

Public archaeological dig to start July 16 at Kam Wah Chung

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Archaeologists excavating the grounds at the former Gleason Pool site are hosting a public dig on July 16.

The excavation is part of the effort to prepare the space for an expansion of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site. The public will not be invited to do any digging themselves, but will be allowed to observe and ask questions of the archaeologists on site performing the excavations.

Chelsea Rose, Southern Oregon University historical archaeologist and director of the SOU Laboratory of Anthropology, said her team will be starting the excavation on Monday, July 11. She said the public is welcome to observe excavation efforts before the public dig, but the best chance for the public to ask questions of the archaeologists on site will be on Saturday the 16th.

The public dig will start at 9 a.m. and go till 3 p.m. There will also be exhibits by Southern Oregon University, Oregon State Parks, Malheur National Forest and John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

“They will all be having exhibits and hands-on things and that kind of stuff so people



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

A Tidewater Construction crew begins demolishing Gleason Pool in John Day on May 23, 2022.

can come and learn about local history and the archaeology as well,” Rose said.

The dig will be followed by a public lecture from artist

and poet Sam Roxas-Chua Yao from 4 to 6 p.m. in the theater room at the Canyon City Community Center. The lecture by Roxas-Chua

Yao is free to attend.

Rose said she expects she and the other archaeologists are going to find “great stuff” during the excavation.

“For archaeologists, we can get insanely excited about a broken bottle because it tells us a little bit more about that community, then that’s

all really exciting, important stuff,” she said.

Expectations are to find evidence of what other buildings, businesses and residences were in that neighborhood, what the community was like and how long people lived there.

“We’re doing that not only to get more information about Oregon’s Chinese residents but also to see how the park can incorporate those stories into their new interpretive center and as they update the infrastructure of the park itself, so that is kind of the goal,” Rose said.

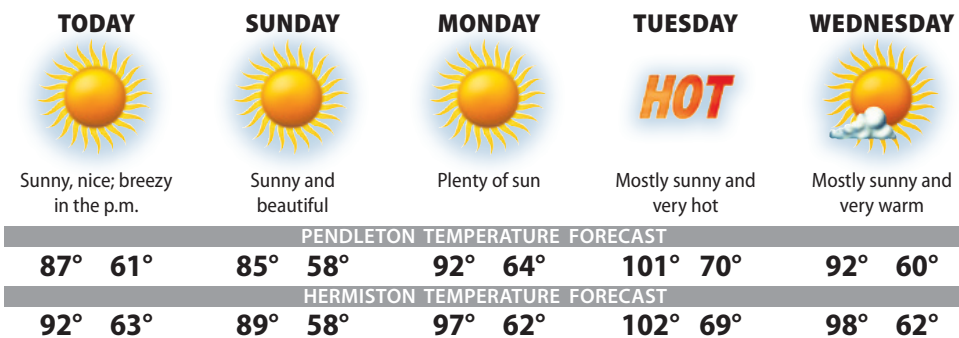
Rose said the purpose of the public dig is for people to feel like they get to participate in something that is important to the community of John Day.

“We’re doing the hard work, we’ll dig in the compacted gravel for them. They get to see the exciting stuff that comes out,” she said.

“I think the main thing is just to know how lucky people are to be living near such an important archaeological and historic site.”

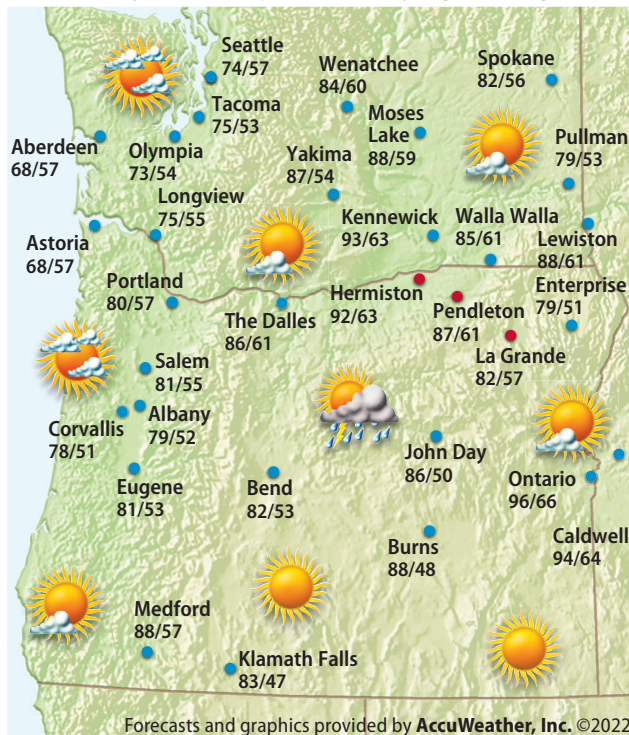
Rose also added that she hopes people will get excited and participate in the public day and the free talk and build on the outreach that has been ongoing for the past several years encouraging folks to get to know the larger history of the region.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



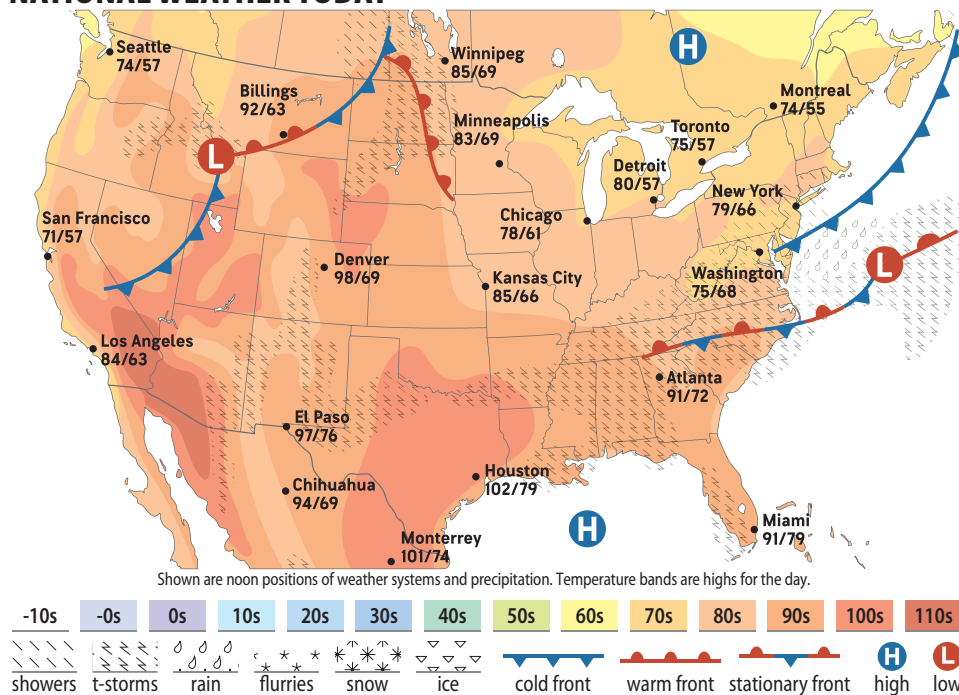
ALMANAC

| PENDLETON through 3 p.m. Fri. | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| TEMP. | HIGH | LOW |
| Friday | 85° | 57° |
| Month to date | 85° | 57° |
| Normals | 88° | 57° |
| Records | 106° (1968) | 41° (1911) |
| PRECIPITATION | 24 hours ending 3 p.m. | 0.00" |
| Month to date | 0.31" | |
| Normal month to date | 0.12" | |
| Year to date | 11.13" | |
| Last year to date | 4.32" | |
| Normal year to date | 8.07" | |
| HERMISTON through 3 p.m. Fri. | | |
| TEMP. | HIGH | LOW |
| Friday | 87° | 59° |
| Month to date | 87° | 59° |
| Normals | 91° | 57° |
| Records | 104° (2012) | 40° (1981) |
| PRECIPITATION | 24 hours ending 3 p.m. | 0.00" |
| Month to date | 0.03" | |
| Normal month to date | 0.03" | |
| Year to date | 7.48" | |
| Last year to date | 2.46" | |
| Normal year to date | 5.05" | |
| WINDS (in mph) | Today | Sun. |
| Boardman | WSW 8-16 | WSW 7-14 |
| Pendleton | W 7-14 | W 8-16 |
| SUN AND MOON | | |
| Sunrise today | 5:15 a.m. | |
| Sunset tonight | 8:45 p.m. | |
| Moonrise today | 4:36 p.m. | |
| Moonset today | 1:30 a.m. | |
| | Full | Last |
| | New | First |
| | July 13 | July 20 |
| | July 28 | Aug 5 |

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 111° in Chandler, Ariz. Low 27° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Baker City bear released in Wallowas

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City herald

BAKER CITY — Baker City's most famous black bear — or at least the most photographed — is likely roaming today somewhere in the southern Wallowa Mountains.

Which is better bear habitat than a birch tree between two apartment buildings.

The bear, which ran through part of Quail Ridge Golf Course on Sunday morning, July 3, then crossed Foothill Drive and climbed that tree, ended up tranquilized and in a cage later that morning.

Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Baker City office, fired the tranquilizer dart that gave the yearling male bear a temporary nap.

The sleeping bear got stuck, however, in the tree

about 25 feet above the ground.

Jeff Smith, who owns J2K Excavating and lives on Foothill Drive, offered the use of his bucket lift to retrieve the bear.

Ratliff said the bear awoke in the cage about 11:30 a.m. on July 3, a little more than an hour after he fired the tranquilizer dart.

“By noon it was mobile,” Ratliff said of the bear.

He released the bear in the Eagle Creek area northeast of Baker City.

“It ran straight down a hill,” he said. “It did not want to stick around, which is exactly what we like to see.”

That behavior is typical of a truly wild animal that is not accustomed to being around people, Ratliff said.

He said he suspects the bear, which weighed about 150 pounds, had separated from its mother, as bears tend

to do after their first birthday.

“I think it just wandered into town and got caught after daylight where it didn't want to be,” Ratliff said.

He said there were no reports of the bear nosing into garbage cans or other behavior that could suggest the bear was comfortable around people.

In those cases, ODFW officials are likely to kill the bear rather than trap it and release it in the wild.

Ratliff said the foothill above the city's southwest corner probably is a travel corridor for wildlife, including the occasional bear.

Another yearling bear was tranquilized in November 2015 in a backyard near 11th and Myrtle streets, less than half a mile from Foothill Drive.

ODFW biologists also tranquilized and released that bear.

IN BRIEF

Male Chesnimnus wolf trapped, killed

WALLOWA COUNTY — A 2-year-old male wolf was removed from the Chesnimnus pack Monday, July 4, under a kill permit issued June 17 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, according to a press release.

The pack has been deemed responsible for numerous livestock kills this year despite nonlethal efforts to ward off the attacks.

The wolf killed July 4 was removed under a kill permit that is good until July 17.

The wolf was caught in a foothold trap set by ODFW and then tranquilized before it was euthanized.

Traps had been set as part of efforts to radio-collar members of the pack (preferably a breeding adult) as there were no active collars in the Chesnimnus pack.

A yearling female was trapped, collared, and safely released on June 29. ODFW has suspended its trapping efforts in this area.

Another update will be posted about this

permit only if an additional wolf is removed or the permit is reissued.

Yetter coming to Northeastern Oregon

LA GRANDE — Dr. Joseph Yetter, the Democratic candidate for Oregon's Second Congressional District, is on the road.

Monday, July 11, Yetter will start a multi-day trip around the northeastern and central parts of Oregon's 2nd District. He will visit with supporters, voters and community groups who have not yet met the retired army colonel, who owns a small farm in Azalea.

Yetter will be in Pendleton and Hermiston July 12 and 13, La Grande on July 14, Enterprise on July 15 and Baker City on July 16.

“What I hope to get out of this trip is to see more of the beautiful district we call home, meet more of its amazing residents and listen to what they want their Congressperson to do to better represent them,” Yetter said.

— EO Media Group

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CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

In the App Store:



East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

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For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

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