



Volunteer Mary Jane Peterson, right, drops a scoop of whipped cream on to a piece of pie held by guest Black McCollough on Thursday during a Thanksgiving meal at the Salvation Army in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Salvation Army prepares to feed 200

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The crew at The Salvation Army Community Center, Pendleton, was working hard for the midday Thanksgiving meal on Thursday. Cook Jimmy Webb said the prep began Monday for serving as many as 200 people.

Folks came in early Thursday to peel 150 pounds of potatoes and ready 20 pounds of yams, and 30 pounds of green beans. Webb also put the center's new stove to work cooking 12 turkeys and 40 pounds of ham. And they did not forget the gravy.

"We're talking gallons," Webb said.

And if there are leftovers, so be it.

Salvation Army Capt. Sylvia Scruggs said the charity also plans to deliver meals to around 50 shut-ins, but that number often grows as people call in and ask if



Volunteers Andy Sanchez, Raymond Bushelle and Hannah Edgren prepare a plate for a guest during a Thanksgiving meal on Thursday at the Salvation Army in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

meals still are available. None of this could happen, she said, without the efforts of the community and vol-

unteers, with some families helping each year for a decade.

She and Webb also

stressed the meal is not for the needy but for anyone, just like the lunches the non-profit serves six days a week.

Folks came in early Thursday to peel 150 pounds of potatoes and ready 20 pounds of yams, and 30 pounds of green beans

Commissioners narrow in on mental health plans

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County is taking some steps toward making mental health care a top priority.

County Commissioner George Murdock is working on the new strategic plan for the county. He took on that task five years ago and outlined public safety as a key area to improve. The county since then hired multiple road and corrections deputies. Murdock said the time is right for an update and mental health services will be a top focus.

Improving that care was a key topic in this year's election, which saw Murdock and Commissioner-elect John Shafer prevail. Murdock during the campaign advocated for the state to fund a mental health reinvestment program akin to the justice reinvestment act that provides counties with state money to supervise certain offenders rather than place them in prison. Some evidence shows the program is curtailing the number of people going to prison in Oregon.

"I think a lot of people have been talking about the

need to address the mental health crisis in one way or another," Murdock said, and the community justice reinvestment already provides a successful model to follow.

Shafer said that idea is gaining attention. Shafer, Murdock and Commissioner Bill Elfering traveled last week to Eugene for the annual Association of Oregon Counties conference. Plenty of people at the conference talked up mental health reinvestment, Shafer said, and with so many throughout the state recognizing the need, the Legislature is going to have to deal with the issue.

Shafer also remains steadfast in the support of Sheriff Terry Rowan's plan to renovate the county jail to better house and help offenders in a mental crisis.

"That's going to be a huge priority," Shafer said.

Rowan asked the Legislature for \$1 million during the 2018 short session for a renovation project, but his request was not fulfilled.

Shafer, who will join the county board in January, also brings some shifting of the commissioners' liaison roles with county departments and programs. Elfer-

ing remains the go-between for economic development, and he looks to place land use planning under his roof. He said that makes sense because land use relates to economic development.

Elfering also is keeping his role as the intermediary to the sheriff's office. Shafer, who is a dispatch sergeant for the sheriff's office until the end of the year, said he did not want the perception that could come with serving as liaison to his former boss and employer. However, he said, he would be a resource for the board when it comes to the sheriff's office because he understands the department well.

Murdock said Shafer is likely to serve as liaison to mental health, developmental disabilities, and human services, areas he has a deep interest in, along with taking on the natural resources and public works, which departing Commissioner Larry Givens handled.

Shafer also has to resign as mayor of Athena to take the commissioner role. He said he will step down at the end of December, and Athena City Council President

Rebecca Schroeder will take the mantle of mayor. The new council in January will select a resident to serve out the remainder of Schroeder's term.

And the sheriff's office is promoting from within to replace Shafer and working to fill the vacancy from that move.

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Pendleton man's child porn trial on hold until February

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — Jason Newsom of Pendleton received a second delay to his federal trial for child pornography.

Newsom, 42, faces four counts in the United States District Court of Oregon — one for possessing the unlawful material and three for transporting the material. FBI agents arrested Newsom, owner of a frozen yogurt shop, on June 29, and the court set his three-day jury trial for September.

Court records show Newsom's public defender, Ruben L. Iniguez, on July 5 filed a request for discovery — the documents, reports and other material from the prosecutors. That arrived on compact disk two weeks later.

"Volume I of discovery consists of approximately 743 pages, including one audio file and three video files," Iniguez stated in his first request to delay, and he needed time to review the material.

Judge Michael H. Simon granted the motion and reset the trial for Dec. 4. Iniguez on Nov. 16 asked for a second trial hold, court records show. He stated his side still needed time to complete the review of the discovery and an independent investigation, "including witness interviews and expert witness consultation, to conduct legal research and draft pretrial motions, and to prepare for trial."

Federal prosecutors did not object to either delay. Simon reset the trial again, this time for Feb. 5.



Newsom

MEETINGS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

NIXYAAWII COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD, 4:30 p.m., Nixyaawii Community School, 73300 July Grounds Lane, Mission. (541-966-2680)

CASON'S PLACE CHILDREN AND FAMILY GRIEF RECOVERY CENTER BOARD, 6 p.m., Cason's Place, 1416 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. All those interested in volunteering are encouraged to attend. (Matt Terjeson 503-720-1620)

UMATILLA BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL, 6 p.m., Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center room 134, 975 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. (Michael T. Ward 541-276-2190)

MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT, 6 p.m., Pioneer Memorial Clinic conference room, 130 Thompson St., Heppner. 6 p.m. provider dinner, 6:30 p.m. board meeting. (Tonia Adams 541-676-2942)

MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Elghth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

IRRIGON COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Irrigon Fire Station, 705 N. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall council chambers, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

No meetings scheduled

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

BUTTER CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 8 a.m., River Point Farms conference room, 28790 Westport Lane, Hermiston. (Bonnie Kyger 509-820-3202)

ECHO IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 8:30 a.m., River Point Farms conference room, 28790 Westport Lane, Hermiston. (Bonnie Kyger 509-820-3202)

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (Roberta Lutcher 541-676-9061)

U.S. FOREST SERVICE FOREST PLAN OBJECTION RESOLUTION MEETING, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m., Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton. Day-long meeting with multiple breakout sessions on specific topics. Public will be able to discuss their issues with FS leadership, provide clarity around objections and discuss potential areas of resolution. Free.

HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD, 4 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

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