

Pendleton woman becomes temporary D.C. cancer lobbyist

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

A member of the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony in Nevada, Karen Malcolm wears a horse medalion during trips to the Longhouse or ceremonies where she’s wearing regalia. She inherited the medalion from her stepmother, who died from breast cancer, and it was with her when she traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby Oregon’s congressional delegation on cancer legislation.

The Pendleton resident joined hundreds of fellow cancer advocates from across the country, as a part of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Leadership Summit and Lobby Day.

Malcolm’s memories of her friends and family were the primary motivators for her to attend the D.C. event, which ran from the weekend through Wednesday.

Before retiring in 2011, Malcolm spent decades working as a dispatcher, including stints working for Pendleton and Umatilla County.

During her time, she said she built up a friendship with Pendleton police officer Jim Schweigart, who would die in 2007 from peritoneal cancer, a rare disease that affects a thin layer of tissue that lines the abdomen and other organs.

Malcolm started getting



Photo courtesy of the American Cancer Society
Pendleton cancer research advocate Karen Malcolm poses with Rep. Greg Walden in his office.

involved with American Cancer Society when she happened to pass by the Relay for Life booth at the Altrusa holiday bazaar in 2009.

She eventually used her time volunteering at Relay for Life as a springboard to get more deeply involved with cancer research advocacy, including going on trips to lobby the Oregon Legislature in Salem.

Although she had wanted to make the trip to Washington, D.C., before, she hadn’t been able to set aside the time until this year. Malcolm was selected by the American Cancer Society to represent Oregon Congressional District 2, which spans eastern, central and parts of southern Oregon.

Once she arrived in the capital, Malcolm began lobbying Oregon’s delegation on various pieces of cancer legislation, includ-

ing a bill that provided \$2 billion increase for medical research at the National Institutes of Health and the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, a bill that increased federal funding for palliative care and establish a palliative care education program for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals.

Malcolm met with Rep. Greg Walden, District 2’s representative and the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which handles health care bills.

Malcolm had already built up a rapport with Walden by the time she visited his office in D.C., and she said they spent part of their meeting talking about their own experiences having loved ones with cancer.

“I came away from the meeting feeling really

good,” she said.

Although she wasn’t able to meet with them face-to-face, Malcolm and other society representatives spoke with staff members from the offices of Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

Overall, Malcolm felt like it was a successful trip: the House passed the NIH funding bill on Wednesday, sending it to the President’s desk for a signature, and the palliative care bill is currently being considered by the Senate after the House passed it in July.

Besides lobbying, Malcolm attended other events sponsored by the society.

She heard speeches from prominent people like former NBA coach PJ Carlesimo and “American Ninja Warrior” host Matt Iseman, who both shared their own experiences with cancer.

On Tuesday, Malcolm participated in “Lights of HOPE,” where hundreds of bags of candles are released on the National Mall in honor of those who have died from cancer or who have been affected by cancer.

“I did perfectly well until they started playing the bagpipes,” she said.

As she returned to Pendleton Thursday, Malcolm already started musing about returning to future lobby days in Washington, D.C.

Malcolm now works security at St. Anthony Hospital, but if time allows for it, she’ll commit to doing it again.

BRIEFLY

Two die in I-84 crash outside Baker City

BAKER CITY — A husband and wife from Goldendale, Washington, died Wednesday in a crash on Interstate 84 in Baker County.

Oregon State Police reported troopers at about 10:10 a.m. responded to a commercial vehicle crash on I-84 westbound near milepost 301.

Eugene Rowley, 65, was driving west in a GMC pickup pulling a U-Haul trailer, and his wife, Ellen Rowley, 63, was the passenger. The pickup passed a 2013 Freightliner semitrailer when the vehicles collided, went through the median and came to rest next to the eastbound lanes.

The driver of the semitrailer, Alexandr Ciubuc, 58, of Tumwater, Washington, suffered non-life threatening injuries. An ambulance took him to St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Baker City.

The Rowleys died at the scene.

State police also reported the crash closed the eastbound and westbound passing lanes for about five hours.

Redmond motorcyclist dies in Wheeler County crash

CONDON — Oregon State Police reported a Redmond man died Wednesday in Wheeler County after losing control of his motorcycle on Highway 207.

State troopers and emergency personnel at about 12:40 p.m. responded to milepost 27.5 on Highway 207 near Spray for a collision between a motorcycle and

a semitrailer. According to state police, the preliminary investigation revealed Gregory Vibbert, 26, was traveling south on a 1987 Harley-Davidson Heritage motorcycle as David Belyea, 63, of Hermiston, was driving a 2001 Peterbilt semitrailer north. Vibbert lost control of the motorcycle and laid the machine on its side, colliding with the semitrailer near the centerline on a curve.

State police reported Vibbert died from his injuries.

Two Rivers inmate dies in custody

UMATILLA — An inmate serving a murder sentence at Two Rivers Correctional Institution died Thursday morning.

The Oregon Department of Corrections reported Daniel Holterman died at a hospital and not at the state prison in Umatilla. He was 80. There are no known next of kin. As with all in-custody deaths, according to the department, prison officials notified Oregon State Police and the medical examiner will determine cause of death.

Holterman entered state prison custody on March 25, 1983, from Clackamas County. His earliest release date was Feb. 1, 2024.

He was serving time for aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder, according to records from the Oregon Court of Appeals. He used a shotgun to shoot one woman and kill another while robbing them at an illegal gambling establishment where the women were dealers.

Umatilla County offers free flu vaccines in October

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Opportunities for free flu vaccines are plentiful in Umatilla County after the flu killed an estimated 80,000 people in the United States last year.

Good Shepherd Health Care System is doing a free clinic on Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the hospital’s conference rooms, 610 NW 11th St., Hermiston. Marketing and communications director Nick Bejarano said the clinic is open to all ages — no insurance required — and will have the specialized doses for infants and the elderly on hand.

Vaccines are also available through primary care providers and are often covered 100 percent by insurance. Good Shepherd administers the vaccine to emergency room patients during flu season. Businesses can also arrange for the hospital to come and host a flu shot clinic for employees.

“Statistically speaking, (the vaccine) is very help-



EO file photo

ful to prevent the flu,” Bejarano said.

In Pendleton, St. Anthony Hospital is offering a free flu shot clinic for anyone over 18 (no insurance necessary) on Oct. 16-17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate in Pendleton. Flu vaccines are also available from primary care providers in Pendleton.

Local pharmacists around the county also offer flu vaccines, including the pharmacies at Walmart, Safeway, Rite Aid and Bi-Mart.

Alisha Southwick, school health and community well-

ness supervisor for Umatilla County Public Health, said people can get the flu shot wherever is most convenient for them — the important thing is that they get the shot.

The public health department encourages people to get the vaccine through their pharmacist or primary care provider but the department does have regular flu vaccines for adults and children on hand. People should call ahead and make an appointment, but the Hermiston office at 435 E Newport St. is taking walk-ins on Oct. 26.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

WEDNESDAY
9:52 a.m. - Oregon State Police began an investigation into the poaching of a deer on Cunningham Sheep Co. property off Gurdane Road, Pilot Rock. State police examined and photographed the carcass and took a meat sample for future comparison.
11:25 a.m. - The Morrow County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a man driving in Heppner with his infant daughter on his lap.
12:01 p.m. - Pendleton police responded to a report of drug activity at Sunridge Middle School, 700 S.W. Runnion Ave, Pendleton.
1:21 p.m. - A caller told the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office he received a text from an Irrigon man that stated: If the law can’t do their job, I will do it for him. I have talked to lawyers, as long as I am protecting my family and property I am fine.”

2:33 p.m. - Oregon State Police opened an investigation after its Firearms Instant Check System denied a Pendleton resident a gun purchase.
4:19 p.m. - A Heppner woman told the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office a male will not stop calling her and harassing her. A deputy contacted her and talked to her about her options.
4:51 p.m. - Hermiston police received a report of one woman stalking another.
5:02 p.m. - A resident of Country Club Manor Apartments, 605 Umatilla Ave., Umatilla, reported another resident of the complex has been harassing her.
6:41 p.m. - Pendleton police responded to a 911 report of a domestic disturbance at Southwest Frazer Avenue and 10th Street.
9:09 p.m. - The Morrow County Sheriff’s Office received a second complaint about the

Irrigon resident sending a threatening text. The sheriff’s office talked to the texter and warned him for telephonic harassment and told him to stop the contact.
9:12 p.m. - Callers reported two to four males fighting in the gazebo at Victory Square Park on Southwest 10th Street.
ARRESTS, CITATIONS
Wednesday
•Oregon State Police arrested Elliot John Black, 35, of Pendleton, for driving under the influence of intoxicants (alcohol).
•Oregon State Police arrested Jarrod Allen Bankston, 29, of Hermiston, for unauthorized use of a vehicle and driving while suspended or revoked.
Thursday
•Pendleton police arrested Michael Von Vertrees, 41, of Hermiston, for second-degree trespass and felony metham-

phetamine possession.
•Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office arrested Michael Osvaldo Cervantes, 24, for felony methamphetamine possession, second-degree trespass, second-degree theft and unauthorized entry into a vehicle.
•Boardman police arrested Jose Gutierrez, 33, no address available, for DUII.

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THE PREDATOR (R) 11:40* 2:10* 4:40 7:10 9:40
A SIMPLE FAVOR (R) 11:30* 2:00* 4:30 7:00 9:30
LIFE ITSELF(R) 11:10* 4:10 9:10
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