



INSIDE EAGLE CAP EXTREME RETURNS TO JOSEPH

Pilot Rock loses its 'tireless and dedicated cheerleader'

Mayor Virginia Carnes dies at 77

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Virginia Carnes, the stalwart mayor of Pilot Rock, died Saturday, Jan. 8. She was 77.

The small town in Eastern Oregon may not have had a stron-

ger advocate than Carnes.

She had lived in Pilot Rock since 1966, and retired as a teacher after 34 years, according to East Oregonian reporting in 2004. Carnes began serving on the city council in 1992 and ran for mayor in 2004. She won and had held the position since.

Carnes suffered health issues later in life, but she remained a vibrant political and civic force in the community. She helped over-

see significant improvements in the city, including the installation of new sewer lagoons in 2019, a major undertaking for the city.

No one worked more closely with Carnes than City Recorder Teri Bacus, one of the former mayor's biggest fans.

"The city of Pilot Rock has lost an exemplary public servant," Bacus said. "Virginia Carnes was a great woman and touched many lives. She was highly respected and

beloved by everyone. She took the position of mayor personally and always looked out for the best interest of the city of Pilot Rock. She dedicated her life to this city, and I was honored to have had the opportunity to work with her."

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock knew Carnes and called her "special," and in his weekly address to public officials and others eulogized her.

"When we began publishing

the Weekly Update 87 issues ago, it was primarily read by mayors, city managers, school superintendents, and other community leaders. While circulation has expanded dramatically, one of the most ardent consumers from Day One was Pilot Rock Mayor Virginia Carnes.

"That was typical of almost everything the tireless and dedicated cheerleader for that commu-

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Flags flutter Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, at the entrance to the Port of Morrow Industrial Park, Boardman. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality that day announced it fined the Port of Morrow \$1.3 million for applying excessive amounts of nitrate-containing water to area farmland.

ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

DEQ fines Port of Morrow \$1.3M for nitrate excess

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

BOARDMAN — Oregon environmental regulators have fined the Port of Morrow \$1.3 million for repeatedly over-applying agricultural wastewater on nearby farms in an area that already has elevated levels of groundwater nitrates.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality announced the fine Tuesday, Jan. 11.

The Port of Morrow responded in a press release that evening.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

See DEQ, Page A7 Industrial facilities operate Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, at the Port of Morrow near Boardman.

Cattle neglect investigation still underway

Wallowa County exploring possibility of seizing Dean Oregon Ranch cattle

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish said his office continues to investigate possible animal neglect by Dean Oregon Ranches and others in the stranding of cattle in the mountains during recent snowstorms.

"I do not have any specific number of cows that have been gathered or died," Fish said. "The staff for Dean Oregon Ranches are collecting the cattle. Most of the cattle belong to Dean Oregon Ranches."

The sheriff said he expects the investigation to take time as his office gathers statements from those involved.

County Commissioner Todd Nash, who is a rancher and often addresses agricultural issues on the board of commissioners, said Fish's statement of Dec. 31 that the county was "moving toward seizing the Dean Oregon Ranch" was not exactly accurate. Nash said it's the cattle — not the ranch itself — that may be seized and it is unknown if the small number of cattle owned by other ranchers would be included.

"We're looking at seizing the livestock," Nash said. "We're in the process of considering that."

He said there is no timeline in sight, as the proper legal measures — such as Fish's investigation — must be taken.

"We need to have all our ducks in a row," the commissioner said.

See Cattle, Page A8

'We don't want the past to repeat itself'

MLK program will include peace march

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — John Carbage, president of the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition, is looking forward to hosting the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Peace March.

"We call it a peace march because we want to promote peace in the land," he said. "We don't want to cause a divide — we want peace."

With planning underway to host the in-person program, Carbage said the event will begin at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 17, with a short walk through

downtown Hermiston — starting and ending at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave.

After the march and some words by city leaders, participants are invited to enter the church, where the program will include a short scholarship presentation by the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition, followed by Pastor Marlando Jordan's keynote address.

COVID-19 protocols require people attending the program at the church to wear a face covering at all times. A mask will be provided for anyone who does not have one. Carbage said the coalition

always chooses a person of color who can share how the legacy and work of Martin Luther King Jr. has impacted their life.

Jordan, who started preaching as a 14-year-old, became the youth pastor in 1996 at Word of Faith Center — now known as Sozo Church — in Kennewick. He was called as senior pastor in 2015.

Driven by passion and enthusiasm, Jordan shares a message of faith, hope and love. In addition, he urges Christians to unite in an effort to heal the racial divide in our nation.



Jordan



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

John Carbage, president of the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition, welcomes speakers to the podium at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church on Jan. 20, 2020, as a part of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Peace March.

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