



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Washington Elementary School fourth grade students raise their hands and shout "tentacles" during a dissection lesson on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

## Pendleton elementary students dissect squid

Students get hands-on to examine cephalopods

By BEN LONERGAN  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The fourth grade students at Washington Elementary School donned goggles, gloves and plastic aprons, in addition to the now usual masks, and headed outside to rows of squid dissection stations set up adjacent to the school on Tuesday, April 20.

The group of excited students found their way to their stations as fourth grade teacher Hunter Erwin began to give instructions to the classes.

Before leading off the dissection he offered a reminder to students that the squid they were about to dissect were once living creatures and to treat them with respect.

"Treat them with respect," he said. "We have these to provide an opportunity to learn."

Students began to reach for their tools as the first instruction was given — to



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Washington Elementary School student Rosalie Siegmund carefully inspects her squid during a squid dissection conducted by fourth grade students in Pendleton on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

remove a tentacle from the squid and inspect its sucker cups under a magnifying glass.

"I think it's really cool," said student Griffin Hillenbrand as he peered through the magnifier at the small sucker cups that adorned the squid's tentacles.

Fourth grade teacher Garth McCaleb said the students had spent the last two weeks learning about the internal and external struc-

tures that make up plants and animals, and were excited to be able to use those lessons in real life.

McCaleb added that in a traditional year students would be paired into groups of two or three and share a squid in each group. However, additional supplies provided by the InterMountain Education Service District allowed each student to dissect their own squid.

"We were able to get a

squid for every student this year," he said.

Students followed along with a list of instructions, taking care to identify the various structures that make up the squid, carefully cutting back the mantle and removing internal structures for closer examination.

"It's kind of weird, but I like it," said student Cheyenne Loomis before comparing her squid to those of her fellow lab partners.

While reactions to the process varied slightly, there was a buzz of excitement in the air as students called out parts they discovered and small groups compared their squid. In addition to identifying structures, such as the beak and eyes, students identified the gender of their squid by looking for eggs within the animal's mantle.

A highlight of the dissection for many students was finding the squid's ink sac and using the ink to write and draw on paper.

Throughout the process instructional staff circulated between groups answering questions and helping students find various structures if they were unable to.

"It's very cool," said Dreux Hall, a student. "It's a little icky, but really cool."

## UEC incumbents hold onto seats

Bryan Wolfe holds off District 3 challengers, Phil Hamm wins uncontested



Hamm

Wolfe

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Both incumbents up for reelection for Umatilla Electric Cooperative's board of directors kept their seats.

Bryan Wolfe will continue to represent District 3 and Phil Hamm will continue to represent District 4. Hamm had no challengers, while Lee Carlson, Patricia Maier and Danice McBee were unsuccessful in running against Wolfe. Members also approved a proposed update to UEC's bylaws, which had not been updated to reflect current state and federal laws since 2008.

Results of the election, which was conducted by mail by the cooperative's 10,700 members, were announced during UEC's annual members meeting on Saturday, April 17.

According to a news release, 280 members and guests watched the livestreamed virtual event. The annual report released at the event states that UEC's kilowatt-hour power sales were up by 24% in 2020, as the utility delivered 3.8 billion kilowatt hours.

While UEC's growth in recent years has been mostly driven by industrial customers, the 2020 report shows growth between 2019 and 2020 was relatively equal across industrial, commercial, residential and irrigation customers, with the

largest increase in revenue coming through irrigation.

During the pandemic, according to the report, UEC returned a combined \$7.6 million in Capital Credits refunds to members in 2020, in addition to providing utility bill relief to members affected financially by the pandemic, and providing \$800,000 in rebates and low-interest loans for energy-saving upgrades for customers. UEC also created the Business Resource Center in April 2020 to provide free assistance to area businesses working to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program and other grants.

The report referenced several severe weather challenges for UEC as well, including the February 2020 flood and two major windstorms.

"During the year, our crews and operations staff faced historic weather events, making for long hours and dangerous working conditions," a joint statement by Wolfe and CEO Robert Echenrode said in the annual report. "Through all, our employees have worked safely and efficiently and gone above and beyond to help our communities."

"None of us could have imagined how the coronavirus would have changed the world and our way of life. The year proved how deep the community spirit runs in Eastern Oregon."

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### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### Cop recognized for house fire response

UMATILLA — A Umatilla police officer was recognized by city officials in a Tuesday, April 20, meeting for his "valor and professional actions under potential deadly circumstances" during a house fire on April 3, according to a press release.

Cotter Butler rescued an elderly resident during the fire without hesitation, the press release said, kicking in the front door and entering the house as it was engulfed in flames before the fire department arrived.

Butler then alerted neighbors to evacuate their homes as well, the press release said.

Umatilla Fire Chief Steve Potts commended Butler's actions, which "made an immense difference in the successful outcome of the traumatic incident for not only the resident of the home and nearby residences, but by also allowing the fire department to focus on the fire rather than to engage in a rescue operation," the press release said.

#### Traffic stop leads to drug, weapons charges

BAKER CITY — Three people, including a Boardman man, were arrested on a variety of drug and weapons charges early on Sunday, April 18, in Baker City after an Oregon State Police trooper stopped their car because the front passenger was not wearing a seat belt.

According to a report from Trooper Dakotah Keys, he stopped the vehicle about 1:16 a.m. in Baker City.

The front passenger, Jefferson Eli Cole Sharp, 26, of La Grande, had two arrest warrants, for second-degree theft in Baker County Justice Court, and for probation violation from Union County Circuit Court.

Keys wrote in his report



Sharp



Torres

that Sharp also "verbally provided false information."

While searching Sharp, Keys found two unlawfully concealed handguns, more than two grams of methamphetamine, in excess of the amount that constitutes a violation rather than a crime under a new state law, and "suspected fentanyl," a painkiller.

Keys wrote that the rear passenger, Taylor Gordon Morris, 29, of La Grande, consented to a search, which yielded a weapon that Morris, a convicted felon, is not allowed to have, and a criminal amount of methamphetamine.

Keys searched the vehicle and found a semi-automatic rifle, a Taser, a criminal amount of heroin and "additional items of drug paraphernalia."

The driver, Francisco Garcia Torres, 38, of Boardman, who's also a convicted felon, was arrested on charges of illegal possession of a firearm and another weapon, and possession of 1 gram or more of heroin.

Morris was cited and released.

Torres and Sharp were both taken to the Baker County Jail.

#### PSD selects new high school principal

PENDLETON — Pendleton High School will soon have a new principal.

The Pendleton School District School Board has selected Patrick "Pat" Dutcher as the school's new leader. Dutcher's contract begins on July 1. Dutcher will replace current PHS Principal Melissa Sandven, who resigned effective

June 30 earlier in the year.

"Mr. Dutcher possesses the qualities we were looking for in our next principal, high integrity, instructional leader, student-centered and a great communicator," said Superintendent Chris Fritsch. "Finding someone with knowledge and understanding of our area was also important to the selection committee."

Dutcher is currently the principal of EDGE High School in the Salem-Keizer School District. Prior to that, he served as the curriculum principal at West Salem High School.

Dutcher started his career as a special education teacher, serving in both the Scio and Salem-Keizer districts. In 2015, he was selected as the principal of Scio High School, a position he held for three years before moving to West Salem High School.

Dutcher earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Eastern Oregon University, a master's degree in education from the University of Phoenix and his administrative credential from Portland State University.

— EO Media Group

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**Raya and the Last Dragon (PG)**  
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