

Texan takes the reins at Wallowa Lake State Park

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP

Wallowa County Chieftain



Wallowa County Chieftain Photo/Ellen M. Bishop
Mac Freeborn, the new manager at Wallowa Lake State Park, inspects the foundation for the park's new micro hydro power generation plant.

There's a new manager at Wallowa Lake State Park these days.

Mac Freeborn arrived in April, and has picked up the management reins at one of Eastern Oregon's most popular and revered state parks. The 216-acre reserve serves more than 400,000 day-use visitors per year, and its popularity is growing. It's currently the 12th most popular place to camp in all of Oregon's state parks, serving almost 90,000 campers in 2018, up 6% from the previous season.

Freeborn hails from Texas, where he worked in and managed a number of parks and recreation areas.

Most recently, that included the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, as well as other state and local facilities. Most were parks that

included water and boating, which makes him a natural for Wallowa Lake.

Freeborn is enthusiastic about his new position

and about being in Wallowa County. "It just seems like a place where I belong," he said. "Everyone has been friendly and helpful. The staff here is really connected to this place, and so for now, I'm just listening and learning from them. They are really the ones who know the park and are running it."

Freeborn and the park will be undertaking two major projects in the next year. There is the realignment of the Wallowa River's channels, which will include re-allocating about 30% of the river's flow to an old and soon-to-be-re-furbished channel that runs through the central portion of the day-use area. That will include construction of new pathways and pedes-

trian bridges to cross the stream, establishment of riparian vegetation, some resizing of parking areas, and new interpretive signs, all of which are presently being designed.

Freeborn is enthusiastic about this project. "It's going to be great to connect our visitors more closely with the kokanee and the river," he said.

Establishing a new "micro-hydro" power plant is another "green" project that has just started at the park and will be completed under Freeborn's tutelage. Developed in collaboration with Wallowa Resources and Pacific Power, the project will pipe the park's water from its source higher on Chief Joseph Mountain into a turbine located near

the park's old amphitheater.

The turbine will be housed in a small log cabin and will be visible to the public, complete with an interpretive sign that explains its functions. The 150 kilowatts per year that this micro hydro project produces will save the project's owner, the Wallowa Lake Service District, a municipal water and sewer entity managed by Wallowa County, about \$15,000 a year in energy costs.

Freeborn is looking forward to learning more about his park and enhancing its roles in Wallowa County.

"We are one of the major attractions here," he said. "We can help people connect better with this incredible landscape."

LOCAL BRIEFING

PHS to celebrate new greenhouse

Pendleton High School has a new greenhouse, and the FFA Chapter is celebrating with an open house on Thursday.

The public is invited to stop by from 5-7 p.m. at the Greenhouse Open House and Drive-Through BBQ.

Residents can stop by to see the new greenhouse. Dinner is available for \$7 and includes hamburgers, bag of chips and potato salad. FFA students will also be selling tomato, dahlia and zinnia starts and pots of succulents.

The new greenhouse, which is 24 feet by 48 feet in size, was funded through Measure 98 funds, now called High School Success).

Kylee Jensen, an agriculture, science and technology teacher and FFA advisor at PHS, said the initial plan for the greenhouse is a spring plant sale, but they hope to eventually expand and focus on fall and winter plants, too. The main classes working in the greenhouse will be the Plant Science class and the Crop and Soil Science class.

"Students and FFA members are really excited to see what we plan to do with this new greenhouse," she said. "I've also talked with several community members and they are excited to see it as well."

DEQ fines Pendleton, Lamb Weston for pollution

PENDLETON — The city of Pendleton and Lamb Weston Inc., Hermiston, were among the recent entities on the receiving ends of pollution fines.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality announced 16 penalties totaling \$299,249 for various environmental violations in April. Pendleton was the only city on the list.

The DEQ reported the city exceeded the total residual chlorine effluent limits in its

wastewater discharge permit multiple times in 2017, and the violations warrant a civil penalty of \$10,000.

Lamb Weston received a \$6,800 fine for discharging wastewater on Sept. 21, 2018, from its pipeline at the Hermiston facility into the Umatilla River. According to the DEQ, Lamb Weston discharge permits prohibit releases into the river because its "wastewater contains pollutants in amounts and concentrations that can adversely affect water quality and aquatic life."

The environmental agency allows Pendleton, Lamb Weston and the other 14 entities to pay the fines, seek ways to reduce them or appeal.

Public can learn about Echo, Stanfield and Umatilla housing study

STANFIELD — Echo, Stanfield and Umatilla announced the second and final open house for the public to learn about the West County Housing Study.

The open house is Friday, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Stafford Hansell Government Center, Hermiston. The consulting team will present the draft of the housing strategies report with recommendations for each city. Staff and the advisors from each city will be present to answer questions and record input.

Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen said in the announcement the study will help set housing and land use policy for the cities for the next 20 years. Tamra Mabbott, Umatilla community development director, said the results come at a "pivotal time" for her city.

Umatilla had 66 new homes in 2018, more than the total for the previous decade. The city will consider programs and measures to maintain that growth, she said in the announcement.

For more information, contact city staff from Stanfield, Echo or Umatilla

Morrow County Sheriff's Office nets fleeing rape suspect in trunk

East Oregonian

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office early Thursday caught a rape suspect hiding in the trunk of a car.

Undersheriff John Bowles in a written statement reported the sheriff's office Tuesday at 6:54 a.m. received a report of a sexual assault that occurred at a residence on Meenderink Farms south of Irrigon. Sgt. Brian Snyder and Sgt. Nathen Braun responded and talked

with a 21-year-old woman who reported she was raped by Pedro Lopez-Larios, 34, of Boardman.

The sergeants found Lopez-Larios in a bedroom of the residence, but before they could make a move on him, he jumped out of a window, bolted and escaped into a nearby 80-acre field of poplar trees.

Other Morrow County sheriff's deputies arrived, set a perimeter and began searching for Lopez-Lar-

ios. Deputies from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office assisted with the use of two drones.

After hours of searching, however, law enforcement had not found Lopez-Larios. Snyder and Braun continued the investigation, according to Bowles, and Snyder caught wind Lopez-Larios was trying to leave Oregon. Morrow County deputies with backup from Hermiston police conducted a traffic stop Thursday at 12:13 a.m.

and found Lopez-Larios in the vehicle's trunk.

The sheriff's office arrested Lopez-Larios, took him to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, and booked him on charges of first-degree rape and sexual abuse.

The district attorney's office later Thursday morning brought the preliminary charges against Lopez-Larios, and Circuit Judge Daniel Hill set the bail at \$500,000. The case has a probable cause hearing Thursday.

Duck Race to make splash in Hermiston

A family-fun event offers everything from a giant inflatable obstacle course and Knockerball to bouncy houses and music.

Coordinated by Leadership Hermiston Class 22, Ducks Race the Rapids is Saturday, June 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Riverfront Park, Orchard Extension Loop, Hermiston. People are encouraged to bring a picnic. Admission to the park is free and tickets for activities will be sold by vendors with a portion of proceeds given to the cause.

access to adventure activities, sports, music and the arts to vulnerable youth.

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Ducks are available at participating businesses — Roger's Toyota, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, Hermiston Parks & Recreation, Atkinson Staffing, Columbia Bank, O'Reillys, the city of Umatilla, Smitly's Ace Hardware, Umpqua Bank, Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Delish Bistros — for \$5, while supplies last. They will be dropped in the river at noon. The per-

son whose ticket matches the duck scooped up first at the finish line wins \$1,000. Five other prizes will be given.

Made To Thrive serves more than 200 youths annually. Support is provided by more than 40 volunteers.

For more information about the event, contact Frar Rice, Leadership Hermiston facilitator, at 541-571-7977 or rices@eotnet.net.

Council to discuss renewal of public transit contract

Hermiston will also discuss annexation of property during Tuesday meeting

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston City Council's regular meeting will take place on a Tuesday next week to avoid Memorial Day.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at city hall, 180 N.E. Second St., to discuss renewal of the city's contract with Kayak Public Transit and to hold a public hearing on annexation of property for a new subdivision.

The annexation would

include 9.35 acres at 1290 W. Elm Ave. According to a memo in the council's agenda packet, owner Richard Carpenter intends to create a new residential subdivision there with approximately 39 lots.

The city has already received three letters testifying against the annexation. One is from a neighbor who does not want to live next to other houses, one is from a resident who wants to see the property

less densely developed and one is from a representative of landowners who have a nearby piece of property for sale, stating there is "ample property available already."

Monday's agenda includes renewal of the city's contract with Kayak Public Transit. The transit service, owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, runs Hermiston's free public bus system, the HART.

The contract under consideration would keep the city's contribution to Kayak at \$125,000 for another two years.

Art Merriman

Celebration of Life Potluck


Sunday, June 2, 2019
1 o'clock in the afternoon

Salvation Army Fellowship Hall
150 SE Emigrant Ave.
Pendleton, Oregon


For more information or questions call Rose at 541-567-4446



July 8, 1948 - June 26, 2018



**"Wilmon K Schuck Jr
"BILL SCHUCK" "Moe"**
3/20/56-1/11/19
Celebration of Life • June 1st 1p-3p
Pendleton Eagles
Please join us for a luncheon to share stories and memories of our brother and his many friends."



**Douglas L. Schuck
"Doug", "Dougie" "Elwood"**
3/12/57-5/11/19
Celebration of Life June 1, 1pm-3pm
Pendleton Eagles
Please join us in a combined celebration for our beloved brothers, Bill and Doug."

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
5/24-5/26
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 Parablellum (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
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

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