

HERMISTON HIGH HONORS 2019 GRADUATES

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SATURDAY EDITION

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

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Your Weekend



- **Old Iron Show**, Roy Raley Park, Pendleton
- **Bonanza Art** Antiques & Gourmet Expo, Pendleton
- **Adult Prom:** Labyrinth, The Lodge

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS
CHECK COMING EVENTS, A5

Weekend Weather		
FRI	SAT	SUN
		
64/45	69/44	78/49

Team of specialists hands off forest work

By KATY NESBITT
For the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A Pendleton-based team of scientists planning large-scale projects across the forests of the Blue Mountains is disbanding this summer.

From its inception, the Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy Interdisciplinary Team was always designed to dissolve at an undetermined time, the team's leader David Hatfield said. However, the withdrawal of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision this spring, and the impending retirement of most of the remaining team members, precipitated sunseting the project and passing off the data and analysis of the Resiliency Project, a landscape-size forestry planning project for ponderosa pine forest stands on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Ochoco national forests.

Hatfield said a draft environmental impact statement was scheduled

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PUBLIC SAFETY



Lt. Matt Fisher, left, simulates a decontamination station using a brush to scrub firefighter Josh Smith while participating in a HazMat exercise Thursday with the Umatilla County Fire District 1 in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

HERMISTON GETS HazMat READY

Hermiston HazMat team pair with National Guard unit for training, drills

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Test tubes and dangerous spills took center stage at the Umatilla Fire District Training building Thursday, when the Hermiston Hazardous Materials Response Team ran several drill scenarios.

For the first time in about a decade, the National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team — based in Salem — were in town to host the drills and provide training to Hermiston HazMat.

"Our hazmat team tried to get drills (with the 102nd CST) in the past, and it's been a logistical issue," said Lt. Matt Fisher of the Umatilla County Fire District, who organized the drills. "They have a lot of other obligations."



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Firefighters, from left, Matt Lewis, Lt. Jeff Armstrong, Josh Smith and Jeremy Grazier look over video taken during a HazMat training exercise Thursday with the Umatilla County Fire District 1 in Hermiston.

The role of the 102nd CST, according to the Oregon Military Department, is to detect, analyze and contain nuclear, biological

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School board gets two new members



By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Change is coming to the Pendleton School Board.

Two new board members — Julie Muller and Mason Murphy — will be sworn in in July to pass and formulate policy and help manage finances for the Pendleton School District.

Murphy was elected unopposed in May and will replace longtime board member Dave Krumbein, who declined to run for another term.

Although without children of his own, Murphy said he began getting involved with the district over career technical education projects.

A scientist with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Murphy said far too many children get funneled into colleges and get saddled with student debt when schools could develop the technical and artisanal skills that could help them find work.

His involvement with CTE led to a spot on the district's strategic plan committee and then a seat on its public relations and marketing committee.

Murphy applied for appointment to the school board when Bob Rosselle resigned in 2016, but the board selected Wildhorse Resort and Casino CEO Gary George instead.

Now that he's been elected to a seat on the school board, Murphy said his plan was to stay quiet for the first year while he learns policy.

But he also said that he's liked what he's seen out of the district's CTE efforts, like the Schools to Careers program and the Pendleton Technology and Trade Center.

"It gives me the idea that if

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Suicides in NW jails highlight risk for Native inmates

By AUSTIN JENKINS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

EUGENE — Shannon Jefferson was booked into Washington's Whatcom County Jail on Feb. 26, 2014, for a probation violation and failing to appear in court on a fourth degree assault charge.

Twelve days later, Jefferson tied a bed sheet to the window in her iso-

lation cell and hanged herself. She was 36 years old and the mother of six.

Three years later, on Aug. 9, 2017, police arrested Paula Jefferson for drunken driving and took her to the Whatcom County Jail.

The following day she was dead of apparent methadone intoxication. She was 48 and a mother of four.

Paula and Shannon Jefferson

were both Lummi tribal members. They were also cousins.

Their deaths in the Whatcom County Jail highlight two stark realities: Native Americans are disproportionately more likely to be in Northwest jails. As a result, they are also more likely to die in jail. While Native Americans make up less than 2% of the population in Washington and Oregon, they represent

more than 4.5% of jail deaths. That's according to an analysis of Northwest jail deaths by OPB, KUOW and the Northwest News Network.

A recent study on Washington jail deaths by Columbia Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm, concluded that Native Americans may also die at a higher rate in Washing-

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