New book highlights the history of Umatilla County

By BEN LONERGAN
East Oregonian

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Cindy Williams, left, Alivia Fine and Karen Newman flip through copies of "Umatilla County Memories" during the book launch at the Heritage Station Museum on Saturday afternoon.

PENDLETON — The *East Oregonian*, in conjunction with the Umatilla County Historical Society released a new hardcover pictorial history book entitled *"Umatilla County Memories: A Pictorial History of the mid-1800s through 1939"* on Saturday morning at the Heritage Station Museum in Pendleton.

The book is comprised of scanned images from private collections, museums, the Library of Congress and aims to explore an era from which images are not as readily available. The *East Oregonian* published the book in partnership with The Pediment Group, a printing company based in Battle Ground, Washington, specializing in pictorial history books.

EO Media Group Regional Publisher Chris Rush said the goal of the book was to provide a pre-World War II look at Umatilla County. He said the era is one that people don't usually see pictures from because often the pictures are in private collections or lost.

"We wanted all areas of the county to be covered as best as possible," he said. "I think it gives a lot of pride to folks in this community."

Rush said community support was integral in bringing the book together and that input and outreach from the Umatilla County Historical Society and Tamástslikt Cultural Institute were key in properly representing the county.

"As we acquired photos and curated the book we wanted to make sure that the tribes were well represented in every facet of the book," Rush said. "We wanted to recognize that they had been here for hundreds of years before white settlers."

The Umatilla County Historical Society offered up its collection of thousands of historical images for the book. Kari Brooks, the executive director of the historical society, said that to her the book was about keeping history alive.

"This goes along well with our mission of preserving, collecting and telling the story of Umatilla County," she said. "We want to tell what happened in the past and how it came to be."

Wayne Low was another key contributor to the book by offering up his collection of images from the early days of Umatilla County. Low's collection was compiled over decades of collecting images and postcards.

"I started off going to the expos in Portland and that's where I started finding some of the really good stuff," he said. "You could buy one of those photos for $1 or $2."

Low said it was difficult to pick a favorite image in the book, however he felt those involving agriculture and the history of farming best represented Umatilla County.

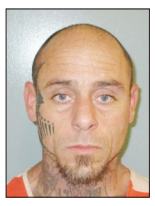
Several people wandering through the Heritage Station Museum on Saturday took the opportunity to browse through or purchase copies of the book. Alivia Fine browsed through the book as an opportunity to see what the county was like long before she was born.

"I think that it's really cool because it shows our heritage and how things used to be," said Fine.

Hermiston man indicted on kidnapping charges

Jeremy Jeppeson indicted on eight charges after Nov. 18 arrest

East Oregonian



Jeppeson

UMATILLA COUNTY — A 42-year-old Hermiston man was arrested by deputies from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office after police say he allegedly kidnapped a woman and held her captive for three days.

Jeremy Jeppeson was indicted on eight charges Thursday after police responded Nov. 17 to a report of an escaped kidnapping victim at the Short Stop gas station, 32553 East Punkin Center Road, Hermiston.

The 32-year-old woman from Washington reported that Jeppeson, her ex-boyfriend, had kidnapped her in Pendleton following an argument at a residence when she attempted to leave. Jeppeson dragged her back into the residence by her hair.

For the next three days, he kept her living in a tan Ford Windstar van on back roads between Hermiston and Pendleton. He refused to let her out of his sight, and threatened to kill her when she tried to escape.

She was able to escape when Jeppeson pulled the van into the Short Stop. Police said she ran to the store for help and employees called the sheriff's office.

The Pendleton Police Department located the vehicle in Pendleton on Nov. 18 and arrested Jeppeson on a detention warrant issued by his probation officer in Hood River County.

Further investigation into the case resulted in additional charges while Jeppeson was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail. He is now facing felony charges constituting domestic violence for second-degree attempted kidnapping, coercion and strangulation as well as misdemeanor charges for disorderly conduct and domestic violence-related menacing and assault.

Jeppeson's probable cause preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 27. According to court records he also has a plea hearing on Dec. 13 for an open case relating to unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in Sherman County.

BRIEFLY

Milton-Freewater area home badly damaged by blaze

MILTON-FREEWATER — A vacant house just south of Milton-Freewater was badly damaged Friday night by a fire.

The home at the corner of Couse Creek and Walla Walla River roads was reported to be on fire just before 10 p.m. Friday, according to information from Milton-Freewater Rural Fire and Ambulance.

The home was reportedly fully engulfed by the blaze with flames shooting out of the roof when firefighters arrived, but they managed to bring it under control quickly.

There were no injuries, according to the fire department, and the cause is under investigation.

Umatilla National Forest firewood season ends

PENDLETON — Personal-use firewood cutting on the Umatilla National Forest will end Saturday and firewood permits will not be available again until May 2020.

The public is asked to take additional precautions when cutting firewood late in the fall when road and soil conditions become slick, soggy and saturated. Firewood cutters should be prepared for winter weather conditions. Mountain travel will require extreme care to avoid getting stuck in the mud or snow and causing resource damage to the land and vegetation.

Another concern for late season firewood cutting is the misidentification of live or dead western larch, a prized firewood also known as tamarack. Larch needles turn yellow and fall off at the end of the growing season, which can cause the tree to appear dead when in fact it is only dormant. Tips on identifying live larch are located in the firewood guide that accompanies each firewood permit.

Firewood permits can be purchased at any Umatilla National Forest office or at several local businesses. Permits cost $5 per cord with a minimum purchase of four cords for $20. A maximum purchase of 12 cords total, per household, is allowed from National Forest lands during the calendar year..

— EO Media Group

Snow, wind, and cold temps in Thanksgiving week forecast

Parts of Blue Mountains could get as much as 6 to 8 inches of snow

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Snow is likely coming to Eastern Oregon, but those hoping for a White Thanksgiving might be a little disappointed.

Although the National Weather Service forecast parts of the Blue Mountains like Tollgate to get pelted with as much as 6 to 8 inches of snow, population centers in Umatilla and Morrow County like Pendleton, Hermiston, and Boardman aren't expected to receive more than an inch of snow.

Weather service forecaster Marilyn Lohmann said lower elevations should expect intermittent snow showers through Wednesday, but the light snow should peter out by Thanksgiving as the region begins to dry out.

Some of that snow could be accompanied by strong winds Tuesday night going into Wednesday.

The weather service is predicting that maximum wind gusts could top out at 28 miles per hour in Pendleton and 30 in Boardman.

Despite the combination of high winds and snow, Lohmann said the weather won't reach blizzard status unless snow is met with sustained winds of 40 miles per hour.

Although the snow is supposed to stop and the wind should die down, that doesn't mean the region will get a respite from the early winter weather.

According to the weather service, especially cold temperatures are supposed to set in on Thanksgiving and persist through the weekend.

In Pendleton, the Thanksgiving high is forecast at 25 degrees while the low is 10. The low is forecast to fall further to 6 degrees on Friday, before temperatures make a modest rally over the weekend.

Hermiston will be comparatively warmer, with the 35-degree high on Thursday inching above freezing before falling to 15 degrees low in the evening.

Lohmann said the region's highs and lows were about 15 degrees below the average temperature.

While people who stay in-town this Thanksgiving shouldn't have too much trouble getting around, Lohmann said the snow and wind could create problems for travelers looking to visit family and friends in the Blue Mountains or Central Oregon ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving travel is also expected to be an issue statewide.

According to Oregon Public Broadcasting, AAA Oregon estimates more than 55 million Americans will be traveling for Thanksgiving in 2019, a 14-year high that includes 750,000 Oregonians.

INRIX, an organization that partnered with AAA Oregon to analyze traffic patterns, found the worst traffic congestion will occur on Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Some major highways and freeways will experience travel delays of up to four times as long as a trip on a normal Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon," Marie Dodds, director of government and public affairs for AAA Oregon-Idaho, told OPB.

Although the snow is just beginning, local drivers are already starting to feel the effects of less-than-ideal driving conditions.

Oregon State Police included mentions of freezing fog or icy roads in four traffic collision reports from Friday and Saturday.

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Cineplex Show Times
$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday @ 12p
Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Frozen 2 (PG)
2D 4:40p 7:10p 9:40p
3D 4:00p
Ford v Ferrari (PG13)
3:30p* 6:40p 9:50p
Charlie's Angels (PG13)
4:10p 6:50p 9:30p
Midway (PG13)
3:20p* 6:20p 9:20p
Doctor Sleep (R)
6:30p 9:40p
* Matinee Pricing
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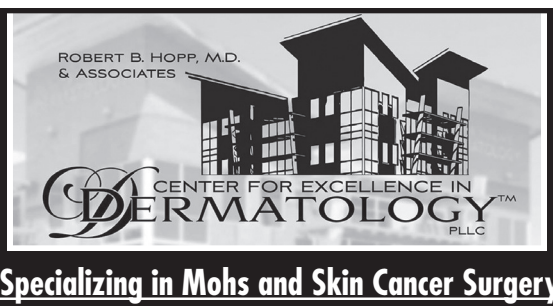

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