

Youths test their outdoor skills with elk calls, archery and more

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

No Eastern Oregon outdoor skills day would be complete without hunting stories.

Verlyn Savage, of Cove, delivered his share Saturday morning at the Pendleton Convention Center during his presentation on elk calls, part of the Eastern Oregon Youth Outdoor Skills Day. Savage broke down the kinds of calls elk make and asked the eager young in attendance to use plastic elk callers to mimic bull bugles and cow vocalizations.

Kazoo-like cacophony ensued.

"That sounds like a herd of elk if I ever heard a herd of elk," he quipped.

Savage recalled one hunt when he hid behind a bush while a big bull stomped through the forest, uprooting trees and bugling. The bull was no more than 40 yards away and moving toward him. Moments later, the elk was right in front of his bush and much too close for a shot with his bow and arrow. For sure, he said, this elk would toss him about.

Elk, he said, urinate a lot when they bugle. And instead of ripping out the bush and revealing him, the bull sounded off.

"I'm getting sprayed on," he told the crowd. "I'm taking a shower."

That drew a share of chuckles, including from Dean Curry, of Pendleton, and his son, Ethan, 10, who joined others in making those elk calls. The lad said his technique needed work.

"I'll practice," he said. "I'll irritate mom."

This was the free event's second consecutive year. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was the major sponsor. Tim Campbell, chairman of the organization's Pendleton chapter, said approximately 300 youths attended, and with parents or guardians that probably pushed the total north of 500. Still, that was

down from last year when around 1,500-plus showed. Much of that, he and others suspected, was due to the winter weather.

Beyond elk calling, children and teens could learn how to use a tourniquet to stop a wound from bleeding, identify animals from fur, tracks or scat, spot the differences between wild birds and animals. Members of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office taught about search and rescue in the wilderness and gun safety. Oregon State Police troopers talked about hunter safety and game violations. Staff with the Umatilla National Forest showed how to have a proper and safe campsite.

Tina Hatanpaa and her son Jackson, 8, enjoyed the event. The family moved to Pendleton five years ago from Kodiak Island, Alaska. Jackson said he came last year and looked forward to this year. The mom and son finished up identifying animals.

"I kind of messed up on the birds," Jackson said. "I'm more on the land animals, not quite the birds."

But he said that's going to change. He received a 20-gauge shotgun for Christmas and would be bird hunting soon enough.

Tina said she thought the show was good for the community and families.

Regina Nelson, 12, came down with family from Walla Walla. She said she uses the bow and arrow, so she tried her skill at the outdoor archery shoot.

"I hit them all in the target," she said.

Justin Dow of Pendleton brought his daughter, Ava, 11, after her basketball game. They also worked on identifying animals. As a father and hunter, he said, he wanted his girl to learn these skills.

"They got to know how to transverse the land," Justin said. "Everyone should know how to go up to the mountains and fend for themselves, I believe."



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Judah McBride, 8, of Baker City, and his dad, Matt McBride, practice calling cow elk during Eastern Oregon Outdoor Skills Day on Saturday at the Pendleton Convention Center.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jacob Hoffman, 5, of Pendleton, practices on a bugle tube Saturday during the elk calling session at the Eastern Oregon Outdoor Skills Day at the Pendleton Convention Center.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Weston Marshall, 3, of Adams, gazes at antlers on a table Saturday at the Eastern Oregon Outdoor Skills Day at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Tanker truck crashes, spills fuel in wintry weather

HOOD RIVER (AP) — A tanker truck slid out of control amid snowy conditions on Interstate 84 between Cascade Locks and Hood River and spilled 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel onto the roadway.

Oregon State Police said Monday that the driver was going too fast for the snowy conditions. The driver was not injured.

Lieutenant Cari Boyd says some diesel spilled into a pond abutting the Columbia River on the north side of the freeway. A contractor has been hired to do environmental clean-up.

Bird club to discuss climate effects on bird populations

PENDLETON — Jack Simons of the Pendleton Bird Club will present "The Effects of Climate Change on Bird Populations" at Thursday's monthly meeting. The club meets at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 215 N. Main St.

Bird club meetings are open to the public, and there is no fee to attend. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Simons at pendletonbirdclub@gmail.com.

Republican women cancel Thursday meeting

PENDLETON — The Feb. 14 meeting of the Round Up Republican Women has been canceled.

Organizers decided to encourage people to stay home due to the icy weather. For more information, con-

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tact 541-969-2677 or rounduprw@gmail.com.

The Arc moves Valentine's dance

HERMISTON — With the recent winter conditions, The Arc Umatilla County postponed its valentine event.

The Arc Valentine's Dance is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 17 from 2-3:30 p.m. at The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. The cost is \$5 per person.

A nonprofit organization, The Arc advocates for and supports people with developmental disabilities. They offer activities to help in connecting the commu-

nity and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities. For more information, call 541-567-7615 or visit www.facebook.com/arcoumatillacounty.

Pig Out dinner features Mardi Gras theme

HERMISTON — Locals looking for a great dinner and a Mardi Gras vibe are invited to join the Knights of Columbus for their annual Pig Out dinner and dance Saturday, Feb. 23 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

The event includes a

pork loin dinner, silent auction, Mardi Gras beads and masks, games, a cake dash, and live music with Brass Fire and vocalist Frank Carlson.

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$225 for a table of eight, and are available at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce office, Hermiston Ace Hardware and Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church.

For more information, call Mark Gomolski at 773-580-3253.

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EmilySmith@chiwest.com • Questions? Call 541-278-2627

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