

Fundraiser benefits Pendleton library



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Anna Oliver looks through a book with Warren (left) and Judah Oliver at the annual Pendleton Friends of the Library book sale at the Pendleton Convention Center on Friday afternoon. The sale, which offers more than 50,000 books, is the largest fundraiser held by the group and generates approximately \$14,000 for the library each year.

BRIEFLY

6 arrested in warrant sweep

U M A T I L L A COUNTY — The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office conducted a warrant sweep on Sept. 24, resulting in six arrests at four different locations of individuals violating parole or with outstanding warrants.

The sheriff’s office worked in conjunction with Umatilla County Parole and Probation, the Hermiston Police Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

“We’re really pleased with the cooperation we received from the Hermiston Police Department. It helps hold these people accountable. It’s important to bring them forward,” said UCSO Lt. Sterrin Holcomb.

Parole and Probation arrested Carrie Ann Olea, 39, of Hermiston, for a felony parole violation; Dustin Gene Sanders, 36, of Hermiston, for six felony charges, including unauthorized use of a vehicle; Tyler Wayne Jones, 33, of Irrigon, for violating a post-prison supervision sanction; Allen Rex Bohms, 34, of Hermiston, for a felony parole violation; Marisa Garcia, 26, of Hermiston, for two felony probation violations and one felony parole violation; and Logan Charles Wilson, 21, of Stanfield, for one felony count of failing to appear and one felony parole violation.

All six individuals are currently lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

Holcomb said that parole violations are not uncommon, and that the law enforcement agencies were able to work together to hit higher target areas.

“People on probation tend to congregate together,” she said.

One killed in crash outside Pendleton

PENDLETON — One person was killed and another seriously injured in a single-vehicle crash outside of Pendleton early Friday morning.

Brad Ashworth, 50, of Salt Lake City, was pronounced deceased and his passenger Carrie McCarthy, 32, of Judith Gap, Montana, was transported from the scene by air ambulance with serious injuries.

According to Oregon State Police, Ash-

worth was driving a green Ford Escape westbound on Interstate 84 near milepost 212 at Pendleton when his vehicle left the roadway for unknown reasons and rolled.

OSP responded about 2:35 a.m. and was assisted on the scene by Pendleton Police Department, Pendleton Fire Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

OSP has reported 25 deaths on state highways and interstates this month.

City announces open house for new fire station

PENDLETON — With the new Pendleton Fire Station No. 1 at 1455 S.E. Court Ave. complete and staff moved in, the city is ready to show it off at an open house Oct. 3.

According to a public notice, the fire station will host a barbecue lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m., and a series of presentations recapping the project will go from 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. or earlier.

As soon as the presentations are over, staff will lead tours of the station until 2:30 p.m. For those who can’t make the open house, the station will host another set of tours on Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City could change how it sets its goals

PENDLETON — At a meeting Tuesday, the members of the Pendleton City Council will consider officializing the process they use to make and meet goals.

The council approved its current goals — improving housing, infrastructure, land development, and economic development — in early 2017, using a process where a committee created a list of proposed goals and then had the public vote on their favorites.

What the council is considering is changing its rules to create a formal goal setting process that’s reviewed and conducted annually.

Under the proposed rules, the council would meet each summer after approving the city budget to review the city’s current goals, discuss obstacles to providing services with staff, and proposing goals for the following year.

After collecting public input, the council would finalize the goals and direct the city manager to create implementation strategies and recommend how they would be funded.

Before the next budget is passed, council members would meet again to consider the city’s funding options for the goals so they can integrate into the budget.

In addition to this new goal-setting process, the proposed rules would also require the council to evaluate the city manager on their ability to hit the benchmarks set by the goals.

The council meeting will be held Tuesday at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave.

— East Oregonian staff

EOU looks to Umatilla, Morrow counties for on-the-job learning

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Eastern Oregon University officials toured job sites around Umatilla and Morrow counties on Thursday as they search for new ways to partner with businesses in the region.

The university is bringing a new focus on “experiential learning,” with a hope that every student will graduate with hands-on experience in the business community through internships, job shadows, freelance work, research projects on behalf of businesses and more.

“As we’re looking at curriculum, we’re having an emphasis shift from what classes are you taking, to what skills are you learning,” said Edward Henninger, dean of EOU’s new college of business.

To have those opportunities for every student, the university will need to look beyond La Grande and into surrounding communities. Henninger and other officials gathered business leaders for a luncheon in Hermiston during their tour Thursday to solicit feedback on building those opportunities in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Several of those present on Thursday who work in Eastern Oregon are EOU alumni, including Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce Director Kimberly Nevil. But EOU President Tom Insko said when he asks seniors in April about their post-graduation plans, the most common thing he hears is that after graduation they plan to move to Boise,



Idaho or Seattle, and then begin looking for a job there.

He wants to see more students tell him they already have a job set up locally.

“Being an alum of EOU and having had it transform my life, for me it’s all about the students and how we can help them connect their educational experiences with business and community,” he said.

Now that the institution is on more solid financial footing, there are new initiatives it is turning its focus to.

Henninger was hired after the school split its business and education colleges this year and gave each its own dean. EOU is also adding a new major next year called Sustainable Rural Systems, which will help students gain an understanding of rural communities through projects and classes around subjects, such as environmental resources and rural economics.

EOU is starting the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center. The REV, as they’re calling it, will reach out to area communities and take ideas about how to better connect students to the local business community. Academic Vice President Tim Seydel said it will be a one-stop place where people interested in partnering with students can present their ideas and have EOU staff look into the logistics of making it a reality.

“Many times those things turn into jobs,” he said.

As an example of on-the-job learning, Greg Smith, who runs EOU’s Small Business Development Center, brought two student employees of the SBDC. The students’ jobs include tasks, such as helping local businesses set up a website and providing confidential assistance to people hoping to start a business for the first time.

C.J. Kindle and Patrick Collins, both seniors from Heppner, said they will graduate with experience putting together a professional business plan thanks to the job opportunity.

“I’ve learned a lot from my courses, but I’ve learned even more from this,” Kindle said.

Business and civic leaders at the luncheon Thursday urged EOU to actively advertise its need for internships and other job-site learning opportunities for their students. Insko said he wanted to also look for more opportunities to partner with Blue Mountain Community College, which already does a good job with offering experiential learning.

“How can we leverage what they do, for students who go on to a four-year degree?” he said.

Longtime hospital CEO to retire

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Dennis Burke announced Friday he is retiring as CEO of Good Shepherd Health Care System in 2020.

Burke spent 31 years at the helm of the Hermiston hospital. According to a news release, Good Shepherd grew from a hospital of 250 employees to a diverse health care system with more than 700 employees during his tenure.

“Dennis’ leadership has enabled GSHCS to thrive,” board chair Steve Eldridge said in a statement. “We have experienced very significant growth under his direction and improved quality of care.”

Eldridge said Burke helped put Good Shepherd on the “political map” through efforts with the Oregon Legislature and testifying before congressional committees about rural health care.

He has served on many boards and committees, including the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems board, OAHHS Small and Rural Hospital Committee, OAHHS Governance Committee and the Political Action Committee and the Critical Access Hospital Leadership Committee of the National Rural Health Association.

“His experience, expertise and passion for providing health care services to rural communities have made him a sought-after

speaker and panel member on rural health care issues,” Eldridge said.

During Burke’s time at Good Shepherd the hospital won a long list of awards. It was included in



the National Rural Health Association’s “Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in America” and *The Oregonian* listed GSHCS as one of the best workplaces in Oregon four times.

Burke will continue to serve as president and CEO of Good Shepherd as the board of trustees conducts a nationwide search for its next CEO.

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3D 2:20p* 9:20p
Rambo: Last Blood (R)
12:10p* 2:30p*
4:50p 7:10p 9:50p
Ad Astra (PG13)
1:10p* 4:00p 6:40p 9:30p
Downton Abbey (PG)
1:20p* 4:10p 6:50p 9:40p
It: Chapter 2 (R)
1:00p* 4:30p 8:00p
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2D 4:40p 7:00p
3D 9:20p
Rambo: Last Blood (R)
4:50p 7:10p
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