

Master gardener sprouts interest in growing plants

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Local master gardener Richard Bertram shared insight about how to grow your own food year-round during a Saturday workshop at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

Big Leafy Greens featured a classroom presentation on hydroponic planting systems. In addition, Bertram invited participants to take a short stroll up the street to see his setup, housed in the basement of his North Hill home.

Bertram said people can get most of the supplies they need to set up a system using the Kratky method from garden centers at local stores and Amazon.com.

“The quality of greens we get is amazing,” he said.

The Kratky method — which was developed by University of Hawaii horticulturist and researcher Bernard A. Kratky — is one of the simplest hydroponic techniques.

Essential components for an indoor system are water, nutrients and fluorescent grow lights.

“The thing that makes this all happen is photosynthesis,” Bertram said.

The enthusiastic master gardener enjoys sharing his knowledge with anyone who’s interested.

Another upcoming workshop will focus on figs.



Local master gardener Richard Bertram shows part of his hydroponic planting system in the basement of his Pendleton home during a Saturday workshop offered through Pendleton Center for the Arts.

The Art of Growing Figs is Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon at the arts center. The fee is \$45 for members or \$50 for non-members.

According to Bertram, there’s nothing tastier than figs picked at the peak of ripeness from your own plants. The old, black, wrinkly things you purchase at the store, he said, just aren’t the same.

Participants will learn

how to propagate figs from cuttings, air-layering and grafting.

In addition, information will be presented on various potting methods, as well as the best places to plant figs outdoors.

Bertram views fig growing as a fascinating hobby and hopes to pass on his interest to others.

Everyone will go home with a baby fig plant, providing an opportunity to

apply workshop information and further sprouting interest in growing figs.

For more information or to register for the upcoming workshop, contact the arts center at 541-278-9201, classes@pendletonarts.org or go to www.pendletonarts.org.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539



Above, Kate Brizendine (from left), Beryl Campbell and Jessica Pedersen smell the aroma of fresh basil Saturday during a workshop led by Richard Bertram. Below, Bertram reveals the root system of basil plants grown using hydroponics in the basement of his Pendleton home.



Morrow County sheriff’s investigation nets five arrests

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The Morrow County Sheriff’s Office arrested four people Sunday stemming from an arrest two weeks earlier.

The sheriff’s office on March 9 received a report of a burglary and theft at a Heppner home, according to the news release from the sheriff’s office. Sgt. Todd Siex responded to that call, which led to the arrest of Jaden Wayne Orr, 23, of Heppner, for felony fleeing and methamphetamine possession along with first-degree burglary and theft.

District Attorney Justin Nelson said Siex tracked Orr to an apartment in Heppner and saw him take off in a vehicle. Siex gave chase, and during the brief pursuit watched items fly out of the fleeing car. Those items matched evidence of the theft, Nelson said, and prompted the sheriff’s office to seek a search war-

rant for the vehicle.

That search revealed more goods in the car and led to the sheriff’s office to seek a warrant to search the residence at 245 E. Main St., Heppner. The sheriff’s office reported conducting that search Sunday and recovering “a large amount of stolen property” as well as making the following arrests:

Austin Gene Harris, 24, of Heppner, for misdemeanors of methamphetamine possession and carrying a concealed weapon;

Pete Edmund Haney, 65, for misdemeanor methamphetamine possession and felony theft by receiving;

Jennifer Marie Whalen, 31, of Heppner, for second-degree child neglect, a misdemeanor, and first-degree burglary and theft, both felonies;

and Adrian Julius Haney, 31, of Heppner, for second-degree child neglect and first-degree theft.

Nelson said the evidence points to the single burglary of a residence new occupants were fixing up before moving in. He said his office is moving forward with prosecutions.

The five suspects remain in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Columbia RV Center closing

HERMISTON — Columbia RV Center in Hermiston is closing its doors Friday. Co-owner Arlene Wright said the closure was due to circumstances out of the business’s control.

She said they were “very sorry” about customers who will have to get their RV ready for summer elsewhere, and wanted to thank customers for their loyal business over the years.

Columbia RV Center, at 2302 N. First St., has been in business in Hermiston for more than 20 years. They offer new and used RVs, maintenance and parts. For more information call 541-567-1436.

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LENT Friday Meals

Dinner served March 29th from 5pm to 7pm @ the St. Anthony Blue Mountain Café

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