

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH  
PublisherKATHRYN B. BROWN  
OwnerDANIEL WATTENBURGER  
Managing EditorWYATT HAUPT JR.  
News Editor

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## OUR VIEW

# The transformative power of art

Art is a refuge in our modern world. At its best it's a transformative experience to take in the creative endeavor of another person, to clear your own mind and make room for another perspective. It's therapeutic to just take in the beauty and challenging to see the world through another's eyes and ears.

Chris Thomas, a Pendleton native and renowned composer, has turned an actual refuge into a piece of art with his symphony about the Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

It was first dreamed up by Jay Bowerman, responding to the 2016 occupation of the land by militants protesting federal regulations. He wanted to restore the reputation of the place and present its beauty to wider audience.

Thomas and Bowerman toured the refuge, taking inspiration from the sounds of the birds who make Malheur their home. In its final form — which will be performed by the Central Oregon Symphony in nearby Burns in May — the piece in four parts will be accompanied by images from the refuge.

Thomas would love to bring the symphony to Pendleton, and we hope



Contributed photo

The artwork of Hermiston native Andrea Murphy is on display during the month of February at the Hermiston Public Library.

he does.

In the meantime, there are other free displays of art in the area that are

well worth experiencing.

At the Pendleton Center for the Arts, the collage art of Cory Peeke is

presented in the exhibit "On The Tip Of My Tongue." It's an attempt to convey an idea you feel you know but can't quite explain. The exhibit is free through the month of February and features small samplings from several other artists.

Marie Noorani's art is on display at the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton. The exhibit is called "How It Looks On Paper," in which she creates and destroys each piece into its final form. It's open Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. through March 14.

And in Hermiston, the work of Andrea Murphy is on exhibit at the Hermiston Public Library. She's a 2004 graduate from Hermiston High School who met her husband riding bulls at the Pendleton Round-Up and has lived across the West. She's now back in Hermiston with two young sons and creating art that reflects the West.

We love to encourage artists to share their work, and the best way to do that is to see it. If you haven't already, make it a point to visit these galleries, expand your mind and grow your world.

## YOUR VIEWS

### Homeless problems now more visible

I have had very little contact with homeless people, like most residents in Pendleton. The last few months have opened my eyes. It is a problem in Pendleton and most of these homeless do not choose to live this way.

The Salvation Army provide a lot of help for the homeless in Pendleton. A place to get a good meal and help finding other places where they can get the help they need, like Lifeways, Catholic food bank, warming station and a lot of the churches in Pendleton. I know there are others who also help.

Some of the help is financed with our taxes, the majority are financed by donations. We need to support these charities who rely on us for funds.

I give to the Salvation Army when I can and know the Salvation Army has a good record as to how the funds are spent. If you are looking for somewhere to make a donation you can't go wrong with the Salvation Army.

Rex Morehouse  
Pendleton

### Fishing, hunting licenses a pain

In response to the article, "What's new in fishing in 2019?" I purchased my hunting and fishing license plus salmon and steelhead tags. My trip wasn't as satisfying as Luke Ovgard's. At my usual point of sale outlet I ended with five sheets of 8-by-11 inch documents. Most of which I must have in my possession while hunting and fishing. That will require some kind of cumbersome folder.

When I inquired, what

happens when these print-outs get wet — it does sometimes rain in Oregon — the sales person had no idea. You guessed it. The paper readily absorbed the water and any attempt to write on them with a ball point pen (required) got the expected results.

The sales person did say you could use a smart phone to tag your fish and any game where tags were required. I am assuming these smart phones get telephone reception everywhere in the state. I am also assuming the batteries for these phones never go dead.

And then, there are those who go hunting and fishing to get away from their phones.

Carlisle Harrison  
Hermiston

### Potential for homeless services

Are warming stations really acceptable? In this era of health care for all, subsidized housing and doctor-induced opioid addictions, is it humane for us to continue down this path of homelessness to over 600,000 veterans and

the ever-growing percentage of our population?

Pendleton needs to add a priority to its zoning purpose statement to encourage homeless shelters that include heat, kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms. The old John Murray building would make an excellent opioid recovery facility if it did not have to have a sprinkler system and meet new construction standards because of its "change of use." No building on the flat can meet the parking requirements of any change of use. There are many affordable housing build-

ings on the flat.

The old IRS building, OK Upholstering, the old movie theater, and the PGG buildings are available. The old Stanfield High School could easily provide humane housing conditions. The city and state would have to encourage it. They talk like they really want affordable housing. Their actions prove that they do not. Oversized paved streets with sidewalks on both sides, storm drains, system development charges, huge permit fees, high taxes, water, sewer and garbage rates all prove

that government really does not care.

The ACLU or legal aid may need to file suits to get this mentality changed.

Affordable housing is not accomplished by the government selling tax exempt bonds to build \$175,000 per unit subsidized housing, units that have to rent for \$1,495 per month. People on Social Security or Social Security disability income need to live in these units but must be made to work, remain drug free, and set goals to improve their lives.

Kalvin B. Garton  
Pendleton

