

HERMISTON: Teresa Moncrief Chamber Volunteer of the Year

Continued from 1A

Hansell said Anderson has provided too many hours of pro bono legal hours to count and deserves much of the credit for the creation of the nationally-recognized Hispanic Advisory Committee.

Tom Denchel Ford Country accepted the 2014 Community Service Award in part for the extensive list of community organizations the business has donated to over the years.

“The support this business provides to the children in our community is simply amazing,” presenter Peggy Anderson said.

She said Hermiston School District alone has benefited from more than \$60,000 donated from the Drive for Your School fundraisers.

Affordable Family Eyewear, the Bob Severson Rotary Business of the Year recipient, is another local business that has donated heavily to local children. Presenter Bryn Browning said the business started as a one-person operation in 2007 and no one expected owner Marcia Lambert to start giving to the community immediately. But she did, “from day one” offering glasses and eye exams to children in the district who couldn’t afford them.

Teresa Moncrief was recognized with Chamber Volunteer of the Year for “exemplifying service” not only as a chamber ambassador but as a longtime



The Altrusa’s Outstanding Young Citizen Award winner Skyler Grigg gets a hug from presenter Dorothy Smith on Wednesday at the Hermiston Distinguished Citizens Award banquet in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

member of service clubs like the Eagles, Elks and Altrusa International.

Altrusa’s Outstanding Young Citizen Award went to Skyler Grigg, a Hermiston High School honors student with a reputation as a hard worker, a “gentleman and a sportsman.” He serves as an outdoor school counselor and a Sunday School teacher.

Hermiston School District’s Educators of the Year, announced earlier this

month, were also honored at the event along with Administrator of the Year John Mishra. The teachers honored were Cathy Duffy, Joseph Thornton, Josh Browning, Chelsea Bergstrom, Tracy Hodges, Linda Mruk, Susan Thurman, Ibbet Velasquez, Susan Scheibner and Suanne Fitzgerald.

Contact Jade at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

WIND: Project calls for up to 292 turbines on 50,000 acres

Continued from 1A

“I think the developer is trying to game the system,” Mabbott said.

A notice of intent for the Wheatridge wind farm was initially filed with the state in February 2013. The project calls for up to 292 turbines on 50,000 acres of private land in both Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The majority of the project area, named Wheatridge West, would be located north of Heppner and south of the Boardman Bombing Range in Morrow County. Wheatridge East, meanwhile, would stretch north into Umatilla County along the east side of Highway 207. A narrow 35-mile corridor would connect the two main areas.

What’s unclear is how, and where, the wind farm would connect on the Bonneville Power Administration transmission system. According to the project’s site certificate application, Wheatridge intends to use 230-kilovolt transmission lines that would either be owned by the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, or by UEC in partnership with the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

The specific location of lines, however, is not yet known, and two electric substations mentioned as likely possibilities — one near Stanfield, and another at the Port of Morrow — have not yet been built.

Mabbott said the county would never approve such a large wind farm without a transmission line, and doesn’t believe the state should either. It is ultimately up to the Energy Facility Siting Council to grant a site certificate for Wheatridge.

“The landowners we’ve talked to have not been notified by the EFSC or the developer,” Mabbott said. “We think the transmission line should be part of this project, so that everybody involved can have a voice.”

A phone number provided for Andrew O’Connell, president of Wheatridge Wind Energy, has been disconnected. Robert Friedel, listed as permitting project manager with

Tetra Tech of Portland, did not return messages seeking comment.

Bob Levy, of Windy River Farms in Stanfield, said the proposal has left communities uncertain exactly how they might be impacted. Depending on the route of transmission lines, they could interrupt irrigation practices or take some agricultural land out of production.

At the same time, Levy said there could be zero impact. But until Wheatridge provides notice of how they plan to get power to the grid, Levy argued the application should be considered incomplete.

For the state’s purposes, an energy facility can be defined as either a wind farm with a minimum capacity of 35 megawatts or a high-voltage transmission system that runs at least 10 miles with a capacity of 230 kilovolts.

Siting analyst Andrea Goodwin, with the Department of Energy, said she could not say whether Wheatridge will apply for its wind farm and transmission system

separately. All the council does is review applications as they are presented, she said, and ensures they comply with Oregon statutes: among them rules on noise, wetlands and pollution controls.

The DOE is accepting comments for Wheatridge from review agencies, including local governments, until Feb. 9. Mabbott is in the process of drafting Umatilla County’s comments and said she hopes the state will defer to the county’s belief the project must have a transmission plan already in place.

“We also hope the transmission line follows existing corridors and minimizes impacts to existing farmhouses and farmland as much as possible,” Mabbott said.

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

STATUE: The Pendleton Linebackers Club have already raised \$93,000 needed to fund it

Continued from 1A

East Oregonian editor Nov. 7 voicing his preference that a different statue be put in place instead.

Since then, Hill said has received calls from friends and strangers alike agreeing with his view.

Hill said Brownfield Park is valuable both in its historic significance and its visibility and the statue featured in the park should honor an aspect of Pendleton’s heritage, like pioneers or Native Americans.

The park’s visibility is also what attracted the Linebacker’s Club.

Linebacker’s member Dean Fouquette said the club considered Roy Raley Park

and Pendleton High School, but settled on Brownfield Park because it would give the bronze the most exposure.

He added that the club went through both the Pendleton Arts Commission and city council to get permission for the project and have already raised the \$93,000 needed to fund it.

Fouquette said the club’s main focus was to be stewards of the city’s history and aesthetic.

Any city-led effort to change the statue would have to overcome a major hurdle. City Manager Robb Corbett said the council would need to vote unanimously to rescind their decision.

Councilwoman Jane Hill

(unrelated) said a preferable route would bring both sides together and find an agreeable compromise.

Both Fouquette and Fritz Hill were open to the idea of further dialogue, though Fritz was doubtful over how much a public forum could achieve.

Amid the prolonged discussion at the council meeting, Councilwoman McKennon McDonald spoke for the first time in her nascent tenure.

She said the city would benefit from a public arts plan that would specify the theme and spaces for all future public art.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com

MARIJUANA: 40 percent of sales tax revenue will go to the Common School Fund

Continued from 1A

that’s a system that really works.”

Burdick and the other committee co-chair, Rep. Ann Lininger, D-Lake Oswego, recently returned from a trip to Colorado to learn about the state’s experience with legal recreational marijuana.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has already set to work on rules to implement Measure 91, and the commission is looking to lawmakers to address issues that could affect those rules early in the legislative session. Measure 91 gave the OLCC broad authority to regulate marijuana growers, processors, wholesalers and stores.

Under Measure 91, recreational marijuana will become legal for adults 21 and older on July 1. Retail stores will begin to sell marijuana and cannabis products sometime in 2016, after the OLCC begins to accept applications for business licenses Jan. 4, 2016.

Ten bills are currently assigned to the legislative committee, and the marijuana industry is closely watching two in particular.

Sen. Jackie Winters, R-Salem, introduced SB 542 at the request of the League of Oregon Cities. The bill would eliminate the ban under Measure 91 on local governments passing their own sales taxes on pot and adopting ordinances to regulate or prohibit marijuana businesses.

Dozens of cities and a couple counties rushed to adopt local sales taxes on pot last year, under the theory that taxes passed before the Nov. 4 election

would not be affected by the prohibition against such taxes in Measure 91. Nonetheless, some lawyers warned that cities and counties could face lawsuits from the marijuana industry.

Measure 91 will send 40 percent of sales tax revenue to the Common School Fund and 20 percent will be used to provide mental health, alcoholism and drug service. The Oregon State Police will receive 15 percent, city police will receive 10 percent and county law enforcement will receive 10 percent. The remaining 5 percent will go to the Oregon Health Authority to provide drug addiction treatment and prevention services.

Measure 91 also allows voters to approve bans on recreational marijuana at the city and county level through the citizen initiative process, but they must wait until the November 2016 election. By then, many marijuana businesses will already be open.

The marijuana industry is also following HB 2676, sponsored by Rep. Peter Buckley, D-Ashland, which would consolidate regulation of medical marijuana at the OLCC. The Oregon Health Authority currently regulates the medical program. Some medical marijuana advocates want to keep the program separate, while others in the cannabis industry support the bill.

The committee did not vote on any legislation Wednesday.

The committee expects to meet again on Monday, to discuss laboratories that test marijuana products and programs to protect children.

Submit Your Pictures!

The East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald are looking for wedding photos to showcase in our Bridal Planner that publishes March 7, 2015.

Deadline Wednesday Feb 18th.

By mail: 211 SE Byers, Pendleton, OR 97801
By email to ajacobs@eastoregonian.com
Please include the names of the Bride and Groom!
Any questions, please call Amanda 541-278-2683

29th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon

Wednesday, February 25th
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Pendleton Convention Center

Tickets: \$25 Members* \$30 Non-Members
*Paid by 2/20
Call (541) 276-7411 to purchase

Title Sponsors:
Pacific Power
CHI St. Anthony Hospital
Umatilla County
Economic Development

Silver Sponsors:
Pendleton Sanitary Service
Wtechlink, Inc.

Bronze Sponsors:
T6 LLC
Pioneer Asphalt, Inc.