

Annual Pendleton Quilt Show seeks entries



Contributed photo
Organizers of the Pendleton Quilt Show are seeking entries for the 18th annual show. People who want to enter must register by April 20.

Demonstrations, vendors and prizes set April 26-27 at convention center

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Quilting enthusiasts are invited to enter their creations or family quilts in the 2019 Pendleton Quilt Show. The event is Friday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. In its 18th year, the show is hosted by the Krazy Horse Quilters. Admission is \$5, which is good for both days. In addition to quilt viewing, the event features quilt supply vendors, quilting demonstrations and door prizes. Also, featured quilter Pam Raby will teach a class featuring her

“Sequoia” pattern Thursday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thimbles, Fabric & More, 1849 Westgate. In addition to the \$40 fee, participants need to check the class supply list for items to bring. Raby, who will display a number of her quilts, will be on hand to visit with those attending the show. The Corvallis woman is a quilt designer and teacher. She often leads quilting retreats at scenic locations across the Pacific Northwest. It is a non-juried show, which means everyone is welcome to enter their quilts — new ones, antique or family heirloom quilts, wall hangings, fabric art pieces and more. All ability levels and specialty areas are welcome. Each person may enter up to five items. There will be several special awards presented, including viewer’s choice. A registration form must

be submitted by Saturday, April 20. Drop-off locations for entries (times and dates to be announced) include Thimbles, Fabric & More in Pendleton, the La Grande Quilt Shop, Highland Quilts in Athena and Stash in Walla Walla. Also, people are invited to register to help at the show. Two- and three-hour time slots are available. In addition, assistance is needed with show set-up on Thursday, April 25 and take-down at the conclusion of the event. For more information, contact crazyhorse-quiltshow@gmail.com, lom1127@q.com, 541-278-7910, visit www.krazy-horsequilters.org or search Facebook for “Krazy Horse Quilters.”

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

Pendleton School Board discusses half-point rise in dropout rates

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton School District’s dropout rate rose by more than a half-point in 2017-18, and the Pendleton School Board spent time Tuesday discussing how that could have happened. Superintendent Chris Fritsch said he didn’t want to offer excuses, but district administrators provided reasons why the district’s dropout rate rose to 4.2 percent. Fritsch said some students who transfer out of the district are counted as dropouts because schools never receive a request for records and can’t track where the student went. Special Programs Director Julie Smith said dropout students often come back to school to finish their diplomas, but it’s after the state’s capture period for graduation statistics ends. Fritsch pointed to the district’s 5-year completer rate, which was more than 4 points higher than the district’s graduation rate, as evidence that there’s some things the dropout rate doesn’t include. “It’s not necessarily when you complete, but the fact that you do complete,” he said. “I think that’s the challenge of the dropout rate.” The rise in the dropout rate corresponded to a slight dip in the graduation rate in 2017-18, with the rate falling from 83 percent to 81 percent. Board member Debbie McBee noted that with the exception of Native American students, every other major subgroup —

Hispanic, low socioeconomic, disabled, and white students — all saw their graduation rates fall. Hispanic students saw the biggest drop, decreasing from 90 percent in 2016-17 to 69.2 percent last year. McBee said the board had previously spoken with Hispanic students, who sometimes felt invisible to the district. “They felt like a lot of attention was given to certain pockets and they have not gotten anything,” McBee said. According to McBee, the Hispanic students she spoke with suggested putting school messages out on Spanish language radio stations, which their parents listened to. Smith said the district hosted a recent parent night where they provided interpretation services, and although no one used it on that night, translation is an area of focus for the district. Fritsch highlighted other efforts the district is making to boost graduation and diminish dropouts, including hiring a dropout prevention coordinator at Hawthorne Alternative High School and hiring a new counselor at Sunridge Middle School. The district can also take some solace from the percentage of ninth-graders who are on track for graduation, which jumped nearly 10 points to 84.8 percent in 2017-18.

I saw a sawbill



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
A female common merganser flies low over the waters of the Umatilla River on Monday in downtown Pendleton. Mergansers are a fish-eating duck that have serrated edges on their bills to help them grip their prey, and are commonly referred to as sawbills.

Community internship program coming to Port of Morrow

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

As the Port of Morrow continues to grow, so do the opportunities for local students to learn skills that might help them one day land a job at the location. The port is one of four locations around the state selected to host an Oregon WORKS community internship workshop. During a daylong free event, employers from around Morrow and Umatilla counties will receive training on how to attract and retain summer interns, and how to develop a community-wide program for those internships. Employers will work to

develop a county-wide plan for internships, and have the program in place by summer of 2020. “We have a couple of businesses with established internships, like Three Mile Canyon Farms and Beef Northwest, but many companies don’t have them right now,” said Kalie Davis, the port’s workforce training program manager. Davis said several businesses are signed up for the workshop, including Boardman Foods, Tillamook and Portland General Electric. Davis said similar internship programs have been successful across the state, and she hopes Morrow County can model theirs in a similar way.

“I get questions about what job opportunities are available in the summer,” she said. “It will be great for us, county-wide, to develop a program with everything in the same place.” She said each company will determine how many interns they will hire, and whether they will be paid or unpaid positions — but she said she expects the majority will end up being paid. The other locations that were selected to host Oregon WORKS workshops are Ontario, Independence, and Coos Bay. The port and local businesses have also started a partnership with the Inter-Mountain Educational Service District, Morrow

County School District, and Lone Community School, to offer internships for high school students during the school year. Davis said the program is being funded by the Columbia River Enterprise Zone board, and includes about 30 different participating businesses. Davis said students will be doing interviews for internships on April 14 in north Morrow County, and on April 15 in south Morrow County. They will start their internships on Labor Day. The Oregon WORKS community internship will take place at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. Contact Davis for more information at 541-481-7678.

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