

McNary Olympians shine



Staff photos by Kathy Aney

Above, Edgar Rosales, a McNary Heights fifth-grader, throws the turbo javelin at Thursday's McNary Olympics at Umatilla High School. At left, Rachael Salas, a McNary Heights fifth-grader, races the 100-yard dash during Thursday's McNary Olympics at Umatilla High School.

BRIEFLY

Evangelists to speak at Stanfield church

STANFIELD — Nathan and Tracy Webber will serve as guest speakers during a pair of services at Crossroads Community Church in Stanfield.

The public is invited to hear the couple speak Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 350 N. Sherman St., Stanfield.

More than 30 years ago, Rev. Michael Kinlock talked Nathan into presenting a message at a Stanfield High School assembly.

According to Kinlock, who recently retired from the ministry at the Stanfield church, that was the start of Webber's ministry to the nation.

Nathan Webber went on to become an evangelist, speaking before 250,000 to 350,000 students a year in secondary schools and churches across the nation. Tracy is an accomplished musician and actor on local stages in the Willamette Valley.

For more information, call 541-449-3434 or 541-449-1251.

ODFW Fish Passage Task Force meets in John Day

SALEM — Oregon's Fish Passage Task Force will meet June 7-8 in John Day.

On June 7, the meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the Grant County Regional Airport conference room in John Day.

The meeting is open to the public and the agenda includes general ODFW fish passage program updates, updates on the 2019 Statewide Barrier Prioritization, seven new fish passage waiver requests as part of the ODOT Fish Passage Mitigation Banking Pilot Project and discussions on local John Day Basin fish passage priorities.

As with all Task Force meetings, there is a public comment period that starts at 11 a.m. June 7. Public participation is encouraged.

Multiple project site visits are scheduled for both days. Transportation to site visits is not provided.

The nine-member Task Force meets regularly to advise ODFW on fish passage policies and issues.

Task Force members represent water users and owners/operators, fisheries

and conservation interests, and the general public-at-large.

The draft meeting agenda and additional information on the Task Force and the ODFW Fish Passage Program is available on the Task Force website or by contacting Greg Apke, ODFW Fish Passage Program Coordinator, at 503-947-6228 or greg.d.apke@state.or.us.

Tribal Health Center receives bomb threat

MISSION — On Thursday, the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center announced that it had dealt with a bomb threat it received more than a week ago.

In a press release, Yellowhawk states that a patient made a "verbal bomb threat" to an employee on May 21.

Staff reported the patient to the Umatilla Tribal Police Department, which later arrested the person off-site.

Yellowhawk reported no damage or injuries from the threat.

Defense in Umapine murder case to argue mental illness

PENDLETON — The defense team for murder suspect Antonio Vasquez-Vargas intends to argue their client suffered extreme emotional disturbance or mental illness.

Attorney Kara Davis of Pendleton filed the notices Tuesday in Umatilla County Circuit Court. The mental disease notice also applies to diminished capacity. Evidence for either defense includes expert testimony.

Vasquez-Vargas of Walla Walla has pleaded not guilty to charges of felon in possession of a firearm and murder stemming from the Nov. 26, 2018, shooting death of Renee Luiz-Antonio where they worked on a dairy in Umapine.

Vasquez-Vargas, 53, has been in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, since Nov. 30 following his capture in Kennewick, Washington.

According to court records, Vasquez-Vargas told police the victim tried to harm and even kill him in months and weeks prior, and he had no choice but to take action first.

The case had a status check Wednesday in circuit court in Pendleton and another coming up June 12.

PGE establishes scholarship fund for laid-off workers

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Portland General Electric is attempting to dull the sting of upcoming mass layoffs at Boardman Coal Plant by offering employees free classes at Blue Mountain Community College.

PGE spokesman Steven Corson said the company's \$30,000 donation to BMCC to establish the program was one of the ways PGE was avoiding leaving its employees high and dry.

"We don't want to be that company," he said.

PGE announced its intention to cease coal-based energy production at the plant back in 2010, but they recently started talking with the more than 70 employees who work in Boardman about their post-coal plant options as the deadline loomed.

Corson said some employees talked about transferring to another PGE worksite while others mulled retiring.

But for those employees who were looking to stay in the area, the company is offering them a chance to switch careers by getting a degree or certificate at BMCC.

Corson said the program was not only meant to benefit their employees, but act as a retention tactic to



EO File Photo

The Boardman power plant is set to close at the end of 2020.

ensure that employees have an incentive to continue working at the plant through its closing date on Dec. 31, 2020.

Casey White-Zollman, BMCC's vice president of public relations, said she and BMCC Foundation Executive Director Margaret Gianotti visited the Boardman facility a few months ago and were impressed by PGE's plan.

"This is a pretty amazing thing they're doing," she said.

According to White-Zollman, the PGE Boardman Scholarship Fund is open to anyone who is or will become unemployed due to the closure of the Boardman Coal Plant.

Starting with the summer term in June, schol-

arship recipients will get as much as \$1,500 toward their tuition.

Recipients must be enrolled in at least one class, and if they maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average, they will get another \$1,500 for a second term.

Corson said the scholarship fund will remain active through the end of 2021, one year after the Boardman Coal Plant is slated to close.

White-Zollman said six PGE employees have already applied for the scholarship.

Clinic at Hermiston High School will open June 3

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston School District is partnering with the Good Shepherd Health Care System to open a new Wellness Clinic at Hermiston High School.

By using Good Shepherd Urgent Care staff to offer illness evaluation and treatment, vaccines, routine physical exams and sports physicals, both parties are hoping the clinic will have wide-ranging effects.

"A significant part of our mission is to make health care accessible to our community. By partnering with the Hermiston School District to provide a Wellness Clinic for teachers, students, and

staff members we will be able to provide for the health care needs of our community," Good Shepherd Medical Group Vice President Troy LeGore said in a press release. "The Wellness Clinic will provide easy access to district employees, teachers, and students — reducing absenteeism — providing parents with an accessible care option for their children — all while providing high quality and compassionate care."

The clinic will begin

operations on June 3 and June 10 from 8 a.m. to noon and on June 5 and June 12 from noon to 4 p.m.

Students under 18 must have a parent or guardian turn in a parent consent form and medical history to receive care. If patients have insurance, the clinic will bill it.

Parents, students, and staff can make an appointment by calling 541-667-6199.

Walk-ins are also welcome.



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St. Anthony Provider Spotlight



JD Ward, DO, OB/GYN

JD Ward, DO, OB/GYN is now accepting new patients.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Education: Boise State University, Western University of Health Science

Board Certification: Board Certified American, Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Insurance Accepted: Most major insurances, Medicare, Medicaid

Special Services: Obstetrics



3001 St. Anthony Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

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\$5 Classic Movie
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LOGAN'S RUN

Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG13)
2D 12:40p* 3:40p* 6:50
ED 9:50p

Rocketman (R)
1:40p* 4:20p 7:00p 9:40p

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

John Wick: Chapter 3
Parabellum (R)
12:30p* 3:20p* 7:10p 10:00p

Avengers: Endgame (PG13)
11:40a* 3:30p* 6:10p 9:50p

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG)
Thursday, June 6th • 7:10p

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorsesresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216