

UMATILLA

Port still plans to build warehouse

Project paid for through \$1.5M state Department of Transportation grant

By **GEORGE PLAGVEN**
East Oregonian

The Port of Umatilla still plans to build a 15,000-square-foot warehouse using state transportation funds awarded nearly three years ago.

It is the same project that was initially proposed on disputed land just east of the Big River Golf Course in Umatilla, where port and city officials fought over how the property was zoned dating back to 1977.

The case nearly went before the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals before sides came to an agreement in February. All the while, the port has held on to a \$1.5 million grant from the state Department of Transportation that was initially recommended for approval in June 2012.

General Manager Kim B. Puzey told port commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday that he is working to submit a new project schedule to ODOT within the next 30 days, though the agency is quickly running out of patience.

Puzey said they will likely move the development west across Bud Draper Road, which would maintain roughly the same distance to the port's Columbia River dock and access to Interstate 82.

"Logistically, it's about the same distance and the utilities are as readily available," Puzey said. The port had wanted to build the warehouse on the

east side of Bud Draper Road, which raised objection from the neighboring golf course and homeowners. The city planning commission denied the project's site plan application after ruling the land was, in fact, zoned residential, and not industrial as reflected on the city's own official maps.

That designation, the city claimed, was based on a decade-old mapping error and was never officially approved by the city council. Ultimately, the port agreed to sell the entire strip of land to the city for \$176,000, excluding property where Aramark Uniform Services had already developed, rather than argue the case in front of LUBA.

Now, Puzey said they are moving forward with a change order for the warehouse — described as a multi-modal marine freight transfer facility — in order for companies to have a building where they can store their products en route to shipping along the river or on highways.

Chris Cummings, freight program manager for ODOT, said they understand the project's delay is based on unforeseen circumstances. The agency will review the port's updated schedule once it is submitted, he said, and there is no hard and fast time frame for approval.

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

STANFIELD

City considers annexing property at interchange

Prefer restaurant and/or hotel at I-84 and Hwy 395

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Adding 25 acres to Stanfield's city limits could pave the way for new development off Interstate 84.

The city's planning commission is holding a public hearing Wednesday on a proposal to annex four tax lots at the intersection of Interstate 84 and Highway 395 into Stanfield.

"The city has been working with the property owners to do what we can to help make the property more marketable," city manager Blair Larsen said.

The properties, east of Highway 395 across from the Pilot Travel Center, would be a prime location for a restaurant, hotel or other commercial development in because of interstate traffic. But Larsen said development was limited until the city improved its water system last year,

making it possible for a business to connect to a city water line instead of trying to secure water rights for a well.

"It really wasn't feasible to use the property for anything but agriculture before," Larsen said.

The area is zoned for commercial use and is visible to travelers on the interstate. Annexing the property into the city would mean it would be served by city utilities, police protection, the road department and other city services.

"The city's preferred use would be to attract a hotel/restaurant combination but we're open to other things," Larsen said.

He said he hasn't heard any opposition to the plan and expects Wednesday's hearing to be more of a formality than a debate.

The hearing is scheduled for April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Stanfield council chambers, 150 W. Coe Ave.

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



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A Springtime stroll

Addison Schulberg of Pendleton walks his new puppy, a 12-month-old boxer-weimaraner mix, down Main Street on Tuesday in Pendleton. Schulberg says he named the dog Tula, short for Spatula.

BRIEFLY

Preus to discuss BMCC bond proposal

PENDLETON — Cam Preus, president of Blue Mountain Community College, will speak about the college's bond during the upcoming meeting of the Round-Up Republican Women.

Preus will provide details and answer questions about the bond proposal that will appear on the May 19 ballot. The no-host luncheon is Thursday at 11:45 a.m. at the Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton.

The public is welcome to attend. For more information, call 541-276-5330.

Library welcomes April artist

HERMISTON — A display of western art by Linda Phillips is featured during the month of April at the Hermiston Public Library.

A reception is planned Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Refreshments will be served.

A lifelong Hermiston resident, Phillips is an award-winning western artist. Her work has been chosen for many prestigious shows throughout the western United States. She specializes in contemporary horses and cowboys in pencil but also is broadening out into landscapes, plants and wildlife.

For more information, call Marie Baldo or Jodi Hansen at 541-567-2882.

Cowgirls in Cahoots opens Thursday

PENDLETON — Janene Grende and Connie Spurgeon, both nationally known for their western paintings of horses, cowgirls and wildlife, are featured in an exhibit at Pendleton Art + Frame.

The opening and artist's reception for Cowgirls in Cahoots is Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 36 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Refreshments will be served. In addition, both artists will be doing painting demonstrations Friday from noon to 4 p.m. Paintings and prints will be available for purchase. Also, Spurgeon will bring a new selection of her cowgirl buckle jewelry. The exhibit remains

through Monday, May 4. New shop hours are Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 541-276-3617.

Free seedlings offered at Home & Garden Show

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest is once again partnering with Pendleton Parks, Recreation and Cemetery to offer free tree and shrub seedlings during the Pendleton Home & Garden Show on Saturday, April 11.

More than 400 seedlings will be handed out during the event, limited to one per family on a first-come, first-serve basis. Species include chokecherry, mountain alder, ponderosa pine, serviceberry and Englemann spruce.

In conjunction with Arbor Day, Pendleton Parks and Recreation is continuing its "Plant 1,000 Trees" initiative to beautify the city. Residents have already planted 850 trees as of April 22, 2014. For more information, or to add a tree to the city's list, visit www.pendletonparksandrec.com/1000-trees.

Oregon celebrates Arbor Day festivities during the first full week of April, while National Arbor Day is Friday, April 24.

PSD holds meetings on redrawing school boundaries

PENDLETON — With Lincoln Primary School and West Hills Intermediate School set to take on different purposes in the next few years, the Pendleton School District will host a series of public meetings about redrawing the district's elementary school boundaries.

According to a district press release, the district is seeking public input on boundary options with the intention of implementing new district maps for the 2016-2017 school year, when the new buildings for Washington and Sherwood Heights elementary schools are scheduled to open.

Made possible by a \$55 million bond passed in 2013, Lincoln and West Hills will be converted the district's central office and a career technical center, respectively. There will be meetings

at each of the district's five school.

- April 22: Lincoln
 - April 27: West Hills
 - April 28: Sherwood
 - April 29: McKay Creek
 - April 30: Washington
- All meetings start at 6:00 p.m.

Hermiston chamber seeks nominations

HERMISTON — Is your administrative assistant tops in their field? If so, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce encourages you to nominate them as the Professional Assistant of the Year.

All nominees will be honored during the Tuesday, April 28 event at 11:45 a.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Nominations are due by Friday. In addition, tickets for the no-host luncheon are \$18 each.

For more information, to obtain a nomination form or reserve tickets, contact 541-567-6151, info@hermistonchamber.com or visit www.hermistonchamber.com.

Conference features certified genealogist

MT. VERNON — A board-certified genealogist is featured during the Spring Genealogy Seminar.

Connie Lenzen, a former National Genealogical Society director, will share about research. Presented

by the Grant County Genealogical Society, seminar classes will include vital records on the Internet, evidence analysis, newspaper research and Oregon Trail research.

The event is Saturday with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Mt. Vernon Community Hall, 640 Ingle St., Mt. Vernon. The cost is \$34 if paid in advance or \$40 at the door. The price includes lunch.

For more information, contact Jeannette at gcsociety94@yahoo.com or 541-932-4718.

Kiwanis plan park project

PENDLETON — A work day is planned at Kiwanis Park in Pendleton.

The Pendleton Kiwanis Club will prepare for the upcoming season of use for the park Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at 1800 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. The primary project includes spreading new wood chips in the playground area.

The group selected April 11 as its project day to coincide with Kiwanis International's Kiwanis One Day. Kiwanis clubs around the globe are encouraged to organize a day of service to their communities in support of the day.

For more information about the project, contact Randy Mills at 541-278-5403 or randy.mills@oregonstate.edu.

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Oskar Peterson
IONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Oskar Peterson is an outstanding lone Community School Student. Oskar is ASB President and shows all the quality characteristics that would make any President or student succeed. He is responsible, dependable, intelligent, and kind. Oskar volunteered last summer for the local reading program, during which he helped prepare materials and helped get students excited about reading. He plays the trumpet in the lone advanced band, the lone community pep band, and the Eastern Oregon Symphony. Oskar will graduate from lone in June with over 40 college credits and ready to take on his next adventure. While at lone he has been a leader, a positive community member, and a model student!

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