

HERMISTON

# Bridging the kindergarten gap

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian



Christie Petersen, principal of Sunset Elementary School, stopped by a Hermiston Head Start class to read a story to students.

Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

It took a few minutes for the 4-year-olds in the Head Start class to calm down, but once they did, they were eager to listen to Christie Petersen read them a story about pumpkins.

Petersen, the principal of Hermiston's Sunset Elementary School, joined the class on Thursday as part of National Head Start Awareness month and National Principals' Month. The early childhood program has implemented several new methods to bridge the gap between pre-K and kindergarten. That has included teaching kids social and emotional skills, and working more closely with elementary schools to share tactics for how to help their students.

As Petersen read to the students, she asked them questions to help them make connections to what they were reading.

"Who here has been to the pumpkin patch?" asked Petersen, as many kids eagerly raised their hands. When she came across a new word, she asked them to repeat it.

"Can you say 'nutrients?'" she asked the kids, before bringing it up again later in the story. Head Start director Julie Sanders said there are some new programs to bridge the gap between pre-K and kindergarten students.

"We try to share with kindergarten teachers what we're doing to develop social and emotional skills," she said. "It helps teachers help them more quickly."

Sanders said the goal is to create a climate to help students be able to learn, whether sending books home with them to build a home library, or having adults read to them through the SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) program.

"At Head Start there are lots of kids who come from generational poverty or high risk factors. We try to give them skills to relate to peers and to adults," Sanders said. Sanders said they've introduced an approach called "Conscious Discipline principles," a social and emotional curriculum that's being used across Eastern Oregon.

"We try to use those principles in pre-K, in preparation for using them in kin-

dergarten," Sanders said. "And we try to help parents use those skills at home."

There are seven principles, including composure, which helps kids with anger management and delay of gratification; encouragement, which teaches pro-social skills and kindness; assertiveness, which teaches kids about bully prevention and healthy boundaries; and empathy, which helps kids understand others' perspectives and regulate their own emotions.

Petersen said she has noticed many of the kids who come to Sunset from a Head Start class have already developed some of the skills and routines that they work on in kindergarten.

She noted the importance of educating parents as well as students — to understand the importance of reading to their children and developing routines to prepare them for school.

Petersen said it's also important for Head Start and elementary schools to work together to bridge a very specific gap — language acquisition.

"The four stages of language acquisition are listening, speaking, reading and writing," she said, adding that while Head Start is heavily involved in the first two, elementary schools play a large part in the last two.

"Whatever ways we can bridge those — that's the work."

**"We try to help parents use those skills at home."**

— Julie Sanders, Head Start director

## Lost Valley Dairy to close, go up for sale

Associated Press

The bankruptcy trustee for Boardman's troubled Lost Valley Farm will shut down the dairy and put it up for sale next year.

The *Statesman Journal* reports trustee Randy Sugarman announced the plan Wednesday for the dairy, which has been out of compliance with its wastewater permit since it opened in Boardman in April 2017.

In a status report to the court, Sugarman says the dairy needs to invest \$35 million to \$40 million to meet its pollution permit requirements.

Owner Greg te Velde declared bankruptcy in April to stave off a previously planned auction of cows as part of a bank foreclosure.

Sugarman asked the court last week to approve selling the cows at public auction.

Te Velde says he hadn't heard about the decision to close the dairy.

State farm regulators earlier this month issued a record fine of more than \$187,000 to the dairy, citing more than 220 violations of its wastewater permit between last December and late August.

In addition to Lost Valley Farm, two dairies in California — GJ te Velde Ranch in Tipton, and Pacific Rim Dairy in Corcoran — are involved in the bankruptcy proceedings. The dairies have a combined total of 53,382 cattle.

EO Media Group staff added to this story.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Bob Barker would be proud

The sign at Hermiston Veterinary Clinic on Highway 395 offers a humorous reminder about getting your pets neutered on Thursday.

### SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Car theft suspects back in local jail

East Oregonian

Buddy James Bouy and Julia Rachell Kraus finally landed back in the Umatilla County Jail.

The pair of Portland residents face charges in Morrow County stemming from an alleged vehicle theft crime spree last Halloween. Following their release from the county jail in Pendleton, they ended up in jail in Georgia in February for vehicle theft and related charges.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said Houston County, Georgia, wrapped up its case against Bouy, 43, and Kraus, 38, in early October, and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office coordinated with the United States Marshals Service to get the two to Oregon. The marshals took them to the Multnomah County jail, Portland, and an inmate shuttle service brought them to Pendleton on Wednesday morning.

Bouy and Kraus had hearings Thursday morning before Circuit Judge Dan Hill, who set bail for Kraus at \$300,000 and for Bouy at \$600,000. The court also appointed them new public defenders due to the lengthy delay. Nelson also said he filed notice with the court to use their

continued criminal actions to seek stiffer penalties at the time of sentencing in the theft cases. And he said he charged them each with felony failure to appear.

The defendants along with Michelle Carol McLean, 38, also of Portland, stole five newer model vehicles from two dealerships on Oct. 31, 2017, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and court records. Nelson said Bouy and Kraus led law enforcement on pursuits through Heppner before crashing the pickups they stole. Bouy and Kraus each face multiple charges, including several counts of first-degree aggravated theft. McLean, in August, took a deal and pleaded no contest to first-degree theft in exchange for three years of probation.

Nelson also said he spoke with the prosecutor in Georgia, who relayed police caught the two in vehicles with Oregon plates. However, Nelson said, the Oregon victims were not willing to help in that case, so the district attorney's office there settled for what it could. Nelson said the Georgia prosecutor wished him better luck with Bouy and Kraus.

They have their next hearings Nov. 15.



Bouy

## Pearce won't sell Hamley businesses

East Oregonian

Hamley co-owner Parley Pearce remains steadfast against selling the iconic landmark in downtown Pendleton.

Blair Woodfield, the Hamley's other owner, has sought a deal to sell the Hamley operations to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The tribes' board of trustees in late summer sent a letter of interest to buy the Hamley western store, the steakhouse and all the rest of the Hamley enterprises for \$2 million.

"I already promised my employees that I will not sell," Pearce said. "It doesn't matter who the buyer might be, I'm not interested in selling."

Woodfield is seeking bankruptcy protection, and that case has stopped any sale as well as the civil suit he has against Pearce for the control of the Hamley limited-liability companies. Chuck Sams, communications director for the tribes, said the legal

matters are not the concern of the tribes, which made the offer to show the bankruptcy court there are viable local buyers.

Woodfield has until Dec. 5 to submit a plan of reorganization under Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Pearce said if that plan means talking him into selling, it will not work.

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