PUBLIC SAFETY

TUESDAY

5:13 a.m. — On Interstate 84 in Boardman, a vehicle struck a deceased deer. The vehicle was disabled on the side of the highway, but no injuries were incurred.

8:05 a.m. — Someone came to the Hermiston Police Department to report that people are living in a vehicle in a private alleyway behind the library back parking lot. The subjects are making noise at night.

9:08 a.m. — The Hermiston Police Department took a report of a storage unit on Kelli Boulevard that was burglarized. All items were reportedly stolen.

11:21 a.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office issued a citation to a driver following a single vehicle accident on I-84 westbound in Boardman. There were no injuries.

12:19 p.m. — The Oregon Department of Transportation reported to the Oregon State Police that road and weather equipment was stolen off of I-84 near mile marker 198.

4:57 p.m. — When dispatch returned an abandoned 911 call from Hermiston, a crying woman answered. She stated her name, and hung up the phone. Dispatch attempted to contact her twice more, to no avail.

6:46 p.m. — On Southeast Utah Avenue in Irrigon, a woman heard someone trying to kick in her back door while she was showering. She didn't see anyone, but there is a shoe print on the door. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office took a report for the incident.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

Tuesday

•The Boardman Police Department arrested Ryan Duwayne Payne, 40, on six charges, including two counts of fourth-degree assault, a Class C felony.

Wednesday

•The Umatilla Tribal Police Department arrested Hunter David McKay, 21, for domestic abuse, harassment and menacing.

MEETINGS

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 9 a.m., Irrigon Fire Department, 705 N.E. Main St., Irrigon. (Lisa Baum 541-922-3814)

HERMISTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 4 p.m., Hermiston Irrigation District office conference room, 366 E. Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-3024)

ECHO CITY COUNCIL, 4 p.m., Old VFW Hall, 210 W. Bridge St., Echo. (541-376-8411)

UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT, 5:15 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts boardroom, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. (Erin McCusker 541-276-6449)

PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Jutta Haliewicz 541-966-0240)

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

No meetings scheduled

MONDAY, NOV. 25

UMATILLA BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Michael T. Ward 541-276-2190)

MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT, 6 p.m., Pioneer Memorial Clinic conference room, 130 Thompson St., Heppner. Provider dinner at 6 p.m., board meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Tonia Adams 541-676-2942)

IRRIGON COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Irrigon Fire Station, 705 N. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall council chambers, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Elghth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

TUESDAY, NOV. 26

UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY HEAD START, 11:30 a.m., Head Start boardroom, 110 N.E. Fourth St., Hermiston. (Monina Ward 541-564-6878)

IONE SCHOOL DISTRICT, 3:30 p.m., Ione Community School, 445 Spring St., Ione. 3:30 p.m. work session, 4:30 p.m. regular meeting. (Kim Thul 541-422-7131)

UMATILLA PLANNING COMMISSION, 6:30 p.m., Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St., Umatilla. (Brandon Seitz 541-922-3226 ext. 103)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (Roberta Lutcher 541-676-9061)

HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD, 4 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge.Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services.

Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at EastOregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

LOTTERY

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019

Mega Millions
22-43-44-47-66
Mega Ball: 22
Megaplier: 3
Estimated jackpot: $192 million

Lucky Lines
01-08-09-14-17-22-25-30
Estimated jackpot: $16,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 1-2-1-4
4 p.m.: 9-9-1-8
7 p.m.: 1-0-0-4
10 p.m.: 4-6-2-2

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 9-3-2-5

OBITUARY

Eunice Irene Smither

Milton-Freewater
October 31, 1927 — November 11, 2019

Eunice Irene Smither, of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, died on November 11, 2019, at the age of 92.

Smither

Eunice was born October 31, 1927, to J.R. and Pairlee Garner in Thiel, Arkansas, where she attended school through the eighth grade.

On February 1, 1947 Eunice married Thomas Smither in Malvern, Arkansas. Shortly after they moved to the Walla Walla/Milton-Freewater area where they raised their four children.

Eunice worked for many years at Martin Archery, where she retired.

Eunice loved spending time with her family and enjoyed being a grandma and great-grandma. She loved to have her children and grandchildren over after church service on Sundays for family lunch.

Eunice was known to be a godly woman who would pray for everyone. She enjoyed volunteering at her church, Valley Christian Center.

Eunice is preceded in death by her parents, husband and all four children, Elaine McGill, Kenneth Smither, Cindi Smither-Vasquez and Lorri Smither, and her brother Lowell Garner. She is survived by her brother Eugene Garner of Augusta, Ga.; sisters Fay Wyckoff of Pasco, Wash., and Jeanette Strech of Mission Viejo, Calif.; sons-in-law Roy McGill Sr. of Weston, Ore., and Manny Vasquez of Vancouver, Wash.; grandchildren Jenny (Steve) Luther, Roy Jr. (Melissa) McGill, Troy (Tammy) McGill and Lonnie Smither; great-grandchildren Matt (Bobbie) McGill, Sierra (Aiden) Pringle, Brittany McGill, Kelen McGill, Sawyer Luther, Adrien McGill, Taylor McGill, Kyle McGill, Gracie Smither and Amanda Kidd; and great-great-grandchildren Lane, Rylee and Haylee McGill, and Everett Pringle.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2019, at 1 p.m. at Valley Christian Center, 800 N. Main Street, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

Memorial contributions can be made to Walla Walla Community Hospice through Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

To leave a online condolence visit www.munsellerhodes.com.

DEATH NOTICES

David Hagewood

Pendleton
Nov. 29, 1927 — Nov. 19, 2019

David Hagewood, 91, of Pendleton, died Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at his home. He was born Nov. 29, 1927, in Nashville, Tennessee. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 1:30 p.m. at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at www.burnsmortuary.com.

Robert Ray 'Bob' Miller

Irrigon
June 20, 1938 — Nov. 16, 2019

Robert Ray "Bob" Miller, 81, of Irrigon, died Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019, at his home. He was born June 20, 1938, in Riverside, California. At his request, no services will be held. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

UPCOMING SERVICES

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

TANNER, BUD — Recitation of the rosary at 7 p.m. at Burns Mortuary, 336 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

ASHBECK, EMERY — Celebration of life service from 2-4 p.m. at Maxwell Event Center, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston.

CARLSON, LOUIS — Celebration of life at 4 p.m. at the Ione American Legion Hall, 325 W. Second St. Bring a salad or side dish to share, if you wish.

MCHENRY, BILL — Celebration of life from 4:30-6 p.m. at Pendleton Sanitary Service, 5500 N.W. Rieth Road, Pendleton.

TANNER, BUD — Funeral mass at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 800 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

Apple sleuths hunt for varieties believed extinct

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

Ted S. Warren

In this Oct. 28, 2019, photo, amateur botanist David Benscoter, of The Lost Apple Project, picks an apple that may be of the Clarke variety in an orchard near Pullman, Wash.

PULLMAN, Wash. — The apple tree stands alone near the top of a steep hill, wind whipping through its branches as a perfect sunset paints its leaves a vibrant gold.

It has been there for more than a century, and there is no hint that the tree or its apples are anything out of the ordinary. But this scraggly specimen produces the Arkansas Beauty, a so-called heritage fruit long believed to be extinct until amateur botanists in the Pacific Northwest tracked it down three years ago.

It's one of 13 long-lost apple varieties rediscovered by a pair of retirees in the remote canyons, windswept fields and hidden ravines of what was once the Oregon Territory.

E.J. Brandt and David Benscoter, who together form the nonprofit Lost Apple Project, log countless hours and hundreds of miles in trucks, on all-terrain vehicles and on foot to find orchards planted by settlers as they pushed west more than a century ago.

The two are racing against time to preserve a slice of homesteader history: The apple trees are old, and many are dying. Others are being ripped out for more wheat fields or housing developments for a growing population.

"To me, this area is a goldmine," said Brandt, who has found two lost varieties in the Idaho panhandle. "I don't want it lost in time. I want to give back to the people so that they can enjoy what our forefathers did."

Brandt and Benscoter scour old county fair records, newspaper clippings and nursery sales ledgers to figure out which varieties existed in the area. Then they hunt them down, matching written records with old property maps, land deeds and sometimes the memories of the pioneers' great-grandchildren. They also get leads from people who live near old orchards.

The task is huge. North America once had 17,000 named varieties of domesticated apples, but only about 4,000 remain. The Lost Apple Project believes settlers planted a few hundred varieties in their corner of the Pacific Northwest alone.

The Homestead Act of 1862 gave 160 acres to families who would improve the land and pay a small fee, and these newcomers planted orchards with enough variety to get them through the long winter, with apples that ripened from early spring until the first frosts. Then, as now, trees planted for eating apples were not raised from seeds; cuttings taken from existing trees were grafted onto a generic root stock and raised to maturity. These cloned trees remove the genetic variation that often makes "wild" apples inedible — so-called "spitters."

Benscoter, who retired in 2006 after a career as an FBI agent and an IRS criminal investigator, pursues leads on lost apples with the same zeal he applied to his criminal cases.

In one instance, he found county fair records that listed winners for every apple variety growing in Whitman County, Washington, from 1900 to 1910 — an invaluable treasure map. In another, he located a descendant of a homesteader with a gigantic orchard by finding a family history she posted online.

Once he discovers a forgotten orchard, Benscoter spends hours mapping it. He has pages of diagrams with a tiny circle denoting each tree, with GPS coordinates alongside each dot. A lengthy computer database lists apples, including the Shackleford, the Flushing Spitzenburg and the Dickinson — all varieties rediscovered by the project.

Apples from newly discovered trees are placed in a Ziploc baggie and carefully labeled with the tree's latitude and longitude and the date the fruit was collected. The apples are then shipped to the Temperate Orchard Conservancy more than 400 miles away in Molalla for identification.

There, experts work to identify them using a trove of U.S. Agriculture Department watercolors and old textbooks. Once a variety is identified as "lost," the apple detectives return to the field to take cuttings that can be grafted onto root stock and planted in the conservancy's vast orchard, to be preserved for future generations.

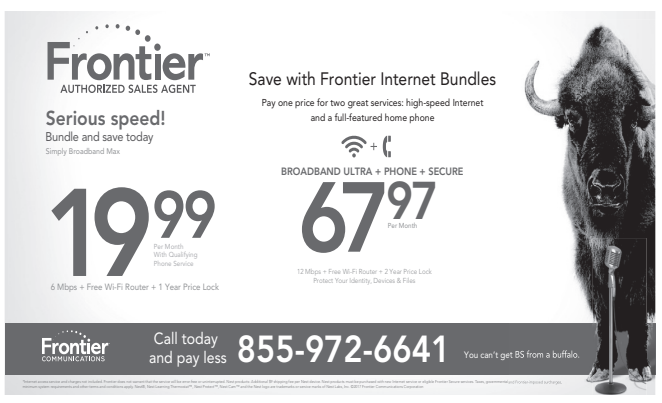
The trees could eventually boost genetic diversity among modern-day apple crops as climate change and disease take an increasing toll, said Joanie Cooper, a botanist at the Temperate Orchard Conservancy who's helped identify many of the lost varieties found in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington.

She and two others founded the nonprofit conservancy in 2011, and operate it on a shoestring, after recognizing the need for a repository for rare fruit trees in the U.S. West.

"You have to have varieties that can last, that can grow, produce fruit, survive the heat and maybe survive the cold winter, depending on where you are," Cooper said. "I think that's critical."

For Benscoter and Brandt, however, the biggest joy comes in the hunt.

Brandt, a Vietnam veteran and passionate historian, last year found a homestead near Troy, Idaho, by matching names on receipts from a nursery ledger with old property maps. Three wind-bent apple trees neatly spaced along the edge of a wheat field were all that remained of the orchard.

Brandt collected the apples, hoping one was the Enormous Pippin, a lost variety he saw listed in the sales ledger.

Months later, he learned he had instead found the Regmalard, a yellowish apple with vibrant red splashes on its speckled skin. It hadn't even been on his radar.