

UMATILLA

City delays new zoning regs; considers centralized mail

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Umatilla city councilors weren't quite ready to pull the trigger Tuesday night on an overhaul of the city's commercial zone rules that would limit strip clubs and marijuana dispensaries to certain parts of town.

"I do not feel comfortable moving ahead," councilor Mel Ray said. "There is 100 pages of this to read and digest. ... In the last three days I've digested one zone, the McNary zone, and I had a lot of questions."

They voted to continue the discussion to their May 19 meeting, giving them more time to examine the rules and decide if they had any amendments to suggest.

Umatilla's current commercial zone rules merely differentiate between businesses conducted wholly within an enclosed space and those that include outdoor components. The new rules recommended by the planning commission divide the city into six types of

commercial zones and spell out the allowed uses in each zone. They also set property development standards for landscaping, stormwater drainage and other features.

Planning commission chair Boyd Sharp said the commission spent five months creating a statement of the purpose of each zone and then looking at how each category of use would support or detract from that purpose.

"We asked, does this fit the description of what we want this zone to look like?" he said.

During the opportunity for public testimony, Steve Rodarte told the council he disagreed with only allowing medical marijuana dispensaries in the general commercial zone and highway commercial zone, which precludes them from locating downtown or in McNary. He disagreed with planning commission members' statements that they wanted to allow dispensaries, arguing that the only place dispensaries (and strip clubs) would

be allowed is on land that is not for sale or unsuitable to build on, clustered around the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 730.

"You're zoning people out," he said.

Councilor David Lougee, who sat on the planning commission during its initial work on the regulations before being elected to city council, said he was comfortable voting on the rules immediately, but when other councilors voiced concerns he supported the motion to continue the discussion to May 19.

In other business, the council entertained a request from city postmaster Robin Kasiska to consider centralized mail delivery.

Residents would have to walk to get their mail from the neighborhood mailbox unit, he said, but the upside would be the security of having locked mailboxes and parcel lockers that people in the neighborhood would be motivated to keep an eye on.

Umatilla, Irrigon and Hermiston experienced a rash

of mail theft earlier this year.

Kasiska said the city would have to front the bill for installation of the units but the United States Postal Service would maintain them.

He said more apartment complexes are moving to secure, centralized mail delivery and developers are required by law to pay for centralized units for residential developments that include more than five houses.

Mayor David Trott suggested that the city develop a survey to see how residents in different neighborhoods felt about the idea of centralized delivery and if any neighborhoods were willing to pay for it themselves if the city decided not to.

"It's incumbent that we have reliable data," he said.

The council directed staff to write a survey to be distributed this summer.

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PENDLETON

PSD goes back on ballot with \$2.35M levy

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

\$170,000 per year.

Although the district is asking for a smaller amount of money for the levy than they did for the bond, McBee said the levy is no less crucial.

If the levy doesn't pass, teacher positions could be cut as a result.

"The last thing we want to do is cut teachers because we already have a high teacher-student ratio," McBee said.

Pendleton School Board Chairman Steve Umbarger recently said that, if the state budget is passed, the district would already face a \$750,000 budget shortfall because of a decrease in funding. That number would dip into the millions without the levy.

State help could be on the way in the form of the Legislature's May 14 revenue forecast. Forty percent of any additional tax collections featured in the forecast will go toward education.

If the additional revenue still fails to cover some district's budget gaps, Rep. Peter Buckley, D-Ashland, co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, said his committee will "wrestle" with the state budget to find alternative sources of revenue.

Ballots are due May 19.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

Already facing a potentially smaller budget next year, things could go from bad to worse for the Pendleton School District if voters don't pass a \$2.35 million levy later this month. Laying off teachers is a possibility if the levy fails.

District supporters are hoping voters will support the levy as they did the 2013 \$58 million bond.

While both the bond and the levy are continuations of existing taxes, Pendleton School Board member Debbie McBee they serve different purposes.

By law, bonds can only be used for construction and capital improvement costs. The most recent bond is being used to build new structures for Washington and Sherwood Heights elementary schools, among other projects.

The five-year levy, which has been renewed several times since it was first introduced in 2000, helps pay for operational costs like teacher salaries and student programs.

The levy imposes a property tax rate of 40 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value, generating roughly \$300,000 per year. The passage of the levy would also trigger equalization payments from the state, which would give the district an extra

PENDLETON

Ceramics studio to honor Alice Fossatti

East Oregonian

The public is invited to a celebration to dedicate the Alice Fossatti Ceramics Studio at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

Fossatti, who turned 100 last year, plans to be in attendance, along with friends and family. A selection of Fossatti's artwork will be on display.

The event is Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. The dedication ceremony is at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served during the event.

The honor was made possible through a generous donation to the Arts Council of Pendleton from the Tim Fetzer Charity Fund. Terre Seitz Rasmussen is the account advisor of the fund and felt the ceramics studio at the arts center was the perfect place to honor a great artist and educator who has touched so many lives in Pendleton.

"I didn't have Alice as a teacher, but my siblings did," said Rasmussen. "I've seen the effect one strong, creative and enthusiastic person can have in helping to shape the character of a community. I think that's something to honor."

Fossatti taught kindergarten for 23 years, then



Contributed photo

Several children work on projects in the Alice Fossatti Ceramics Studio at Pendleton Center for the Arts. The studio will be dedicated Saturday.

studied with Pendleton ceramic artist Betty Feves in the 1960s. The two made bonfire pots in outdoor pits, sitting up all night to tend the firings. She also made smaller works in a kiln at the home she shared with Don Fossatti, her husband of 73 years. Fossatti was active in her studio there until she was in her late 90s.

She's perhaps best known for her angels, which she sold at galleries and craft fairs around Pendleton. Her work has a distinctive style and the simple but nuanced lines and gestures are deceptively expressive. She once told a reporter, "I can't follow a pattern, I'm not a cookie-cutter person."

The ceramics studio at

Pendleton Center for the Arts is home to a wide range of ceramics activity. Students from youths to adults create both wheel-thrown pieces and hand-built work during free or low-cost classes. Professional artists work independently in the studio as well.

For more information, call 541-278-9201.

BRIEFLY

Spring chinook season gets four-day extension on the Columbia River

Recreational anglers will have four extra days to fish for spring chinook on the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam.

The season, which was set to close Thursday, has been extended for a third time through Sunday, May 10.

New run-size projections from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife show an additional 600 salmon available for fishing on the river from Tower Island power lines — about six miles below The Dalles Dam — to the Oregon-Washington border. Bank fishing is also permitted on both sides of the river from Bonneville Dam to the Tower Island lines during the extension.

The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids per day, though only one may be a chinook. Only fin-clipped fish can be kept, and all sockeye must be released. All other regulations apply.

Summer chinook fishing season is scheduled to begin June 16.

Writer's workshop encourages story telling

PENDLETON — Sometimes people think their experience is too ordinary or hesitate in telling stories out of fear of offending others.

But when given a chance, they often realize their stories are important and worth sharing.

An upcoming writer's workshop is designed to help spark memories. The focus includes writing the stories that need to be told.

Led by Bette Husted, Writer's Workshop: Telling Our Stories is Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. Those attending need to bring a lunch and writing materials.

For more information or to register, call 541-278-9201.

Hermiston youth raising money for Orlando trip

HERMISTON — A 12-year-old Hermiston girl hopes to participate in

the National Fine Arts Competition Aug. 3-7 in Orlando, Florida.

Mya Hayden recently received a superior rating while competing in the female vocal soloist category in the Oregon Fine Arts Festival in Albany, which qualified her for the national event.

To help raise money for the trip, Hayden will man a Hermiston's Own Farmers' Market booth this weekend during the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival. She will offer baked goods, Mother's Day cookie bouquets, Italian sodas and balloon art. The booth will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Hermiston.

She also is accepting cans and is available to do yard work, housework and childcare. In addition, money can be donated at www.gofundme.com/mya2orlando.

Hayden, who is a seventh grader at Armand Larive Middle School, has been taking private voice lessons since she was 5 with Kathy Turner, who retired from West Park Elementary School. To view Hayden's recent performance in Albany, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYhTRRrVrOKM.

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