

MISSION



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A dancer participates in this weekend's Wildhorse Pow Wow at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

# A pow wow for all ages

Dancers converge on Wildhorse for weekend of competition, camaraderie

By BRITTANY NORTON  
East Oregonian

There was a feeling of cohesion and common purpose as the dancers marched in during the grand entrance of the 24th annual Wildhorse Resort and Casino Pow Wow on Friday.

Although this was a competition between dancers, it was also a place to reconnect with friends, support family and participate in an overall camaraderie.

People of all ages were invited to participate. The tiny tots dance featured children six years old or younger. Some of the small dancers walked around with confused looks on their faces, while others went all out — twirling in circles with arms spread wide, or jumping up and down to the beat of the drum.

Next, the golden ladies competition — for women 55 and older — showcased regality, solemnity and pride. Women kicked their feet to the tune and moved with years of dancing experience.

For many people, pow wows are a family event. They bind communities and offer an opportunity to connect with tradition.

"It's culture," said Nikki Whiskeyjack, who was at the pow wow with Black Lodge, the host drum.

Whiskeyjack grew up in Canada, so most of her earliest memories are from the northern country. Her family went to pow wows every weekend, she said, and sometimes during the week, too. She used to dance as a child, but on Saturday she wore a T-shirt and shorts as she watched her two daughters take part.

"It takes a long time to get



Staff photos by Kathy Aney

Top left: A dancer raises his staff during this weekend's Wildhorse Pow Wow at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

Left: A member of the Black Lodge drum group performs.

Above: A young dancer participates in the dance circle.

them ready, and then I don't have time for myself," she said laughing.

This is the first time dancing for Whiskeyjack's daughters Aurora and Athena, but it's the family's 10th pow wow of the year. They wore outfits covered in iridescent purple.

"We just tell them 'Get out there and dance' and then eventually they'll have their own style," she said.

Wilma Wahsise, a member of the Han-umt tribe from

the Yakama Indian Reservation, also came to the pow wow with her family. She said she has been coming to the Wildhorse Pow Wow with her husband for 20 years, but she's been attending pow wows in general for most of her life.

"I used to be like this little girl with the wind dress on," she said gesturing to a four- or five-year-old child playing on the outskirts of the sitting area.

Wahsise's experience with

pow wows extends generations. She learned to dance from her six older sisters and now she makes dancing outfits for her grandchildren. When she is done dancing, she will pass her own outfits on to them.

But until then, Wahsise said she plans to dance until her feet don't lift anymore. She plans on attending pow wows for as long as she can.

"The pow wow means a lot to me," she said. "The music lifts up my spirit."

PENDLETON

# Cancer treatment may sideline mayor

East Oregonian

Pendleton Mayor John Turner was recently diagnosed with throat cancer at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland and could be taking a step back from some of his duties with the Pendleton City Council.

In an email to friends Sunday, Turner said he will undergo a PET scan Tuesday and will likely start chemotherapy at St. Mary's Hospital in Walla Walla in mid-July.

He added that the therapy would happen five days per week for seven weeks.

According to Turner, he has a "70-80 percent" chance of recovering.

"I'm confident in my ability to get this treated successfully," he said in an interview Sunday.

While he waits for fur-

ther test results and a better idea of the effects of his chemotherapy treatments, he said city council president Neil Brown is prepared to fill in for Turner as needed.



Turner

A native Oklahoman, Turner spent 28 years in the Marine Corps, spending his last four years as the executive director of the Marine Corps War College. He retired with the rank of colonel in 2003.

After moving to Pendleton to become the provost at BMCC, Turner was named interim president in 2004 and installed permanently in the position in 2005. He retired from the job in 2013, served as a commissioner for the Port of Umatilla and ran unopposed for the open mayor's seat in 2016 with the support of former Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk.

# Tick-borne spotted fever found in Morrow County

East Oregonian

One case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, a disease spread by ticks, has been diagnosed in Morrow County.

Public Health Director Sheree Smith said the infection is treatable with antibiotics, but the disease can cause fever, nausea, body aches, vomiting and headache in the early stages. Later it can cause a skin rash, abdominal pain, joint pain and diarrhea.

Signs of a Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever infection include fever, rash, and a history of tick bites.

Several types of ticks found in Eastern Oregon can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever as well as other diseases. The American Dog Tick also carries Tularemia, and the Rocky Mountain Wood Tick also transmits Colorado tick fever, tick relapsing fever, and Tularemia. It can also cause partial paralysis, and a tick must be

removed as soon as paralysis happens, or it can be life-threatening.

The Morrow County Health Department warned residents that because of the mild winter, ticks are more abundant, and showing up earlier than usual.

They said ticks can be so small that they can be nearly impossible to see without a magnifying glass. Often, hunters will find ticks on recently killed game, or on dogs or rodents. The health department noted that after an animal has died, a tick will leave that host to seek a live host, often a human.

To avoid ticks, when walking through thick vegetation, wear a heavy-duty tick repellent and long pants tucked into boots. To remove a tick, have another person use tweezers or forceps, grasp the mouth or head of the tick as close to the skin as possible, and gently pull it straight out. Wash hands and apply antiseptic to the area immediately afterward.

# Man faces assault, strangulation charges

HERMISTON — A Hermiston man was arrested Sunday for assault and strangulation of a woman, and for resisting arrest and attempting to assault a police officer.

Jonathan Edward Reuter, 58, was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail and was arraigned Monday in Pendleton. He was charged with domestic violence assault in the fourth degree and strangulation, harassment and disorderly conduct in the second degree. Reuter is also charged for attempting to injure trooper Mark Amos and resisting arrest.

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Dr. Libby is originally from Hilton Head, South Carolina and graduated from Furman University in Greenville, SC. She attended medical school at the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine, and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. She then spent three years at Western Family Care/Lander Medical Clinic in Riverton, Wyoming. Dr. Libby is Board Certified, American Board of Family Medicine. She has a passion for rural medicine and looks forward to living in Pendleton with her husband Brandon and daughter Sophie Belle.

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