

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Los Rocosos Vineyards opens for tastings

MILTON-FREEWATER — The opening of the tasting room at Los Rocosos Vineyards was originally scheduled for the spring of 2020, but was postponed because of the global pandemic.

Owner Roger Lemstrom said the unexpected delay was a boon to the vineyard. It allowed for the bottling of several new varietals, bringing the total to nine offerings for 2021. Lemstrom, who recently opened up to drop-in guests, handles tastings and sales.

Los Rocosos has tastings Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 84038 Eastside Road, Milton-Freewater. Other times and special events can be coordinated by appointment. Los Rocosos Vineyards also plans on installing a charging station for electric vehicles.

Lemstrom said the Los Rocosos Vineyards' setup is possibly the smallest tasting room in the Walla Walla Valley. However, it's at the vineyard where guests can observe the progression of grapes throughout the growing season. The small interior space features custom wood throughout and art from local artists on the walls. The covered patio area has several seating areas, a fire pit, plants and space for musicians. It's also dog friendly.

The estate and reserve offerings include a GSM, a grenache/syrah/grenache blanc co-ferment, mourvedre, a merlot, a malbec, a sangiovese red and a sangiovese rosé. All grapes are sustainably grown without herbicides and pesticides, and are hand harvested.

Los Rocosos produces less than 1,000 cases per year. Purchases can be made at the tasting room; at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton; or online at [www.losrocosos.com](http://www.losrocosos.com).

For more information, call Lemstrom at 541-306-1290.

Pendleton library director chosen for fellowship

PENDLETON — Jennifer Costley, the Pendleton Public Library director, is one of 22 librarians chosen to participate in the Berea College Rural Library Fellowship, a 24-month initiative aimed at increasing the outcomes of third grade reading scores in rural communities.



Costley

There is no shortage of studies demonstrating that reading at grade level by the end of third grade is a critical milestone. Failing to meet that milestone results in decreased opportunities to attend college, an increased probability of failing to graduate high school, and a lower income potential in the future. Perhaps the most disturbing statistic is that, according to the National Adult Literacy Survey, 70% of all incarcerated adults cannot read at a fourth grade level.

Libraries recognize this is a problem they are uniquely equipped to help solve, and as a result the Rural Library Fellowship has been piloted on a small scale, and is now ready to launch nationally. The two-year project will begin with a year of education, extensive training, peer-to-peer engagement and coaching for Costley.

At the completion of year one, the 22 library fellows will move into the action portion of the fellowship, connecting with schools, local government and neighboring libraries to ensure that they work collaboratively in an effort to improve third grade reading scores.

A grant from the Institute of Library and Museum Services and Save the Chil-



Roger Lemstrom/Contributed Photo

Milton-Freewater's Los Rocosos Vineyards, in the Rocks District, recently opened its tasting room, which includes indoor and outdoor venues.

dren funds the inaugural fellowship.

For Costley this is an opportunity to make an impact on a national scale while ensuring that Pendleton students are the first to see this work in action. For more information, contact Costley at [jennifer.costley@ci.pendleton.or.us](mailto:jennifer.costley@ci.pendleton.or.us) or 541-966-0386.

Dad's Cake Bake walks on the wild side

HERMISTON — West Park Elementary School will host its annual Dad's Cake Bake and Auction on Monday, June 7, from 6-7 p.m. at the school, 555 S.W. Seventh St.

All dads, uncles, grandfathers and male neighbors and family friends are encouraged to bake a cake with the theme of "Walk on the Wild Side" and deliver it to the gym for judging by 5:30 p.m. Ribbons will be awarded for Most Humorous Cake; Most Original Cake; Best Theme; Most Elaborate Cake; and five honorable mention cakes. A silent auction from 6-6:45 p.m. will award the cakes to the highest bidders.

To attend the silent auction virtually, visit West Park's Facebook page for DIY Cake Kits.

All proceeds benefit the West Park Elementary parent-teacher organization.

For more information, contact Christy Meyers at 541-667-6800, ext. 44002, or email [christinemeyers@hermistonso.org](mailto:christinemeyers@hermistonso.org).

BEO Bancorp promotes employees

HEPPNER — The Bank of Eastern Oregon recently promoted six employees into vice president roles.

Cindy Bailey, internal audit manager and CRA officer at the Wallowa branch, Jeannine Miller, BEO project manager at the Arlington branch, and BEO ag and commercial loan officer Laura Georges in Harney County were promoted to vice president.

John Qualls of Heppner and Ed Rollins of Ione were promoted to executive vice president. Qualls oversees all lenders in the bank and supervises the mortgage department. Rollins oversees loan policy and supervises a group of credit support personnel.

Raymond Seastone, of Irrigon, was promoted to assistant vice president. He has been serving bank mortgage customers across the region since 2017.

BEO Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which operates 20 branches and four loan production offices in 12 Eastern Oregon, five Eastern Washington counties and one Western Idaho county. Visit [www.beobank.com](http://www.beobank.com) for more information.

Love of Junk moves to Walla Walla Fairgrounds

WALLA WALLA — Ranked on a list of top flea markets in Washington, the Love of Junk offers shoppers cool finds, salvaged materials, repurposed objects and vintage items for the home, garden or gift giving. In its eighth year, it will be held at a new venue.

The junker's paradise is Friday, June 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds, 363 Orchard St. There's a \$5 entry fee (ages 12 and under are free).

People can enjoy their "hunting" adventure with more than 50 vendors from across the Pacific Northwest. The event also features food trucks, live music and picnic tables.

For more information, visit [www.loveofjunk.com](http://www.loveofjunk.com) or [www.facebook.com/loveofjunkwallawalla](http://www.facebook.com/loveofjunkwallawalla).

City of Umatilla cashes in with budget award

UMATILLA — The Government Finance Officers Association recently recognized the city of Umatilla with a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

According to a press release from Melissa Ince, finance and administrative services director, the award represents a significant achievement by the city. It reflects the commitment of the city of Umatilla and its staff in meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

To receive the budget award, an entity must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines assess how well an entity's budget serves as a

policy document, a financial document, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

Pendleton grad named to Gonzaga dean's list

SPOKANE — Daniel Naughton of Pendleton has earned placement on the Gonzaga University Dean's List for spring semester 2021. Students must earn a 3.50 to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed.

Gonzaga University is a private Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic university providing education to more than 7,800 students. Gonzaga offers 75 fields of study, 26 master's degrees, doctorate degrees in leadership studies and nursing, and a juris doctor degree through the School of Law.

Hermiston grad earns bachelor's degree

AMES, Iowa — Samuel Shields-Colbray of Hermiston was awarded a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and health during Iowa State University's spring graduation ceremonies May 7-8.

Iowa State awarded 4,176 undergraduate degrees, 609 graduate degrees and 143 veterinary medicine degrees. Students had the opportunity to attend in-person ceremonies and celebrations at Hilton Coliseum and Jack Trice Stadium, which were livestreamed for those who preferred a virtual option.

Power House Theatre screens film shot in Seattle

WALLA WALLA — An independent film about a family's estrangement and awkward attempts to reconnect will be screened at the Power House Theatre.

"Phoebe's Father" can be viewed Wednesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at 111 N. Sixth Ave., Walla Walla. General admission tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Director John Helde and

the cast worked together to improvise the script for the movie. Described as a funny, touching and realistic family portrait, it was shot entirely on location in Seattle.

Seating for the screening is capped at 100 patrons. In addition, masks are required for unvaccinated patrons and physical distancing between households will be observed.

For tickets or more information, visit [www.phtw.wa.gov](http://www.phtw.wa.gov) or call 509-529-6500.

Heppner hosts community awards banquet

HEPPNER — Tickets are available for Heppner's Town and Country Community Awards.

Presented by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, the annual awards banquet is Thursday, June 17, at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, 106 E. May St., Heppner. The awards presentations will recognize people who make Heppner a special place to live and work.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with a no-host bar, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The menu features prime rib, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, a roll and dessert.

People are advised to buy tickets early, as there are a limited number of seats available. If purchased prior to the week of June 14, tickets are \$30 each, and then will increase to \$35. They are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner City Hall, Murray's Drug or the chamber office. For information, contact the chamber at 541-676-5536 or [heppnerchamber@gmail.com](mailto:heppnerchamber@gmail.com).

Smokey Bear wants you to enter art contest

SALEM — As part of celebrating Keep Oregon Green's 80-year history, the organization announced a billboard poster art contest. Smokey Bear invites Oregonians of all ages to create an entry that shares a vision for keeping Oregon free of wildfire.

The contest features three separate divisions (grades 1-5, 6-12, and 18+ years), with cash prizes awarded to the top three in each division. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

All submissions will be reviewed in the fall of 2021. Artwork will be used for the 2022 Keep Oregon Green wildfire prevention campaign and publicity for future poster campaigns. The first place winners in each division will be reproduced on billboards at major intersections, highways and interstates all across Oregon.

The purpose of the poster contest, said Kristin Babbs, president of Keep Oregon Green, is to involve the public in helping reduce the number of careless wildfires and remind everyone how critical it is to prevent them. Entries must be submitted online by 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 9, which is Smokey Bear's birthday.

For full contest rules or to submit an entry, visit [www.keeptoregongreen.org](http://www.keeptoregongreen.org) and click on "Art Contest."

For questions, call 503-945-7498.

— EO Media Group

PUBLIC SAFETY

WEDNESDAY

3:03 a.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary on North First Place, Hermiston.

1:35 p.m. — Police responded to two reports of a theft on North First Street, Hermiston.

THURSDAY

8:12 a.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on Northeast Elm Street, Pilot Rock.

9:50 a.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at the intersection of Interstate 84 and Forest Service Road 31.

2:09 p.m. — Police responded to two reports of a theft on North First Street, Hermiston.

7:44 p.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary on Southeast Court Avenue, Pendleton.

8:14 p.m. — Police responded to a report of the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle at the intersection of West Ferndale and Highway 11, Milton-Freewater.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested David Olvera Martinez, 54, on felony counts of first-degree theft and possessing a weapon as a convicted felon, and a misdemeanor count of driving with a suspended license.

The Hermiston Police Department arrested Juan Fernando Ponce, 29, on misdemeanor counts of menacing and harassment, felony counts of possessing a Schedule II controlled substance, and one count of resisting arrest.

The Pendleton Police Department arrested Conner Alexander Fry, 27, on felony counts of assaulting a public safety officer and second-degree escape, a felony in-state hold, and misdemeanor counts of resisting arrest and interfering with a peace officer.

The Milton-Freewater Police Department arrested Richard Franklin Kendall, 67, on one felony count of fourth-degree assault.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, JUNE 7

HEPPNER PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Heppner. (541-676-9618)

MILTON-FREEWATER PLANNING COMMISSION, 6:45 p.m., online, via Zoom meeting, Milton-Freewater. 6:30 p.m. study session, 7 p.m. regular meeting. Join the meeting by calling 253-215-8782, meeting ID 883 8155 4242, password 987835. (541-938-8235)

STOKES LANDING SENIOR CENTER BOARD, 6 p.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. (541-922-3137)

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., online, via Zoom, Boardman. A link to the Zoom meeting is posted at the city's website, [www.cityofboardman.com](http://www.cityofboardman.com). (541-481-9252)

LEXINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, 6:30 p.m., Lexington Town Hall, 425 F St., Lexington. (541-989-8515)

PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP, 7 p.m., 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0209)

Online

Go to [eastoregonian.com](http://eastoregonian.com) for this week's court records.

MONGOLIA WINTER MIGRATION

DEBBIE McINTOSH:

PENDLETON CENTER for the ARTS

JUNE 10-30

More info: [PendletonArts.org](http://PendletonArts.org)

FREE Admission everyday

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

“Scramble for Scholarships”

Friday, June 11th

1pm Shotgun Start

Big River Golf Course - Umatilla

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 28th annual “Scramble for Scholarships” golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships to local medical students.

Register at [gschfscramble.eventbrite.com](http://gschfscramble.eventbrite.com) or call 541-667-3405. Entry deadline is June 9th.

Great prize holes and Hole-in-one on #1 & #9

WINS \$25,000 towards a new car sponsored by ROGERS TOYOTA of HERMISTON