

PENDLETON

School projects come in \$3M under budget

East Oregonian

Thanks to higher revenue projection and under-budget costs, the Pendleton School District's bonds are set to have an extra \$3 million to use for facility upgrades.

All told, the district is currently projecting to spend \$55.6 million on bond-related projects, while having \$58.6 million to spend.

Superintendent Jon Peterson said the district's bond oversight committee will reconvene in the coming months to recommend projects for consideration.

Dave Fishel, vice president of the Wenaha Group, said the extra money could pay for projects that include improvements to the Pendleton High School auditorium and the track and field facility.

While the district considers its options for the extra money, work will continue this summer on the district's current slate of projects.

Construction crews recently broke ground on an air conditioning system for

Sunridge Middle School. Fishel said the middle school will also get repairs to its skylights and installation of noise-reducing panels, which will make the intercom system more audible between periods.

McKay Creek Elementary School will get a new roof along with a consolidation of its playground to the north side of the campus. The old basketball courts will be turned into a parking lot to ease traffic congestion around the school.

The high school will also get a new roof, in addition to a boiler replacement.

All three schools are scheduled to get new intercom systems, new phone systems and security upgrades.

Fishel said crews are working on the Pendleton Early Learning Center's interior, with many classrooms starting to take shape.

He and Lincoln Primary School Principal Lori Hale, who will become the center's principal next year, are already discussing the moving process.

BOARDMAN



The new Boardman Operations Center is expected to be completed by mid-2016.

UEC to break ground on new operations center

East Oregonian

Ongoing expansion in the Boardman area has prompted the Umatilla Electric Cooperative to build a new \$5.5 million operations center on Columbia Avenue near the Port of Morrow.

Board President Jeff Wenholz announced the project at the co-op's annual meeting on April 18. Construction on the 23,970-square-foot building

is expected to break ground in early summer and finish by mid-2016.

A three-man line crew will be assigned to the Boardman Operations Center to improve response times during outages and provide a greater range of on-site services, according to information provided by the co-op. The complex will also feature warehouse space, a large meeting room, business lobby, storage for

poles and transformers and a drive-up kiosk for 24-hour bill pay.

UEC will close its existing business office on East Boardman Avenue after the new facility opens. The new operations center will not increase electric rates and costs will be offset by revenue from load growth, said the company. No final decisions have been made about staffing the center.

The construction contract

was recently awarded to Chervenell Construction of Kennewick. In the past, Chervenell has done local projects including Armand Larive Middle School and Sunset, West Park and Desert View elementary schools in Hermiston, as well as Arrowhead Travel Plaza and Cayuse Technologies on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

UEC provides power to nearly 10,000 members and hires about 80 employees.

BRIEFLY



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Flames and smoke pour from the roof vents of a house Monday evening in the 700 block of East Catherine Avenue in Hermiston.

Multiple agencies respond to house fire

HERMISTON — A home at 738 East Catherine Avenue, Hermiston, sustained significant damage in a fire that started Monday evening.

Firefighters from multiple agencies responded after the homeowners reported the fire at about 8:15 p.m. Flames and heavy smoke were visible across the roof and coming through the vents.

Hermiston fire marshal Tom Bohm said the fire appeared to be linked to a controlled burn of some weeds that had happened earlier in the day.

"Looking at it, I think what happened is an ember got either under the house or under the shed and got some air and flared up," he said.

He said the couple who live in the home escaped uninjured after a neighbor alerted them of heavy smoke coming from their house and shed.

There was smoke damage throughout the house and fire damage to the south wall, attic, roof and ceiling on one side of the house. A shed was also burned.

Richmond takes helm at Umatilla County Special Library District

PENDLETON — Following the retirement of Mary Nixon, the Umatilla County Special Library District announced Marsha Richmond will assume the duties as district coordinator.

Richmond joins the special library district with 22 years of experience in the library field, most recently as the director of the Oregon Trail Library District.

"We are thrilled to have Marsha joining us," said Jean Eckles, UCSLD board president. "It is a wonderful opportunity for us to continue to grow."

As coordinator, Richmond will develop and implement the annual budget, share resources with local libraries, develop strategies and direct operation of the special library district. In addition, she will provide marketing and outreach and participate in regional and state professional library activities.

Formed in 1986 and governed by a five-member board of directors, the Umatilla County Special Library District provides support to libraries throughout the county. For more information, contact 541-276-6449 or dan@ucslid.org or visit www.ucslid.org.

Heppner Farmers' Market hosts meeting

HEPPNER — An organizational meeting for the Heppner Farmers' Market is planned this week.

Anyone interested in the market is invited to meet Thursday at 5 p.m. at Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St.

The market will open Friday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Heppner City Park. The market will run through Friday, Sept. 25.

For more information, call 5451-676-5536.

Spring revs up with area car shows

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

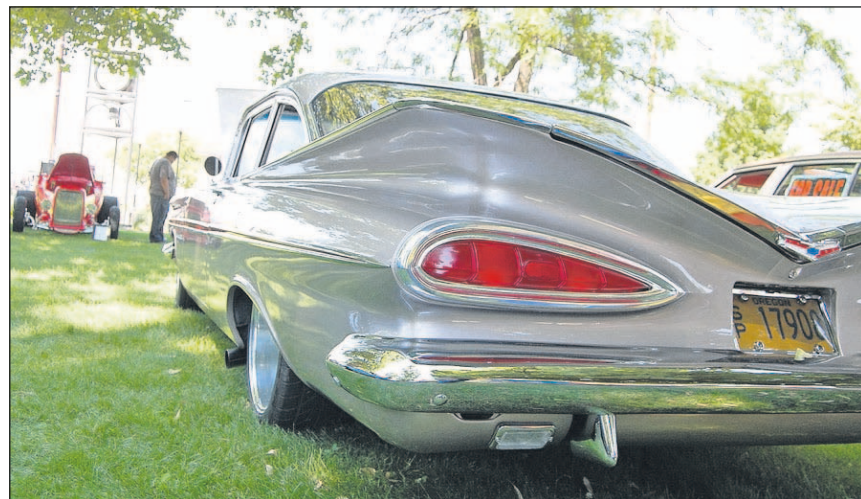
Car enthusiasts will have a pair of opportunities in the next few weeks to shine up their classic and custom cars, trucks and motorcycles.

In addition, people can help support student programs at Blue Mountain Community College and Echo High School by visiting upcoming car shows in the area.

Hundreds of classic and custom vehicles are expected during this weekend's Cruisin' for Scholarships. The event supports students in the BMCC Diesel Technology program. Then, things rev up Saturday, May 23 in downtown Echo as the Ace Car Club hosts its annual car show.

In addition to the stunning views of Pendleton, the lush central lawn of Blue Mountain Community College provides a comfortable venue that will include raffles, live music, a burger barbecue by the Pendleton Lions Club, a LifeFlight helicopter landing and live coverage from 92.1 PARTY FM. Also, BMCC's TRiO program, which provides support services to first generation college students, will hold a car wash fundraiser.

On-site registration is Saturday at 9 a.m. with the event running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Vehicle registration is \$20, which includes a dash plaque. Also, the first 50 entries will receive a complimentary goodie bag. People can register in advance at www.bluecc.edu/alumni. The fees for web registrations will be collected during the Saturday check-in. Award categories include cars by decade, President's Choice, People's Choice, best motorcycle and more.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

The distinct lines on Chevrolet Bel-Airs, like this 1959 model owned by Ron Anderson, make them popular at area car shows.

For more information, contact 541-278-5823 or email ishadle@bluecc.edu.

The Echo Car Show gets rolling Saturday, May 23 from noon to 5 p.m. in downtown Echo. The car entry fee is \$20, or \$5 for students with identification. All cars and motorcycles are welcome to enter the car show.

Additional fundraising planned during the event includes an Italian soda bar by the Echo High School volleyball team, barbecued burgers and hot dogs by the football team, a dunk tank by the basketball team and a fourth grade class selling jerky for its coast trip.

"We've had tremendous support from the Echo community. It's a huge fundraiser for a lot of different entities around here," said Rick Denning, Ace Car Club parent volunteer.

Now in its 10th year, the show started in 2005 with a handful of students shining up their cars and

parking them on the sidewalk near the school, Denning said. A dozen students belong to the club. Money raised from the event helps fund car club projects, as well as field trips such as the Portland Roadster Show, monster truck rallies and car races in Hermiston.

Nearly two dozen classes are included in the show, including best motorcycle, best Harley, best student car and "At Least I have a Car." Students in the shop class are making some of the trophies, while others are being created by car club participants using donated car parts.

For more information, call Denning at 541-571-4417, Amo Estrada, advisor, at 541-376-8436, extension 6219 or visit www.facebook.com/aceautomobileclubofechohighschool.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

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