

BRIEFLY

Colorado fugitive arrested in Hermiston

HERMISTON — A Colorado man was arrested in Hermiston Thursday and is awaiting extradition. Officers got a tip that Mathia Moses, 23, a fugitive from Denver, was in the 300 block of West Harper Road. Moses is alleged to have committed a sexual assault in Colorado. After confirming the warrant, officers chased him on foot and arrested him.

Moses is not currently a registered sex offender, and is not being investigated locally. He is lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

New sponsor for Pendleton school clinics

Pendleton's school health centers will now have a new source of funding, as a Boardman clinic assumes the role of medical sponsor for the clinics.

Columbia River Health in Boardman has been providing a nurse practitioner to the facility, and became interested in taking on a greater role in the clinic. They will assume the role of medical sponsor for the clinic starting July 1, taking responsibility for operations at the Pendleton High School and Sunridge Middle School school-based health centers.

The Pendleton School District will continue to provide the facilities for the sites, and some funding will still come from CHI St. Anthony Hospital. Umatilla County Health Department will continue to support and participate in the clinics' operations.

"Transitioning the medical sponsorship to CRH will promote sustainability of the SBHCs into the future," said Umatilla County Health Director Jim Setzer in a press release.

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Forest service opens Umatilla firewood cutting season on May 1

PENDLETON — Personal use firewood permits for the Umatilla National Forest will go on sale May 1, the U.S. Forest Service announced Friday.

According to a forest service press release, local vendors will sell permits for \$5 per cord with a minimum cord purchase of \$20. The maximum limit for forest is 12 cords per household per year.

"Our vendors provide a great service to our woodcutters by selling firewood permits at times more convenient to the public," acting Forest Supervisor Slater Turner said in a statement. "Most vendors are open early mornings, late evenings and on the weekends. An additional fee is not charged if you purchase a permit at a Forest Service office."

All firewood cutters must have an ax, a shovel, a fire extinguisher that has an 8-ounce capacity and a spark arrester if equipped with a chainsaw.

The service is asking cutters to drive carefully during the early spring months when snow may still be on the ground and call 1-877-958-9663 during the dry summer months to see if public use restriction has been implemented.

Firewood season ends on the forest on Nov. 30. For more information, call 541-278-3716.

Terrific Tuesday welcomes Rick Steber

PENDLETON — Award-winning author Rick Steber will share about his new book, "Little Big Man," during Terrific Tuesday at Heritage Station Museum.

The event is Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission charge.

A true story, the book is set in Indian country and pits two strong-willed men against each other in an epic David-and-Goliath battle over the dominance of the white man's religion. A half-century after Dr. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman were killed — a pivotal event igniting the disastrous Cayuse Indian War — Jimmy Cornelison is assigned as the new missionary.

He faces a skeptical congregation made up of the descendants of those who committed the murders. The Indians call the young seminarian Shoyapo Shoyapo — Little White Man. His authority is swiftly challenged by Chief Peo, a powerful and fearsome leader among his people.

Steber has penned more than 40 books with sales of over a million books. In addition, he is the only Oregon author to have won the prestigious Western Writers of America Spur Award.

For more information, contact Kari Brooks, director of development and membership, at membership@heritagestationmuseum.org, 541-276-0012 or visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org.



Photo courtesy Oregon State Police

A Stanfield man died Thursday when his vehicle tumbled down an embankment into the North Fork John Day River.

Stanfield man killed after crashing into ravine

East Oregonian

A Stanfield man was killed Thursday when he drove off a cliff into the North Fork John Day River.

According to Oregon State Police, Randy Jones, 53, was traveling westbound Thursday morning on the gravel Texas Bar Road when his vehicle left the road for an unknown reason. It tumbled down into a roughly 400-foot ravine before coming to rest

on its top in the North Fork John Day River. Jones was killed in the crash.

According to OSP, he was wearing a seatbelt and was not ejected. Speed is being considered as a possible factor. The vehicle was removed from the river and no environmental impact was noted.

The Texas Bar Road is located about six miles up Forest Service Road 55, which connects to Highway 395 near Dale.

HERMISTON



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Gov. Kate Brown presents a check to Lamb Weston employees, in front of the site where the business will open a new facility next year.

Lamb Weston plant gets \$500K from state's strategic reserve fund

Lamb Weston already recruiting for new facility

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Though french fries weren't on the menu Friday, Oregon's governor stopped by to feast her eyes on one of Hermiston's fastest-growing areas.

Lamb Weston Hermiston welcomed Gov. Kate Brown, who got a look at the site where workers are expanding to build a \$250 million facility.

Brown presented members of the company with a check for \$500,000, an award from the state's strategic reserve fund. The money will go toward infrastructure, as well as workforce development and training, said Lamb Weston Director of Communications Shelby Stoolman.

Located on Westland Road in Hermiston, the new factory will open in spring 2019 and is expected to create 170 new jobs.

Stoolman said the nearby Boardman plant employs about 400.

Stoolman said they plan to recruit in waves. They have already hired some people, including a few bilingual recruiters, to help with training and development.

Brian Jackson, Lamb Weston's project manager for the new facility, said construction started in February 2018, and the factory will be similar to the existing one but with the newer technology for processing potatoes. Stoolman said the new facility will produce 300 million pounds of french fries per year.

The company was the first recipient of Hermiston's long-term rural enterprise zone agreement, and was given a 15-year tax break. Instead of property taxes, the company will pay \$1 million per year, to be split evenly between the city of Hermiston and Umatilla County. That \$15 million is about 42 percent of what the company would have paid without

the agreement.

Brown said this was her second visit to a Lamb Weston facility, and that she was excited by the development in Eastern Oregon.

"We're all seeing the potential in potatoes," she said.

Brown stressed the importance of giving students the opportunity to graduate high school with skills that they can use in the workforce, if they choose to go that route.

"The same challenges I'm hearing from employers in the valley, central and southern Oregon are the same ones I'm hearing here," she said. "They're looking for a skilled, quality workforce."

Hermiston assistant city manager Mark Morgan said it's difficult to compile a list of the biggest employers in

Hermiston. That's because many, including Lamb Weston, are outside official city limits but still in the Hermiston ZIP code.

He noted that unlike most of the jobs at Hermiston Foods, which closed in late 2017, those at Lamb Weston would be permanent, full-time positions.

He said one stipulation of the 15-year tax exemption is that the salaries paid to workers had to equal the countywide average, which he said is about \$38,000.

But he said that only applies to the workers hired at the new facility.

"While this will require them to pay the countywide average to new workers, if they pay less next door, there's gonna be some internal strife," he said, adding that those were issues the company would have to consider.

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Great things are happening!



- ▶ Women's basketball standout Maya Ah You-Dias earned the NAIA's national character award
- ▶ EOU's Trapshooting Club made its first appearance at national competition
- ▶ 180 regional teens tried hands-on STEM activities at the IMESD Tech Expo on campus

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