

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

MONDAY

12:54 p.m. - The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report from Irrigon of a man abusing a female, but the investigation revealed no crime. Deputies planned to follow up with the man later.

2:39 p.m. - Pacific Power on Threemile Road, Boardman reported the theft of copper wire.

4:02 p.m. - The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about two aggressive Rottweilers on Gravel Pit Lane, Irrigon. The caller said the dogs were in her chicken pens Tuesday morning and killed her chickens. The owner of the dog yelled at them, and grabbed one by the collar, and his son got a leash and collar for the second dog. That dog bit the son on the wrist when he removed it.

6:54 p.m. - A man reported he tried to pick up his daughter from a site on Anderson Road, Boardman, but a man threatened to assault him.

TUESDAY

2:34 p.m. - A Heppner woman left her preteen and teen children at home for four days alone without food, according to a caller who said she fed them.

7:38 p.m. - Three raccoons prompted a call from a Heppner resident on Northeast Court Street. She said she tried to get them off her back porch, but they went into a tree, and she was not sure what to do next. The sheriff's office contacted Oregon State Police about the situation.

WEDNESDAY

7:05 a.m. - A caller reported the theft of his tools from his work truck at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 77514 S. Highway 207, Hermiston.

12:06 p.m. - Umatilla police stopped to deal with code violations on Bridgeport Avenue, including a basketball hoop in the roadway.

12:52 p.m. - A driver heading west on East Elm Avenue, Hermiston, stopped at the light and watched someone jump out of a nearby pickup, run to a gray house, pick up a package, run back to the pickup and drive off.

1:49 p.m. - The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a request to run extra patrols on Southeast Utah Avenue, Irrigon, from a caller who said someone has been turning on the lights in an abandoned house at night.

6:46 p.m. - Hermiston police received a report of an assault on the 1200 block of West Madrona Avenue.

10:18 p.m. - Gavin Bumgarner, 18, crashed on Highway 11 following a blackout, according to Oregon State Police.

The teen was heading south in an Oldsmobile Cutlass on Highway 11 near milepost 8 when he had "unknown medical episode" and blacked out. The car traveled off the right shoulder and rolled, stopping on the passenger side. Bumgarner was injured, and an ambulance took him to a nearby hospital.

10:54 p.m. - Several people were fist fighting on North First Street, Hermiston, near a pharmacy. Hermiston police received a report 30 minutes later of two females fighting in the street on West Sunland Avenue.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

Wednesday

A resident on Upper Rhea Creek Road, Heppner, reported a car broke down near her home, and the occupants claimed they were driving from Boardman to Ukiah. But they were on the wrong road, so she called the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Deputies responded and arrested James Dean Logsdon, 53, for violating his post-prison supervision.

Pendleton police arrested Robert Lee VanNattan, 42, of Pendleton, for endangering a person protected by a restraining order, a felony, inferring with a peace officer and on a warrant for failure to appear. State court records show VanNattan has been the subject of more than four dozen criminal prosecutions going back to 1994.

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services.

Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office.

For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

OBITUARIES

Robert Lee 'Bob' Aune

Boardman

September 16, 1945 - June 22, 2018

Robert "Bob" Lee Aune was born September 16, 1945, in Valley City, North Dakota, the son of Arnie and Bessie (Myhre) Aune. He passed away at his home in Boardman, Oregon, on Friday June 22, 2018, at the age of 72.

Bob lived in Jamestown, N.D., during his early childhood until his family moved to California in his teens. He graduated from high school in Escondido, Calif. After high school, he worked at various jobs and served in the National Guard for six years. In the early 1970s, he moved back to North Dakota where he worked for Lucas Western for several years. He later lived in the communities of Auburn, Wash., Spokane, Wash., and Bozeman, Mont., before settling in Boardman in 2006. He worked in sheet metal fabrication for over 25 years.

Bob was an avid reader, a history buff, and enjoyed gardening, canning his pro-

duce, working in his yard, bowling, playing cards and tinkering in his shop.

Bob married Yvette Amsten on September 6, 1991, in Auburn, Wash.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Yvette; sons Duane, Thomas and Andrew Aune; daughter Heather Aune; stepchildren Michael Benavidez, Rebecca Bonnevill and Daniel Albro; brother Andrew Aune; sisters Arlene Olson and Beverly Willson; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Myrna Jean.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday July 7, 2018, at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon. A reception will follow the service.

To leave an online condolence for the family go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com



Aune

Local students turn tassel at George Fox

NEWBERG — A pair of Pendleton students were among the more than 800 undergraduate, adult degree and graduate-level students who received diplomas from George Fox University this spring.

Bryan Branstetter and Andrew Burcham both received a bachelor of science in engineering.

George Fox University is ranked by Forbes among the top Christian universities in the country. More than 4,000 students attend classes on the university's Newberg campus and at teaching cen-

ters in Portland, Salem and Redmond. It offers bachelor's degrees in more than 40 majors, degree-completion programs for working adults, six seminary degrees, and 13 master's and doctoral degrees. For more information, visit www.georgefox.edu.

Mendenhall initiated into honor society

BATON ROUGE, La. — Hailey Mendenhall of Hermiston was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society, at Eastern Oregon

UPCOMING SERVICES

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

ABLES, PAUL — Celebration of life at 6:30 p.m. at Sun Terrace, 1550 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

FLINT, BABE — Graveside service at 2 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Cemetery. A luncheon will follow at the Pilot Rock Community Center, 285 N.W. Cedar Place.

HAWES, RUTH — Graveside service at 1 p.m. at the Aberdeen Cemetery, Aberdeen, Idaho.

MICHAEL, JUSTIN — Celebration of life at 1:30 p.m. in the big room next to the St. Anthony Hospital cafeteria, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

CASSIDY, DIXIE LEA — Celebration of life at 2 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Community Center, 285 N.W. Cedar Place.

FURSTENBERG, LAVONNA — Memorial service at 11 a.m. at the Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton, followed by a celebration of life at Hodgen Distributing, 4340 Westgate, Pendleton.

JACKSON, PA — Graveside service at 3 p.m. at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Irrigon. A dinner will follow at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon.

ROSARIO, DEBRA — Service at 1 p.m. at the Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St.

TYLER, DENNIS — Celebration of life at 11 a.m. at Enterprise Christian Church, 85035 Joseph Highway, Enterprise.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Megabucks

02-15-23-27-43-46

Estimated jackpot: \$1.8

million

Powerball

07-28-37-62-63

Powerball: 15

Power Play: 2

Estimated jackpot: \$50

million

Win for Life

06-10-26-49

Lucky Lines

01-08-09-13-FREE-19-24-

28-32

Estimated jackpot: \$24,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 4-1-3-1

4 p.m.: 5-3-7-3

7 p.m.: 9-2-7-9

10 p.m.: 3-4-7-5

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 1-6-7-4

STUDENT NEWS

University.

Mendenhall was among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

Oregon Connections Academy includes area graduates

SALEM — Several hundred families, friends and classmates attended the 10th

Oregon Connections Academy graduation ceremony, held June 9 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem.

Area students who graduated with the class of 2018 include Breanna Bayer, Riley Miller and Maximus Neel, all of Hermiston; Shawna Hansen of Milton-Freewater and Patrick Burch of Umatilla.

These students are among more than 370 graduating high school seniors who have now joined a growing alumni base of Oregon Connections Academy, the state's largest virtual school. ORCA served nearly 4,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade across the state this school year.

TREATMENT: Inmates with mental illness tend to have longer stays

Continued from 1A

Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation launched the initiative in May 2015. According to stepuptogether.org, the initiative's website, 449 counties nationwide participate with 19 in Oregon, including Sherman, Gilliam and Union counties.

Murdock said the resolution to step into Stepping Up acknowledges the mental health situation the coun-

try faces:

•Two million people with serious mental illness end up in jails across the nation each year.

•Jail populations have three to six times as many adults suffering from serious mental illness as the general population.

•Adults with mental illness who go to jail tend to have longer stays and a higher rate of re-offending than people without mental illness.

Sheriff Terry Rowan earlier this year sought \$1 million

from the Legislature to renovate the jail to accommodate inmates with mental health issues. The state did not fund the investment.

Under this new call to action, the county promises to take several steps to tackle the crisis, from setting up a team to address safe reduction in jail to tracking data on the mentally ill coming into jail, as well as identifying local and state policy and funding barriers to treatment and to sharing what it learns with other

counties.

Rowan said he supports Stepping Up, but there may be a practical limit on its effectiveness.

"The only concern I have is resources available to the population to go to this," he said. "That's what we seem to have to battle against day in and day out."

Much of what Stepping Up strives to achieve, he said, aligns with the goals of Oregon's Justice Reinvestment Act, which provides state

funding for local programs to reduce the prison population, hold offenders accountable, cut back on offenders committing new crimes and increasing the public safety. Rowan said more Oregon counties adopting the initiative could create a tipping point for state lawmakers to take notice and create a behavioral reinvestment program.

Murdock also advocates for that approach. The state in 2014 shut down the Blue Mountain Recovery Center,

a psychiatric facility in Pendleton, but did not establish a new one. He said the Justice Reinvestment Act is a model that works well and is cost effective.

"If the state would make a companion mental health reinvestment initiative, I think that would make huge inroads for us," he said.

The county commissioners vote on the Stepping Up Initiative when they meet Tuesday starting at 9 a.m. at the courthouse in Pendleton.

DOCTOR: Sitz enjoyed an easy relationship with many patients

Continued from 1A

on graveled Summit Road. They wore boots.

"It felt like uphill, going and coming," Michelle said.

She forgave him. They married and raised three children. Michelle now works at the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center. Norm also has two daughters from a prior marriage.

Sitz enjoyed an easy relationship with his patients. Though his phone number was in the telephone book, he said his patients didn't abuse the easy access. When they called, they were usually in dire straits. Dealing quickly with issues, he said, saved time and agony for everyone.

The physician saw plenty of change since graduating from medical school in 1974 — some good and some not so good.

A welcome change came eight years ago with the addition of hospitalists at St. Anthony Hospital. No longer did Sitz and fellow physicians need to be on call. Prior to hospitalists, "there were a lot of long nights. I would work a full schedule the next day." He described the group of Pendleton hospitalists (doctors who spe-



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Licensed practical nurse Mary Coleman fills a box with unused medical supplies on Thursday at Pendleton Internal Medicine while packing up to close the medical office in Pendleton.

cialize in caring for patients at the hospital) as "superb."

Negative changes included increased paperwork, insufficient payments for Medicare patients and the advent of electronic medical records.

Of the latter, he said, "You spend \$500,000 for an EMR that cuts your productivity in half. The advantage is that you document all the things Medicare and the insurance companies want documented." Sitz hired a scribe to take notes so he could focus on patients.

Another change and a big

source of physician burnout, he said, was prior authorization requirements from insurance companies. The doctor (or staff member) must fill out a form or spend precious time on the phone justifying prescriptions or procedures. Several years ago, Sitz and Marier sold their practice to the Praxis Medical Group to escape much of the paper chase.

The veteran physician doesn't hedge when asked his thoughts about the U.S. health care system.

"The whole system is a mess and getting worse," he

said. "It's not going to work until we have a single-payer system."

He doesn't expect such a system to materialize any time soon, however. He paraphrased Winston Churchill as saying, "You can count on the U.S. to do the right thing after they exhaust every other possibility." A single-payer system would benefit both Republicans and Democrats, he said.

"Free enterprise will not solve health care. The interface does not work," Sitz said. "It's not liberal or conservative — it just makes sense."

Despite the distractions, Sitz focused on his patients, sometimes spending extra time checking on them. When Hoffman's husband passed away in 2008, the retired teacher was devastated, feeling sure she had somehow failed as a caregiver.

"One of the first phone calls I got was from Dr. Sitz," she said. "I wasn't home, so he left a message on my machine, offering his condolences and telling me what a wonderful job I had done taking care of Johnnie all those years. I'm not sure how he knew what I

needed to hear, but I left that message on the machine for quite a long time. Is it any wonder his patients are devoted to him?"

Sitz said he will miss his patients, many who have become friends.

"But I'm looking forward to Monday," he said.

That's his first day as a retired person. On tap is plenty of gardening, fishing

and trips to see friends and family, including six grandchildren. Sitz knows it might take a while to settle into a rhythm.

"I will miss the people, the patients," he said. "I've known them so long."

Contact Kathy Aney at kane@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0810.

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