

IRRIGON

No agreement yet on reopening library

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

Irrigon residents remain without a library as city officials and the Oregon Trail Library District have yet to agree on how they will manage common space in the new \$1.2 million building attached to city hall.

The library district board met during a special meeting Wednesday in Boardman and formed a three-member committee to modify the intergovernmental agreement that addresses joint access, maintenance and liability.

District Director Marsha Richmond, board member Sally Walker and attorney Doug Hojem will serve on that committee, and have asked the city to form a similar group to carry on negotiations.

"Our hope is that, with our willingness to meet, this will signify a fresh start," said board member Blaine Ganvoa.

The Irrigon Public Library moved into its new home in May 2014, but occu-

pancy permits were revoked less than a month later since a firewall separating city hall was not built to code.

City council proposed a new IGA and request to waive the firewall requirement in October. But Ganvoa said the district has concerns about the use of shared spaces that were laid out in the proposal.

The city's proposed IGA states both parties will have full access to the common area as needed, and the city would be allowed to use the building's meeting room for all regular commission or committee meetings. Richmond, however, reiterated that while the city could ask to use the room, it was built primarily for library use — not for city use.

The library district's committee hopes to have a counterproposal ready for review by their next board meeting Wednesday, Jan. 21. City council will meet one day earlier, on Jan. 20.

In a statement to the board, Richmond said both sides need to forge a positive

working relationship if they are ever going to reach an agreement.

"Libraries are at the heart of a community," she said. "The hope was that having the city hall and OTLD library in the downtown area would help stimulate further development."

Also at Wednesday's meeting, board member Barb Huwe resigned as chairwoman in order to gain full voting privileges. Her resignation was accepted by the board and Ganvoa took over leading the meeting.

"I just don't feel I was an effective chairwoman anymore," Huwe said. "I needed to have a vote. There were issues I felt needed my vote."

Residents who attended the meeting said they felt optimistic the matter is heading in the right direction.

"It sounds about as promising as it has yet," said Burrel Cooley, of Irrigon.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4547.

PENDLETON

Happy Canyon board announces 2015 princesses

East Oregonian

The Happy Canyon board of directors announced Mary Harris of Pendleton and Josephine Penney of Adams as the 2015 Happy Canyon princesses.

They will introduce the princesses to the public Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. Past princesses, dignitaries from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the media will be in attendance.

"These are two very nice young ladies with many fine personal qualities and exceptional family involvement with Happy Canyon," said Jason Hill, Happy Canyon president.

Hill said Marissa Baumgartner and Jory Spencer, the 2014 princesses, set a great example for the new royalty to follow. Happy Canyon, Hill said, is lucky to have a long list of princesses who have gone above and beyond what is asked of them in fulfilling their duties and he expects Harris and Penney will do the same.

"Mary has two older sisters that have been Happy Canyon princesses before her, and Josephine has a long line of aunts and cousins that have also been princesses," Hill said.

Court Director Clay Briscoe says competition was stiff for serving as the night show's ambassadors — including more applicants than they've seen in the past 10 years.

Briscoe said the decision came down to several crucial areas, including excellent horsemanship.

"We feel very fortunate to have such qualified princesses and are very excited to start the year with them and watch them grow personally and mature in their public speaking ability," Briscoe added.

Harris, 18, is the daughter of Stuart and Deborah Harris. She attends Blue Moun-

tain Community College. She is an enrolled member of the CTUIR and her Indian name is Inawasatillup. Harris has been riding horses since she was 5 and enjoys fancy and traditional dancing, bead work and her role as publicist for the youth leadership club.

Her family has been involved with Happy Canyon and Pendleton Round-Up since each began. Her great-great-grandfather, Jim White, ran an Indian relay race team for many years. Her grandmother, Rosalie Wilkinson Harris, was born in the Indian Village at the Round-Up Grounds. Her sister, Katie, was a Happy Canyon princess in 2010 and a Round-Up princess in 2012 and her sister, Anna, was a Happy Canyon princess in 2013.

Penney, 19, is the daughter of Philip and Deborah Penney. She graduated from Weston-McEwen High School in 2014 and wants to become an elementary school teacher. She enjoys writing, poetry, running, playing basketball and volleyball, riding horses and learning the Nez Perce language. She is enrolled with the Nez Perce Tribe/Cayuse Tribe. Her Indian name is Se-X-Na-Tip-Puts.

The line of Happy Canyon princesses in her family goes back to the 1950s, beginning with her grandmother, Marie Alexander, in 1957. Other relatives who have served as princesses include Judy Hines, Mary Craig, Deborah Hines (alternate), Sandra Craig, Gretchen Hines and Debra Weathers. Her grandfather, Fernmore Craig Sr., has been inducted into the Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame.

Hill says the princesses' job as ambassadors for Happy Canyon takes on a new importance this year. "They will be extremely busy this year, spreading the word about Happy Canyon's upcoming centennial in 2016," he said. "We are all excited about our year to come with them and have great expectations."



Photo by Rachael Owen/Catching Violet Photography
Princess Josephine Penney

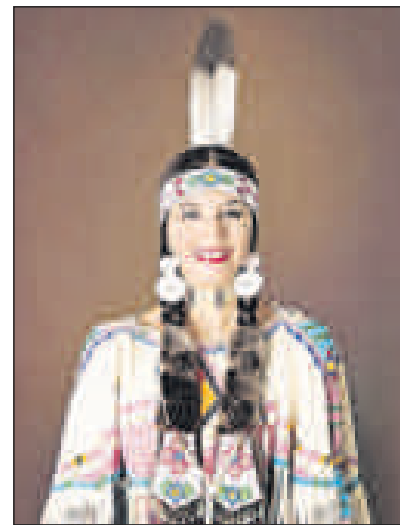


Photo by Rachael Owen/Catching Violet Photography
Princess Mary Harris

BRIEFLY

Port of Morrow to upgrade power lines

BOARDMAN — A \$2.5 million power line upgrade in the Port of Morrow may cause some traffic congestion this winter.

The project by Umatilla Electric Cooperative could affect traffic along Industrial Way Avenue and Utility Lane within the port. It is expected to begin in mid-January and last through May.

The project will replace wooden poles and power lines first built in 1969. Summit Line Construction of Heber City, Utah, will perform the work.

No outages are expected but if any become necessary UEC will forewarn affected members.

Wheat foundation scholarship offered

PENDLETON — The Oregon Wheat Foundation will provide up to 12 scholarships for high school seniors whose families are members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. The scholarship is also open to students who work part-time for grower members. Students whose family members are employed by OWGL members are also eligible.

The scholarship requirements include an essay on any topic related to the wheat industry and a summary of the student's school and community involvement.

One \$1,000 award will be made to a qualifying student from each of the participating counties, which include Baker, Gilliam, Klamath, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wasco. In addition, up to two awards will be made in the Willamette Valley counties and one in the Central Oregon counties.

Application forms are available from the Oregon Wheat Growers League website at www.owgl.org or email Marilyn Blagg, scholarship coordinator for the Oregon Wheat

Foundation, at mblagg@owgl.org for more information. Applications must be postmarked by February 1.

Country Hoedown has toe-tappin' fun

MILTON-FREEWATER — Dancing, live music and singing are featured during the monthly Country Hoedown in Milton-Freewater.

The event is held the second Saturday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St. There's a suggested donation of \$2. In addition, refreshments are available for purchase.

For more information, call 541-938-3311.

Concert features handbell choirs

PENDLETON — A trio of handbell choirs will perform holiday music during a concert under the direction of Phyllis Tincher of Nampa, Idaho.

The Winter Handbell Concert is Saturday at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. The event features the Bells of Joy from the Presbyterian church, Bells of Peace from Peace Lutheran Church and the Celebration Ringers of the First Christian Church. There's no admission charge, although a freewill offering will be taken.

Tincher, in partnership with Sean Rogers, began the Ring Praise Music Ministry in 2002. Tincher rings three octaves of Schulmerich handbells.

For more info, visit www.ringpraiseministry.org.

Drone discussion highlights area projects

PENDLETON — The public is invited to a free presentation about drones.

Steve Chrisman of the city of Pendleton will discuss drones in general, as well as specific

applications and projects in Eastern Oregon. The event is Sunday at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

For more information, call 541-276-7681.

City plans retirement event for Harkenrider

HERMISTON — A retirement celebration for Frank Harkenrider is being hosted by the city of Hermiston.

In recognition of Harkenrider's 54 years of distinguished service to Hermiston and its citizens, a gathering is planned Monday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Lanham Room at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

For more information, contact Donna Moeller at 567-5521 or dmoeller@hermiston.or.us.

M-F chamber seeks award nominations

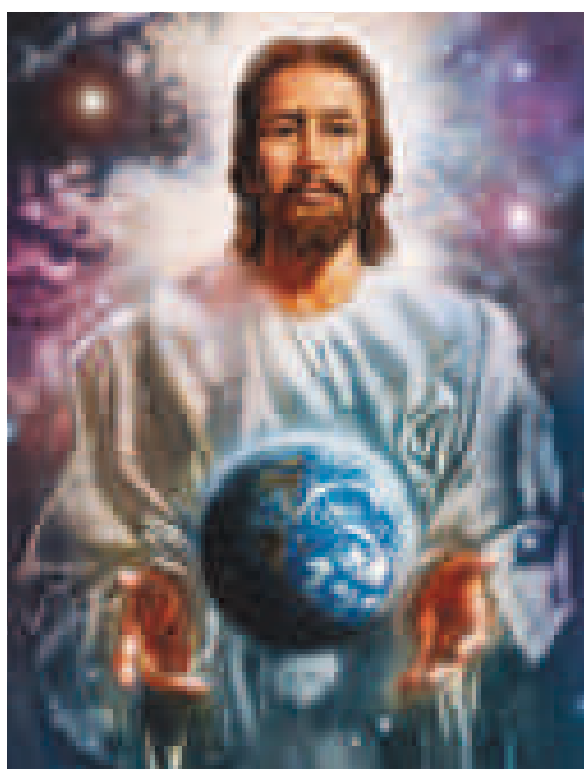
MILTON-FREEWATER — There's still a few days left to nominate Milton-Freewater citizens for the chamber of commerce's awards banquet.

Awards will be given to the man, woman, junior citizen and youth of the year. In addition, an agribusiness and Golden Pioneer will be recognized. Forms and descriptions of awards are available at www.mfchamber.com. Nominations are due by Tuesday.

The 67th annual Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce awards banquet is Thursday, Feb. 19. The theme is "An Evening In Paris — A Tribute to Those that Shine the Brightest."

For more information, contact mfindfrog@mfchamber.com or 541-938-5563.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com



His Way of Hope Series

Beginning
January 10
6:30 PM

Bring a friend

Location:
Seventh-Day Adventist Church
855 W. Highland Ave.
Hermiston, OR

Lecture Series Theme: Where we stand in world history according to the Bible, and how to be prepared for what is coming. There will be 19 lectures in the series.

For more information call (541) 567-9000