

Connecting incarcerated parents with their kids

By JAKE THOMAS
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — For Irvin Hines, visits from his kids can be stressful.

The father of three kids ages 5, 14 and 21, Hines is currently in custody at Columbia River Correctional Institution in Portland. He described the thin mat he and his young son had to sit on in a corner of the facility’s cafeteria and how the hard edges of the tables seemed designed for high-energy kids to bang their heads into.

He said mothers aren’t eager to take their children to see a parent behind bars and are often agitated by regulations over what they can wear during visits. Hines said the uninviting environment makes it more difficult for parents to maintain a connection with their children while incarcerated.

He said there were times he almost wished his young son didn’t come. But he said that playing a role in his kid’s life is important to him.

“I want to spend some time teaching him some lessons maybe I didn’t get taught,” he said.

A new initiative unveiled last week seeks to help parents like Hines overcome barriers to staying connected with their kids.



Irvin Hines, a father of three who is incarcerated at the Columbia River Correctional Institution in Portland, stands in the visitation area where kids see their parents. The area is about to get a makeover under a new initiative.

In recent years, the Department of Corrections has sought to humanize and rehabilitate the over 14,400 adults incarcerated in state prisons. An estimated 80% of incarcerated women and 65% of incarcerated men have children. Research shows that having an incarcerated parent has a negative effect on a child’s well-being.

The initiative, called

“Know Me Now,” was launched by Portland-based nonprofit The Contingent, formerly the Portland Leadership Foundation, along with the Oregon Department of Corrections at an event at the Columbia River Correctional Institution.

The initiative, which will roll out in 2020, will have a focus on kids in foster care and will start out with help-

ing with transportation to visits to seven prisons within a 60-mile radius of Portland.

Hosheman Brown, the program’s director, said that Know Me Now will seek to renovate prisons, at no cost to taxpayers, to improve the “connection, dignity and safety” of children and their incarcerated parents. The program will begin with the Columbia River Correctional

Institution and will expand to others.

Brooke Gray, executive director of mobilizing community for The Contingent, said the renovations could include things like new paint and furniture, as well as activities and toys. She said the new visitation rooms will be built with input and help from community groups and businesses.

Speaking after the event, Gray said that often visitation rooms are austere settings with just a thin mat on the floor and a box of aging toys. As part of the initiative volunteers will put together boxes for kids visiting a parent in prison that’ll include toys, books, snacks and activities. She believes the program will also generate more community support for incarcerated parents after they’re released.

She said prisoners are usually given a black bag full of their items after being released. The initiative will recruit volunteers to put together duffel bags for released prisoners that’ll include gift cards, ID applications, resource guides and other items.

Felicia Tripp-Folsom, executive director of multicultural leadership at The Contingent, said the initiative will also seek volunteers

that will help formerly incarcerated individuals navigate life once released.

“What we found is that, yes, having a job and housing and all those things are wonderful,” she said. But she added that having a community network is just as critical.

Ben Sand, CEO of The Contingent, said Santiam Correctional Institute in Salem will be one of the first to have its visitation spaces renovated. The initiative will also include mentoring services for kids with incarcerated parents that will begin in Portland-area and be expanded to the rest of the state. One of the goals will be ensuring that kids with incarcerated parents have regular visits.

Over 90% of Oregon’s individuals in custody will be released at some point. Hines said it makes sense to try to “get a better product that goes back into the community.” Hines said he’s been in and out of prison for involvement in drugs and gangs and wants to stay out after he’s released later this year. He said his young son gives him a reason.

“Every day that I wake up, I try to do something different than yesterday, because of him,” he said. “That motivates me.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Cloudy and not as cool

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy and mild

SATURDAY

A morning shower; cloudy

SUNDAY

Clouds giving way to some sun

MONDAY

An afternoon shower

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
54°	44°	55°	39°	52°
44°		45°		38°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
51°	44°	57°	38°	51°
44°		44°		36°

OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	45°	40°
Normals	42°	28°
Records	67° (1897)	-26° (1930)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.16"
Month to date	1.06"
Normal month to date	1.07"
Year to date	1.06"
Last year to date	2.07"
Normal year to date	1.07"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	47°	32°
Normals	43°	29°
Records	64° (1968)	-33° (1930)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.01"
Month to date	0.14"
Normal month to date	0.92"
Year to date	0.14"
Last year to date	1.53"
Normal year to date	0.92"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SSW 4-8	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	S 7-14	WSW 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:27 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:48 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:49 a.m.
Moonset today	3:41 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Jan 24

Feb 1

Feb 8

Feb 15

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 78° in Weslaco, Texas Low -4° in Stanley, Idaho

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

-10s

-0s

0s

10s

20s

30s

40s

50s

60s

70s

80s

90s

100s

110s

showers

t-storms

rain

flurries

snow

ice

cold front

warm front

stationary front

high

low

County commissioners appoint Mark Owens to replace Findley

EO Media Group

ONTARIO — Commissioners from Baker, Harney, Grant, Malheur and Lake counties voted unanimously today to appoint Mark Owens, a Harney County farmer, to replace Lynn Findley as representative for Oregon House District 60.

Findley, a Republican from Vale, was appointed earlier this month to replace Cliff Bentz in state Senate District 30.

Bentz resigned to run full time for Greg Walden’s seat in Congress.

“I am thankful and humbled today to have been appointed to serve as the next state representative for House District 60,” Owens said in a press release. “I



Owens

look forward to serving the communities and being a voice for Eastern Oregon in Salem.”

There were two other candidates for House District 60 — Tom Van Diepen of Baker City, and Tim Smith of Burns.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said neither was present when commissioners voted Tuesday in Ontario.

Owens, a Harney County commissioner, filed Nov. 4, 2019, as a candidate for the House District 60 Republican primary in May.

He will be sworn in later this month. The Oregon Leg-

islature convenes Feb. 3 in Salem.

“At the state level, there is a lot of work to be done to protect our way of life in Eastern Oregon and to provide a better path for future generations of Oregonians,” Owens said. “We need to make sustainable natural resources a top priority. Our kids deserve stronger schools and greater opportunities for their career paths. Families need financial stability instead of living paycheck to paycheck and having to worry about the next tax increase coming our way from Salem.

“Most importantly, my top priority and my No. 1 job will be to listen, learn and represent the constituents in Eastern Oregon.”

Madras man struck by vehicle on Highway 97

MADRAS — A 55-year-old Madras man was injured Monday after being struck by a white 1997 Buick on U.S. Highway 97 in Madras, according to police.

Madras Police said the man, whose identity was not released, was dressed in dark clothing and walking with two other men to the Madras Warming Shelter when he ran across the road in front of oncoming cars.

Police and Jefferson County EMS responded at about 6 p.m. and found the Buick had two occupants, whose identities have also not been released.

The driver said he was traveling north when he saw a man walking on the east side of the road, and then saw another person run into the road in front of him.

That person running was the one who was struck, according to police.

EMS transported the injured pedestrian to St. Charles Madras, where he remained in critical but stable condition as of Tuesday afternoon.

The two men who were walking with the struck pedestrian told police they did not think it was safe for him to walk across the street.

One of the men told police he could not believe “he just walked right out in front of them.”

Police believe the pedestrian may have had alcohol in his system at the time.

The driver of the Buick is cooperating with the investigation, police said.

Parking lot shooting in Bend leads to arrest

BEND — A man was arrested after allegedly shooting a Redmond man Monday night in his car in a parking lot in Bend.

Around 10:15 p.m., Bend Police received a call from William McBride, who said he and his friend, Loryn Hubbard, of Bend, were sitting in his vehicle when a man, who they didn’t know, approached them.

Police say the man, later identified as Vicente Guerra, displayed a gun and shot McBride, 21, striking him while he was in the driver’s seat. McBride and Hubbard drove away from the area and called 911.

McBride was not hospitalized, as his injury from the gunshot was nonlife-threatening, according to Bend Police Lt. Juli McConkey.

Several officers, a police dog and a drone searched for Guerra for about two hours before Guerra, a 43-year-old transient, was found near the Towne Pump Station, police said.

Guerra is charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault, first-degree robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, and second-degree disorderly conduct and criminal mischief.

— EO Media Group

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