

COLUMN

Community offers a flood of support

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

When a natural disaster the size of last week's flood hits, the information comes flooding in as fast as the water.

It started slowly on Thursday morning, with my Pendleton colleagues covering two rescue efforts outside of town. *East Oregonian* editor Andrew Cutler called to let me know that our planned front page centerpiece — the home-based business story in today's *Hermiston Herald* — would likely be pushed off the front page by dramatic photos of a boat rescuing a homeless man who had been stranded with his dog on an island in the Umatilla River.

He also let me know that since one Pendleton reporter was on vacation and another was out sick, he would



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

A truck drives through flood water at the intersection of Hoosier Road and Stanfield Meadows Road in Stanfield.

need to borrow Hermiston reporter Jessica Pollard for the afternoon.

By Thursday night, the emails and Facebook updates were coming faster than we could type — road closures, evacuation notices, safety warnings, shelters opening

and more. Staff were running around photographing collapsing bridges and homes sitting in feet of water, interviewing people who had escaped the destruction and using their phones to fire off social media updates from the field.

About 9 p.m., as I monitored and shared updates online, a coworker tweeted that the levee behind the EO's Pendleton office had sprung a hole, and the paper's parking lot was filling with water. I texted Andrew, asking if they needed help, and he told me it would be "all hands on deck" in Pendleton by 8 a.m. the next morning.

When the next morning dawned, however, it quickly became clear that we would need one hand to stay on deck in Hermiston, as the flooding had reached this side of the county. I threw on a pair of boots and went to work for the next 11 hours.

My parents in The Dalles, who have the *Hermiston Herald* liked on Facebook, texted to make me promise I wouldn't take my Corolla through any flood waters, so I did a lot of parking and walking. And every-

where I walked I saw water — brown, muddy water stretching as far as the eye could see over what used to be fields and roads.

Seeing muddy water rushing into your home or washing away your RV would not be easy. And yet nobody I approached was anything less than friendly and upbeat, whether they were telling me about how high the water was when they left their home or carting belongings through thigh-high water. It was clear they had been through a rough time, but they weren't going to take it out on anyone else.

I spent most of my time in Echo, first on Friday and then returning again on Saturday, and the community pulled together in a magnificent way. People gathered at the church and the school and the fire station, asking what they could do to help

or bringing in donations unprompted.

It mirrored the response across the region over the past few days — a refrain of "How can I help? What can I donate? Where should I sign up to volunteer?" Our staff may have spent their weekend and evenings putting in hours of overtime in the past week, but other members of the community have given just as many hours of their time for free as rescue, reporting and cleanup efforts have unrolled.

Kudos to everyone who has responded to calls for assistance. We've tried to keep up on reporting opportunities to help as they come in, but I'm sure there are efforts we're not aware of yet. As recovering efforts continue, I'd echo the sentiments of the rest of the county: Let us know how we can help.

Manslaughter defendant denied bail reduction

HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston woman charged with first-degree manslaughter and five other counts related to a fatal car crash in December 2019 was denied a bail reduction this week.

Attorneys for Michelle Fry, 45, requested the court consider a \$50,000 reduction in bail to the minimum amount required for Measure 11 crimes like first-degree manslaughter. According to the motion issued on the topic, Fry said she believed her family could raise the \$5,000 bail needed to be conditionally released in order to return to her job in Stanfield and spend

time with her children and grandchildren.

The motion was denied on Monday.

Police arrested Fry in December after she was traveling northbound on Highway 395 in Hermiston and failed to stop at a red light at the intersection of East Punkin Center Road.

Fry was reportedly driving from the Panda Inn restaurant when she crashed into a vehicle driven by Elidio Salas De La Paz, 77, of Hermiston.

His wife Alicia Salas, 75, also of Hermiston, was a passenger in the vehicle and died at the hospital. Fry was reportedly under the influence of alcohol at the

time of the accident.

The district attorney's office obtained medical records for Alicia Salas and Elidio Salas de La Paz in connection with the case.

In December, the court also approved a motion from Deputy District Attorney Daniel Pachico to subpoena 21 different witnesses.

The witnesses include emergency responders who provided aid during the incident, a doctor who provided care to Salas, an employee at the Panda Inn who reportedly asked Fry not to drive and the manager, as well as a woman whose car was allegedly damaged by Fry's driving in the parking lot of the

restaurant that night.

A pre-trial conference hearing for the case will be held next Tuesday.

Fry waived her right to a trial within 60 days of arrest in mid-January. The twelve-person jury trial was originally scheduled for the end of that month.

First-degree manslaughter and second-degree manslaughter are Measure 11 crimes, and carry mandatory minimums of 10 years and more than 6 years respectively. Fry is accused of one count of each, as well as third-degree assault, reckless driving, DUII (alcohol) and inability to perform the duties of a driver.

School district selects architects

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston School District has hired BBT Architects of Bend to be its architectural firm for projects paid for by the \$82.7 million bond passed by voters in November.

The firm was chosen by the school board on Monday out of a pool of 11 proposals from firms across the Pacific Northwest.

According to a news release from the district, BBT Architects has "extensive experience working with early childhood centers, elementary, middle and high schools." The were the firm that designed the Pendleton Early Learning Center, Sherwood Heights and Washington

Elementary Schools, Pendleton High School, Irrigon and Boardman elementary schools and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Education Center.

The firm will work with the Wenaha Group out of Pendleton, which the district has hired as its construction manager.

"We are very fortunate that 11 firms submitted a proposal to help build our schools, and were all top notch," board chair Karen Sherman said in a statement. "BBT Architects was selected because during the interview process they demonstrated commitment to teamwork, fostering relationships, and innovation."

Flooding kills woman in Umatilla County

HERMISTON HERALD

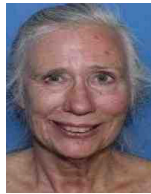
A Umatilla County woman reported missing on Saturday was found dead Sunday, according to a press release from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

Janet Tobkin Conley, 62, was located on Sunday morning on the Bar M Ranch property by searchers and neighbors from the area. It appears she was

swept away by rushing water, the release said.

"Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Ms. Conley in this difficult time," said Sgt. Dwight Johnson, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office incident commander.

Her death is the only reported fatality associated with the flooding.



Conley

Volunteers from the Umatilla County Search and Rescue, as well as resources from the Oregon Air National Guard, began searching the area for Conley on Saturday.

Conley was reported missing from Bobsled Lane in the Bar M Ranch area of rural Umatilla County. She last seen around 7 p.m.

Thursday in the Bar M Ranch area. Neighbors discovered she was missing Friday morning around 7 a.m. and she was reported missing to UCSO on Saturday morning.

Damage to transportation systems hindered many east Umatilla County residents' ability to evacuate, and dozens were pulled out by helicopter over the weekend.

Drotzmann endorses partnership on PERS

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann is voicing support for a proposed public-private partnership that will help local leaders around Oregon develop solutions for the state's budget shortfalls.

According to a news release, the Oregon Funders' Fiscal Health & Equity Circle was formed to "foster the civic knowledge and capacity to address Oregon's fis-

cal realities in ways that cultivate trust in civic institutions, build bridges across cultural divides, and lead to equitable solutions supported by data."

The participating foundations include Meyer Memorial Trust, North Star Civic Foundation, Northwest Health Foundation, United Way of the Columbia Willamette and The Women's Foundation for Oregon. They have invested \$300,000 in the past two years to fund research and

engagement with community leaders. They hope to raise \$200,000 more in donations and are also asking the state for \$500,000 for the effort.

They are proposing a partnership with the state of Oregon to create nine regional workgroups that would work to create solutions and deliver proposals to the Legislature in 2021. Those proposals would address the difficulties faced by cities, counties and local governments facing constraints on

their ability to increase their revenue in the face of rising costs of the Public Employees Retirement System.

Drotzmann said it has "become clear that the fiscal challenges facing rural communities cannot be solved only in Salem. We must engage leaders from local governments, school districts, Tribal communities, and culturally specific organizations to collectively develop the tools necessary to avoid 20 years of budget crisis. Our future depends on it."

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel
Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit
1-855-839-0752

© 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. MKT-P0108

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

13 days, departs year-round

VMT vacations

FROM \$2,249 \$1,999

1-877-840-6119
Promo code N7017

*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus 299 taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 3/31/20. Other terms and conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

BETTER dish TV FOR LESS!

\$59.99 MONTH for 12 months
190 Channels America's Top 120

Add High Speed Internet
\$19.99/mo.

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card
1-866-373-9175

Offer ends 1/13/20. See Retailer. Call 7 days a week 8am - 11pm EST. Savings with 12 month guarantee with \$120 starting at \$9.99 compared to everyday price. All offers require credit qualification, 2 year commitment with early termination fee and auto-pay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/ Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification. Fees apply for additional TV's. Hopper \$15/mo., Joey \$5/mo., Super Joey \$10/mo.

Call today to connect with a **SENIOR LIVING ADVISOR**

INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE

A Place for Mom

A Place for Mom has helped over a million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!
(888) 651-5669
We're paid by our partner communities

MEDICAL DIRECTORY

DENTURES

Blue Mountain Denture Center

TROY STEWART - LICENSED DENTURIST
1300 6th St., Suite G, Umatilla, OR 97882
2194 Court Ave., Baker City, OR 97814
(541) 519-4696 • (541) 523-4752

VISION CARE

EYE HEALTH & VISION CARE

Robert D. Rolen, O.D., LLC
Optometric Physician

115 W. HERMISTON AVE. SUITE 130
541-567-1837

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Call Today!
541-289-5433
1060 W. Elm, Suite #115, Hermiston, OR
(across from Good Shepherd Medical Center)
www.apd4kidz.com
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

Advanced PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

CareCredit Visa Find us on Facebook

FAMILY DENTISTRY

COMPREHENSIVE CARE
A BETTER WAY TO ORAL HEALTH

DESERT DENTAL

Ryan M. Wieseler, D.D.S., PC
541.567.8161 • 995 Orchard Avenue • Hermiston
www.desertdentalsmile.com

URGENT AND FAMILY CARE

HERMISTON FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE

Sports & Dot Physicals • Minor Injuries • Family Care • Minor Surgeries
We accept Medicare & some Advantage Medicare plans
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

HOURS: Mon-Sat 7:30am-7:00pm
541-567-1137 236 E. Newport, Hermiston (across from U.S. Bank)

MENTAL HEALTH

LET US BE THE ONE THAT HELPS!

LIFEWAYS HELPING PEOPLE

- Adult, Child and Family Therapy
- Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment
- Mental Health and Crisis Services
- Confidential and Professional Care

LIFEWAYS PENDLETON 331 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR 97801
Office: 541-276-6207

Crisis Phone: **866-343-4473**

LIFEWAYS HERMISTON 595 NW 11th St., Hermiston, OR 97838
Office: 541-567-2536

To advertise in the Medical Directory, please call: **Jeanne at 541-564-4531 or Audra at 541-564-4538**