

LOCAL BRIEFING



Redcrane Schmidt

PHS students named Ford Scholars

Two seniors at Pendleton High School, Morningstarr Redcrane and Vanessa Schmidt, have been named Ford Scholars by The Ford Family Foundation of Oregon.

Redcrane is a member of National Honor Society and competed for the PHS varsity cross-country and track teams. She will attend Oregon State University to major in biology and hopes to attend medical or dental school. Redcrane is grateful to her family for their support and encouragement, as well as Gregg, Cooley and her teachers.

"This scholarship is truly life changing, without it I would never have been able to attend my dream college. Being a Ford Scholar is truly a blessing. The biggest thank you to The Ford Family Foundation for helping make my biggest dream a reality," said Redcrane.

Schmidt was on the varsity Rhythmic Mode dance team and team captain for two years. A member of National Honor Society and PHS Leadership, Schmidt will attend University of Portland, major in biology, and wants to attend medical school. She thanked Jill Gregg, PHS ASPIRE coordinator, her mother, Gloria Schmidt, and PHS teacher Sonia Cooley.

"I am very blessed and honored to be a Ford Scholar. I am able to go to my dream school while being debt free! I would like to thank The Ford Family Foundation for this amazing opportunity; they have changed my future and whole life for the better," Schmidt said.

The Ford Scholars Program offers a comprehensive scholarship to help students succeed in college and beyond. In addition to a generous financial award, recipients receive academic guidance, leadership development, personal and professional support and access to the Ford Family alumni network. Up to 125 renewable scholarships are awarded each year to students from Oregon and Siskiyou County, California.

ASPIRE Coordinator Gregg said, "Being recognized as a Ford Scholar is a great achievement because not only are these students strong inside and outside the classroom, but they've been selected because of their potential as well. The Ford Scholarship makes college a financial reality for these students."

For more information about the Ford Scholars Program, visit <https://www.tfff.org/sites/default/files/Ford-ScholarsInfoDec2018.pdf>

Spring chinook fishing ends Saturday on Umatilla River

PENDLETON — Oregon fish managers announced spring chinook angling on the Umatilla River ends Saturday. The Oregon Department

of Fish and Wildlife originally set June 30 as the last day for chinook fishing season on the river, but low returns prompted the early end. The closure runs from the Highway 730 bridge to the boundary of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Bill Duke, ODFW district fish biologist in Pendleton, said the agency does not like to reduce fishing opportunities, "but we need to ensure adequate broodstock will be collected to continue the current level of hatchery spring chinook production for the Umatilla River."

Just more than 300 adult spring chinook have crossed at Threemile Dam, according to ODFW, will below the pre-season adult return prediction of 2,300 fish.

For the latest regulations and other fishing opportunities in the Northeast Zone, visit <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/northeast-zone>.

Merkley schedules town halls in Eastern Oregon counties

PORTLAND — Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley will hold town halls in Harney, Grant, Wheeler and Gilliam counties next week.

Merkley, a Democrat, plans to update locals on his work in Washington, D.C., answer their questions and invite their suggestions about how to tackle the challenges facing Oregon and America.

"In our 'We the People' democracy, town hall meetings are an essential tool for me to hear from Oregonians and represent their interests back in D.C.," Merkley said in the announcement. "I invite everyone in these counties to come and discuss what we need to do to strengthen our state and our nation."

Below is the schedule for the public meetings:

- Harney County town hall — Wednesday, May 29, at 4 p.m. at the Lincoln Auditorium, 550 N. Court Ave., Burns.
 - Grant County town hall — Thursday, May 30, at 9 a.m. at the Madden Brothers Performing Arts Center auditorium, 116 N.W. Bridge St., John Day.
 - Wheeler County town hall — Thursday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at the Wheeler High School gym, 600 B St., Fossil.
 - Gilliam County town hall — Thursday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m. at the Gronquist Building, Columbia Room, 11650 Railroad Ave., Arlington.
- Merkley has held a town hall in each of Oregon's 36 counties every year since taking office in 2009. These town halls will be his 388th, 389th, 390th and 391st as a U.S. senator.

Umatilla National Forest prepares for Memorial weekend

PENDLETON — Staff of local national forests cautioned their visitors this Memorial weekend that not all roads, trails and campgrounds are open.

Shaded areas and cut banks on roads at higher elevations may still have impassible snowdrifts, and forest staff have not yet worked on most hiking and motorized trails, according to a news release from the Umatilla National Forest.

The North Fork John Day

Ranger District closed Forest Service Road 3963, which travels to Bone Point, due to downed trees. Contract crews will be in the area clearing trees as conditions allow. Forest crews are working to open certain lower elevation recreation sites and campgrounds in time for the Memorial Day weekend. Some of the more popular campgrounds that will open for the holiday weekend, but some campgrounds will remain closed.

Amy Linn, acting forest recreation staff officer, said hazard tree removal and other safety issues take priority and campground conditions will vary as the seasonal workforce comes on.

Most campgrounds charge a fee of \$8-\$24 per night and could impose other fees for additional vehicles at a single campsite. To find out which campgrounds are open and closed and the status of trails and roads, contact any Umatilla National Forest office or visit the website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.

Equipment caused power loss

HERMISTON — Power loss Wednesday affected thousands of residents in Umatilla, Stanfield, and Echo, Hermiston. The Umatilla Electric Cooperative reported equipment at its substation east of Stanfield caused the disruption.

The power cut out at 4:52 p.m. Wednesday. The cooperative reported the loss affected nine substations and 13,165 meters. Crews restored power to all customers at 6:38 p.m.

Eastern Oregon towns top affordability list

PENDLETON — Four Eastern Oregon cities top a recent list of Oregon's most affordable places to live, with Hermiston taking the No. 1 spot.

The ranking comes from HomeSnacks, a web-based company in North Carolina that seeks to deliver "bite-sized infotainment about where you live." The company stated it used median housing costs, median income and overall cost of living from the United States Census Bureau to craft its list of "The 10 Cheapest Places To Live In Oregon For 2019."

Hermiston was on top with an income of \$50,694 and the median home value of \$148,200.

Baker City was second with a median income of \$42,006 and the median home value of \$121,600. Pendleton took third with a median income of \$47,851 and median home value of \$150,500. And Umatilla came in fourth with a median income of \$38,796 and median home value of \$114,000.

Most of the remainder of the list were small towns on the west side of Oregon. Dallas was No. 5, Sheridan No. 6, Creswell No. 7, North Bend No. 8 and Scappoose No.9.

Keizer finished off the list with a median income of \$60,722 and median home value of \$214,400. The suburb of Salem also has the largest population of any town on the list at 37,910.

Hermiston Downtown Association kicks off 'summer series' with art show

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Downtown District is kicking things into high gear this summer with a full slate of events.

In addition to its First Thursday events — featuring special deals at downtown businesses the first Thursday of every month — this year the group of downtown business owners is also partnering with the city of Hermiston and Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce on a new slate of activities meant to draw more visitors downtown.

The first of those events took place on Saturday, with an art festival that offered up live entertainment, food and classes for painting, floral arranging and cookie decorating. Local artists' work was also featured, and prizes were awarded in the professional and high school divisions (see glance box).

"We thought it turned out really well," Hermiston Downtown District president Judy Pederson said.

Hermiston artist Mary Corp said the juror for the event remarked to her that there was "a lot of quality art" to be found there.

"I was happy with the amount of participation we had," she said. "I would always love to see more, but we had a strong group of artists."

She said she would encourage local artists to plan ahead to join next year's festival.

The event was centered around Hermiston's festival street that opened in June



Photo contributed by Judy Pederson

A child works on a painting project at this year's Hermiston Art Festival.

2018 next to city hall. The festival street will play host to other events this summer, including a brand new Cork and Barrel event on June 29 featuring locally sourced appetizers, craft brews and wines.

July 13 will be Spudfest, a family-friendly activity day previously known as Funfest. Pederson said the downtown association is taking the lead on the event this year, instead of the chamber, and decided to return to the name by which it was known decades ago.

On Aug. 3 the association will host a "pre-party" downtown prior to the Umatilla County Fair parade.

After the fair, on Aug. 17, the downtown district is launching a new event known as Melonfest, which will celebrate all things watermelon. It will include bathtub races in tubs painted like watermelon, a watermelon costume contest, seed-spitting contest and more.

Other events planned for the summer include a "Farm to Junk" antique/vintage shopping event and a Harvest Fest in September.

"We've got a great summer lineup," Pederson said.

She said the district will be looking for vendors and volunteers for each event. For more information call 541-667-5026.

ART FESTIVAL WINNERS

Winners of the Hermiston Art Festival on May 18 were:
Professional division:
Laura Gable, first place
Michelle Walchli, second place
Pam Sharp, third place,
Justin Stark,

honorable mention
Andrea Eiden,
people's choice
High school gold star winners:
Ashley Cameron
Kamryn Aldred

Jasmine Lei
Hermalinda Ledesma
Jamin Zamudio
Araceli Medina
Kyra Gomez
Bryon Bonifer
Anniston McGraw

Pendleton police arrest man on 13 counts of child pornography

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Steven Moses Enko, of Pendleton, is in jail on 13 counts of child pornography.

The case began for Pendleton police on

May 29, 2018, when detective Howard Bowen received a "Cyber Tipline Report" and related information from the Oregon Department of Justice about apparent child pornography, according to a search warrant affidavit. The material included

photographs depicting children from about 2 to 7 years old in sexual acts.

From there, Bowen obtained records for social media websites and followed a trail to Enko.

Pendleton police on Wednesday evening arrested Enko, 38, and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on 13 counts of first-degree encouraging child sex abuse. He remains in the jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

Pendleton police Lt. Charles Bynum said the investigation into Enko

continues.

Also, the federal child pornography case against Jason Newsom of Pendleton could be coming to a close.

FBI agents last July arrested Newsom, 43, on three counts of transportation of child pornography and one of possession of child pornography. The federal court since then granted several delays for the trial, and in April granted the defense's latest request to push back the trial from a May 7 start.

Court records show Federal Judge Michael H. Simon reset the three-day trial to start July 9 for "purposes of plea negotiations."



Enko

St. Anthony Provider Spotlight

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Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie Showing Wednesday at 12PM
THE JERK

Aladdin (PG)
1:00p* 3:50p* 6:40p
9:30p

John Wick: Chapter 3 Parabellum (R)
1:20p* 4:10p 7:00p 9:50p

Avengers: Endgame (PG13)
12:00p* 3:40p* 7:20p 9:10p

A Dog's Journey (PG)
11:40a* 2:00p* 4:30p 6:50p 9:40p

Pokemon Detective Pikachu (PG)
11:50a* 2:10p* 4:40p 7:10p

Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG13)
Thursday, May 30th • 7:00p, 10:00p

Rocketman (R)
Thursday, May 30th • 7:00p, 9:40p

*Matinee Pricing
wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850
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