

Happy Canyon announces 2019 court

Cousins to serve as night show ambassadors

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Kaia John and Makayla Fossek have been named as Happy Canyon princesses for 2019.

John and Fossek will serve as ambassadors for the Happy Canyon Night Show, Oregon’s official outdoor night pageant.

“We are excited to have these two well-rounded, talented young women represent Happy Canyon this next year,” said Happy Canyon President Corey Neistadt. “Their family roots run deep in Happy Canyon, so we’re honored to have them serve as our representatives throughout the region.”

John and Fossek, second cousins, are descendants of Chief Jim Kanine, former chief of the Walla Walla tribe.

John’s Indian name is Xaamsalii, which means hummingbird. The enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation grew up in Toppenish, Washington, and graduated from Zillah High School, where she competed four years in varsity basketball, track and field, and cross-country. She made 10 appearances at state championship competitions and competed on the state champion 4x400 relay team her senior year. John was active in 4-H and the National Honor Society.

She currently attends Western Washington University, where she hopes her studies in health care will lead to a master’s program. She aspires to become a nurse practitioner, who helps bring health equity to Indian country by working with underserved communities to help raise the bar for health care, as well as serve as a role



Kaia John (left) and Makayla Fossek (right).

Photos by Robert McLean Photography

model for other Native American young women.

In 2018, John won the top honor at the American Indian Beauty Pageant at the Pendleton Round-Up. She has a deep connection with Happy Canyon and the Round-Up dating back to her great-great-great grandfather Chief Jim Kanine. John’s family includes four other generations of Happy Canyon princesses, including her great-great-grandmother Rosaline Kanine in 1932. She is the daughter of Sydney and Robin John.

Fossek, a descendant of the CTUIR, is a senior at Pendleton High School, where she is active in her FFA chapter as vice president.

Fossek plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College for two years before transferring to Eastern Oregon University to obtain a bachelor of science degree in biology. She aspires to

enter a veterinarian program to one day become a large animal vet. She hopes to open her own veterinary clinic on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Fossek currently works after school and on weekends at Toni Minthorn’s horse ranch. Fossek owns eight horses and has trained four that have come off the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She enjoys anything that will get her outdoors.

Fossek’s family history with Happy Canyon royalty dates back to 1958. Her family includes multiple winners of the American Indian Beauty Pageant dating back to 1931. This past year, Fossek served as a horse crew member for her cousin and Happy Canyon Princess Tayler Craig. Fossek participates in the Happy Canyon Night Show in the hunting party and war party scenes. She is the daughter of Robert and Jennifer Fossek of Pendleton.

HERMISTON

Lifestyle Eye Center brings new options

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston-area residents with cataracts, glaucoma and other eye problems have a new option for treatment with the opening of Lifestyle Eye Center.

The Walla Walla-based business opened a Hermiston location at 1070 E. Elm Ave., Suite A, formerly occupied by Inland Eye & Cosmetic Institute.

Lifestyle Eye Center offers treatments for glaucoma, cataracts, corneal conditions, dry eye and other eye problems. Office manager Benjamin Higgenbotham said they offer several new, state-of-the-art treatments including a minimally invasive glaucoma surgery that reduces the chance of complications. The providers have access to a surgery center in the suite next door.

“We’re excited to bring this to Hermiston,” he said.

Hours are currently Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday from



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Lifestyle Eye Center has opened a Hermiston office. From left to right are staff members Dr. Arthur Giebel, technician Tiffany McVey, technician Sue O’Mealey and Dr. Jonathan Haley pictured in an exam room.

8:30 a.m.to noon, but Higgenbotham said they will likely expand their hours in the near future.

Providers are Dr. Arthur Giebel, MD; Dr. Tara Evanger, OD; and Dr. Jonathan Haley, OD.

Haley, who served in the Air Force and is currently a captain in the Air Force

Reserves, said he has a contract to provide VA services and military entrance eye exams so that Hermiston veterans and prospective military recruits will no longer have to travel to Walla Walla.

Haley specializes in glaucoma care and said since Lifestyle Eye Center opened he has been seeing a lot of patients

who have waited months longer than recommended to go in for a check-up.

Giebel, who specializes in cataract surgery and cornea repair, said he has “the best profession ever.”

“I get to help people see better,” he said.

Giebel said one of his focuses with patients is educating them to help improve their eye health and overall health. Things like diet and exercise have a big effect on the eyes, he said. For example, eating a lot of red meat increases the risk of developing cataracts.

“Ask your doctor, what can I do to make a difference in my life?” he said. “A doctor can only work with what you give them to work with. If you’re saying, ‘I’m going to eat what I want, I’m going to smoke anyway,’ we will still love you anyway and we will do what we can, but you can make a difference.”

For more information or to make an appointment, call 541-656-2211 or visit www.lifestyleeye.com.



Oregon Department of Transportation

State shuts down I-84 eastbound at milepost 216

East Oregonian

High winds prompted the closure of Interstate 84 near Pendleton on Friday, as well as sections of Highway 11 between Pendleton and Milton-Freewater.

Oregon Department of Transportation shut down east- and westbound lanes of I-84 at around noon from milepost 216, about 6 miles east of Pendleton, to La Grande at milepost 265. Gusts of wind reached 90 mph along the stretch, according to reports from ODOT, while the National Weather Services pegged the wind speed at 30-50 mph with gusts at 70 mph on and near the Blue Mountains.

Either way, the state road agency reported winds blew over at least one truck on the freeway and sent dirt, branches and debris flying, creating hazards.

ODOT also closed Highway 11 between Pendleton and Milton-Freewater for a short time and at 3:15 p.m. gave the OK for traffic to again flow on I-84. While the weather improved, the transportation department cautioned travelers to slow down and watch for blow-

ing debris.

The high winds also delayed the opening of Anthony Lakes, the ski resort near North Powder in Baker County.

The resort planned to open Saturday but reported the high winds caused severe damage to the top of the lift shack, pushing back the opening to Saturday, Dec. 22.

Elsewhere in the Northwest, high winds toppled trees and power lines, causing thousands to lose power.

The National Weather Service issued high wind warnings Friday for Oregon and Washington’s Pacific Coast and Washington’s northern interior with wind advisories for areas inland.

West of Port Angeles, Washington, downed trees and power lines caused the temporary closure of 22 miles of state Route 112. Utility companies said thousands of customers lost power around the northern Olympic Peninsula.

In Oregon, Pacific Power officials said inclement weather caused outages from Astoria to Cave Junction.

Nominations open for Town and Country awards

HEPPNER — The Heppner Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its annual Town and Country Community Awards event.

The categories include woman, man, business and citizen-educator of the year awards as well as a youth award and “Lifetime Achievement.” Nomination forms are available at the chamber office, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Community Bank, Heppner City

Hall and Kuhn Law Office. The completed forms need to be returned to the chamber office or Kuhn Law Offices no later than Friday, Jan. 11.

The event is Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Ticket information will be available in January.

For more information, contact the chamber at 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Hermiston chamber changes banquet date

HERMISTON — The 49th annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet has been changed to Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Hermiston Community Center.

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for man and woman of the year and the merit award, which was previously called the com-

munity service award. The nominations must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 21. The form is available at www.hermistonchamber.com. Other organizations will be announcing nomination deadlines for other awards.

Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased from the chamber or its website. For more information, contact

541-567-6151, kelly@hermistonchamber.org or stop by the chamber office at 1055 S. Highway 395, Suite 111.

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RESORT & CASINO
12/14 - 12/16
Cineplex Show Times
\$5 Classic Movie
12/19 • 12pm
A CHRISTMAS STORY
SPIDER-MAN:
INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)
11:20* 2:00* 7:20
4:40 10:00
MORTAL ENGINES (PG13)
1:20* 7:00
4:10 9:50
RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG)
11:10* 1:50* 4:30 7:10 9:40
DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH (PG)
11:30* 1:40* 4:20 6:50 9:30
FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES
OF GRINDELWALD (PG13)
3:50* 9:20
INSTANT FAMILY (PG13)
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A Christmas Story
SPIDER-MAN:
INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)
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During this special time of year, encourage your loved ones who have served in the military to make an appointment with their local Veterans Service Representative to review their federal and state benefits. They may be entitled to VA Health care, Compensation, Pension, Education or Home loan benefits.

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