

MISSION



A couple participates in the sweetheart dance during the 2017 Wildhorse Pow Wow.



Left: Drum group Young Spirit placed first during the 2016 Wildhorse Pow Wow. This year's event, which is July 6-8 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Mission, features more than two dozen drumming groups. Right: A young competitor dances during the 23rd annual Wildhorse Pow Wow.



Staff photos by Kathy Aney

# 24th annual Wildhorse Pow Wow showcases tradition, competition

## Fun begins Friday with grand entry

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

Black Lodge, an American Indian drumming group from White Swan, Washington, is the host drum for the 24th annual Wildhorse Pow Wow.

Colorful regalia, and drumming and dancing competitions are featured during the event. It begins Friday, July 6 with a grand entry at 7 p.m. at the Pow Wow Grounds at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, located off Interstate 84 at Exit 216, Mission. There is no admission charge for spectators. Some bleacher seating is available. However, people are welcome to bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

More than 300 native dancers — including youngsters, tribal elders and men and women of all ages — will compete for more than \$90,000 in cash and prizes during the event, which continues Saturday, July 7 from 1 p.m. to approximately midnight and Sunday,

July 8 from 1-7 p.m. Also, more than two dozen groups will participate in the drumming competition, which offers more than \$30,000 in cash and prizes, including a first place prize of \$12,000.

"Everyone is welcome to observe the power, strength and beauty of Native American culture," said Mary Liberty-Traugher, Wildhorse public relations manager.

According to a 2006 interview with *American Profile*, the Black Lodge Singers sprouted when Kenny Scabby Robe told his sons he would take them to a local powwow if they would sing and dance. Working as a laborer at the time, Scabby Robe said he didn't have the money to pay for food and drinks at the festive gathering. He didn't actually think his boys would take him up on the off-the-cuff comment.

Scabby Robe formed the group in 1982 with his 12 sons, who were named for a band of tribal guardians who historically watched over the Blackfeet camp. The group has since taken root, recording more than two dozen albums, and have been nominated for seven Grammy awards.

Black Lodge has been racking up

the wins in singing and drumming contests on the powwow circuit across the nation — including top honors at Wildhorse in 2017 and 2011. They are known for their original material, as well as a newer style of powwow songs for kids. In addition, they have performed with rock stars and orchestras, and played in front of international audiences and dignitaries, including Pope John Paul II.

Each day of the Wildhorse Pow Wow starts with a grand entry with participants parading into the arena with full regalia as they prepare to compete in the dancing and drumming competitions. The event also features food and American Indian arts and crafts. More than 50 vendor booths will be set up around the powwow dance arena — offering everything from Indian fry bread and beadwork to clothing and jewelry.

For more information, contact events@wildhorseresort.com or visit www.wildhorseresort.com. For accommodations, call 800-654-9453.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

# Boardman man dies in Sunday motorcycle crash

BOARDMAN — Gordon Wayne Smith, 68, of Boardman, died Sunday in a motorcycle crash in Morrow County.

Oregon State Police reported Smith was driving a purple 2005 Harley Davidson FXD motorcycle eastbound on Highway 74 and failed to navigate a curve near milepost 22 between Cecil and Ione.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received the report of the crash at 2:12 p.m. and notified other emergency agencies.

Oregon State Police led the crash investigation and reported Smith died at the scene.

The crash also prompted the closure of the highway for about three hours.

# Norton named EO's summer intern

East Oregonian

Brittany Norton joined the *East Oregonian* on Monday as the newspaper's summer reporting intern.



Norton

Norton is a 2018 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. She graduated with bachelor's degrees in journalism and media studies, and has an interest in feature writing. She has written for student-run publications Ethos Magazine and OR Magazine, and has published freelance work in *Eugene Weekly* and *1859 Magazine*.

She will be joining the *EO* through the Charles

Snowden for Excellence in Journalism program, which is run through the University of Oregon.

Norton is a native of Eugene who likes to explore Oregon's outdoors via hiking trails and camping trips in her spare time.

Norton said she is excited to be living and working in Pendleton for the next ten weeks, and getting to know the people that live there. And she is especially eager to write about the Pendleton Round-Up.

You can contact her with story ideas at 541-966-0809 or at [bnorton@eastoregonian.com](mailto:bnorton@eastoregonian.com).

## Puncture vine hunting season open

"Puncture vine hunting season" is open in Milton-Freewater, according to a city press release.

From July 9 to Aug. 17, or until the \$500 reward fund is exhausted, the city will pay \$1 for a bag of puncture vine, a noxious weed the city describes as "troublesome" and "prolific."

Milton-Freewater Police Department code enforcement officer Jason Schaffner will provide bags to anyone willing to pick puncture vines.

## Umatilla County tax department drops post office box address

County assessor Paul Chalmers said the department is dropping the "P.O. Box 68" address and going only with the address of the courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton. The change is effective July 1. Chalmers said the

change saves money.

"The post office is already delivering to the courthouse ... we don't need to go to the post office and pick up mail," he said.

He also advised residents making payments electronically to update their bill pay service.

BRIEFLY

### Condon post office floods, will be closed for months

Heavy rains flooded the Condon post office early last week, causing significant water damage that will keep it closed for a month.

According to United States Postal Service corporate communications contact Ernie Swanson, the post office will not be expected to reopen until July 29.

All Condon residents will need to drive about 20 miles south to the Fossil post office to pick up their mail and use any USPS retail services.

Swanson was unsure of

the total cost of the water damage, but said the floor and wall paneling were harmed by the flooding after a hard rain Wednesday night into Thursday morning. Swanson said he wasn't aware of any mail being damaged.

### Merkley to hold local town halls

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley is holding a series of town halls in Eastern Oregon, including stops in Pendleton and Boardman.

On July 8, Merkley will stop at the Pendle-

ton Early Learning Center for a town hall at 1 p.m.

That same day, Oregon's junior senator will move onto Boardman, where he'll hold a town hall at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Room

at 4 p.m.

The Pendleton Early Learning Center is at 455 S.W. 13th Street while the Port of Morrow Riverfront Room in Boardman is at 2 Marine Drive N.E.



### Do you drive along Interstate 84 or I-82 in eastern Oregon?

What do you think about travel safety along these routes in wintertime and throughout the year? Would you like to know what safety enhancements the Oregon Department of Transportation has planned for these freeway sections? If so, please visit our...

## I-84 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON-LINE OPEN HOUSE

at <http://openhouse.oregondot.org/i-84-safety-improvements>

The site will be active through July 13



We hope you will take a few minutes to learn what we are planning and to get involved by providing your feedback and comments.

At this on-line Open House site you'll find information about...

- Past Improvement Projects:** Earlier enhancements constructed to help improve safety and operations along the I-84 corridor.
- Corridor Management Plan:** This planning study identifies and prioritizes the next strategies that will improve safety and operations along the interstate system.
- Snow Zone Safety Improvement Project:** A variety of devices along I-84 between Pendleton and La Grande will be installed in 2019-2020 to improve safety and operations during adverse winter weather conditions.
- Ladd Canyon Freight and Culvert Improvement Project:** A third eastbound climbing lane and other upgrades are being added in 2019-2020 through the Ladd Canyon area.
- Meacham Maintenance Station:** This outdated facility is being replaced. The new compound will improve response times, efficiency, and save equipment and energy costs.
- Comments and more information:** Take a short survey and provide feedback. This is your highways system and we greatly appreciate your input.



Questions about the site can be directed to ODOT Project Leader Sean Maloney 541-823-4025, or by email at [sean.maloney@odot.state.or.us](mailto:sean.maloney@odot.state.or.us).

## SIDEWALK SALE

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