 2019.

Milton-Freewater solicits applications for open city council seat

Milton-Freewater is accepting applications for the Ward 3 city council seat vacated by former councilor Jeff Anliker.

The applicant must be a resident of Ward 3, which mostly encompasses the northwest part of town. The remaining term runs through 2020.

Interested candidates must complete an application by May 14 at 11 a.m. People can access the application by visiting www.mfcity.com.

For more information, contact City Recorder Leanne Steadman at 541-938-8233.

Umatilla County warns irrigators to keep water off the road

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Code Enforcement Division plans to crack down on irrigators that water public roads.

State law prohibits the discharge of water on public roads, according to the division’s announcement, including from irrigations.

The county’s road department, sheriff’s office and code enforcement each year receive numerous complaints about watering on roads. The primary concern is for safety, but citizens also report the watering causes nuisances and is a waste of a valuable resource.

County code enforcement officers will ask violators to prevent further discharge. Irrigators who don’t comply can receive a citation to circuit court, which may result in substantial penalties.

For more information or to file a complaint, call the Umatilla County Planning Department at 541-278-6252.

Pendleton City Council moves meetings in July, August

To avoid conflict with a holiday and another local event, the Pendleton City Council is moving some of its meeting dates around in July and August.

Council meetings are normally scheduled for the first and third Tuesdays of the month, but with the first Tuesday of July falling on July 3 this year, the council will instead meet on July 10 and July 24.

Mayor John Turner wants city councilors to participate in National Night Out on Aug. 7, which is the first Tuesday of the month. In order to attend both events, the council’s regular meetings have been moved to Aug. 14 and Aug. 28.

All council meetings will continue to start at 7 p.m.

DEADLINE: If you mail card, it needs to have a postmark of April 24

Continued from 1A

“If a person goes to the DMV to renew their license they will be registered, however, the record does not enter our system for a period of time,” Clatsop County Clerk Tracie Krevanko wrote in an email to the EO/Pamplin Capital Bureau Wednesday. “It would be advised that they actually come to the elections office at this time if they are wanting to update their party or register for the first time.”

You can pick up a registration form at your local DMV, county elections office or post office. If you mail the card, it needs to have a postmark of April 24, according to the Deschutes County Clerk’s Office.

Only Oregonians registered as Democrats or Republicans can vote in their parties’ primaries on May 15. The Independent Party of Oregon has opened its primary this year to voters not affiliated with

any political party. Non-affiliated voters can request an Independent Party of Oregon ballot; that form needs to be submitted to your county clerk by 5 p.m. April 24.

Non-affiliated voters and members of the state’s five minor parties — Libertarian, Constitution, Working Families, Progressive and Green — will be mailed a ballot including all nonpartisan races that they are eligible to vote in.

The state has safeguards that allow you to not only request another ballot if you need one, but also keep track if you submit more than one ballot. If, for example, you forget to vote and you’re on vacation in a different county on election night, you can request a new ballot by going to the elections office of the county you’re in, says Burgess, the Marion County clerk.

In that case, your new ballot will be counted after election night but before the election is certified, Burgess said.

**PENDLETON**
CENTER
for the **ARTS**

LOUISE BOURGEOIS
Selections from the Collection of
Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation
Through May 5, 2018

We’re excited to share work by one of the most important artists of the 20th Century. Stop by and take a gallery tour. Admission is always FREE.

pendletonarts.org / 541.278.9201