

PILOT ROCK

Storm burst leaves little damage

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock weathered a deluge Friday that swelled surrounding creeks and flooded a few homes.

The National Weather Service in Pendleton reported 1.5 inches of rain covered the small city south of Pendleton in just 45 minutes. But Tuesday only some mud, rock and debris remains behind.

Pilot Rock Rural Fire Protection District Capt. Jeff Hemphill reported Friday that flood waters affected several homes and barns in the east and west Birch Creek road areas, including rushing into two basements, though there was no major structural damage. Fire Division Chief Richard Hemphill, father of Jeff Hemphill, said about the worst he saw was water that rose to close to 3 feet in a crawl space beneath one house.

“We pumped that out,” he said, “so it didn’t really hurt anything.”

Richard Hemphill said it looked like a weather front from the southwest collided with another less than mile south of the Pilot Rock. “The hard part of that rainfall was fairly contained,” he said, “perhaps not more than half a mile wide at the really intense part.”

While the downpour drenched some areas, Hemphill said he heard from people on the north side of Pilot Rock who claimed they barely used their windshield wipers.

He also said in 42 years of living in



A front-end loader pushes water and debris off Birch Creek Road on Friday after a thunderstorm dumped an inch and a half of rain, causing flash flooding in the Pilot Rock area.

Pilot Rock this was probably the third time he has seen this kind of spring storm. On the upshot, he said, it did not last long.

Pilot Rock resident John Taylor said he serves on a Neighborhood Watch that received the alert about the bad weather. “It did rain hard,” he said, but most people were able to go about their business and the heavy rain did not seem to affect the city significantly.

The freshet also made some roads treacherous. Hemphill said one quarter-mile stretch of East Birch Creek

Road was overrun with a foot of water.

Umatilla County emergency manager Jack Remillard said he checked out Yellow Jacket and West Birch creeks on Friday and saw some mud washed over roads, but there was no damage. But he said flooding took out a guardrail and possibly some pavement along a portion of Highway 395 just west of Pilot Rock. He said Oregon Department of Transportation had better take a look at it.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

HERMISTON

The Arc hosts bowl-a-thon for boiler

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The Arc Umatilla County is hopeful a bowl-a-thon will help raise needed funds to replace the boiler in its building.

Constructed in 1941 through the United Service Organizations, the building has served as a venue for dancing, bingo, classes and even as a voter precinct as the Civic Recreation Center.

When the Hermiston Conference Center opened, the former CRC became the permanent home of The Arc. While the city of Hermiston maintains ownership of the building, The Arc leases it for \$1 per year and is responsible for maintenance, said Jan Schroth, a board

member with The Arc. The Arc’s mission is to expand opportunities for people with intellectual and development disabilities.

Over the years, projects have included updating the electrical work, remodeling the bathrooms, re-doing the porch and painting. The boiler project is expected to cost \$35,000, said Executive Director Elizabeth Neustel. About \$18,000 has been raised so far.

Bowling for the Boiler is Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. at Desert Lanes Family Fun Center, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. The cost is \$25 for walk-on bowlers to be added to form a five-person team. The team sponsorship is \$125. People and businesses can also make

a donation of \$50 as a lane sponsor. Also, all donations, regardless of size, are appreciated, Neustel said.

Top bowlers will receive awards. Also, door prizes will be given away, including gift certificates at local businesses. In addition, a raffle is being held for a 7-night stay from Aug. 31-Sept. 7 at a luxury timeshare in McCall, Idaho. The accommodations are for up to six people. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Only 200 tickets will be sold and the drawing will be held Wednesday, July 1.

In addition to weekly fundraising bingo games, the building is rented out for gatherings, including birthday parties, wedding receptions and fundraisers

for other organizations, Neustel said.

The 6,678-square-foot building was constructed at a cost of \$28,000, which included furnishings. It featured a large central room with hardwood floors, a large fireplace, two smaller rooms, restroom and shower facilities and a kitchen.

For more information about Bowling for the Boiler, call Neustel at 541-567-7615. For details or tickets for the timeshare raffle, call Kristi Smalley at 541-567-1546 or Debbie Herrera at 541-571-2995.

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

PENDLETON

School district avoids layoffs, program cuts

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Out of the fire, the Pendleton School District is in the midst of climbing out of the frying pan.

After voters passed the district’s \$2.4 million operations levy by a convincing margin May 19, district staff announced Thursday there would be no employee layoffs or major programming cuts despite a revenue shortfall.

Thanks to full-day kindergarten, the district’s budget will actually rise to \$95.7 million, with a \$33.7 million general fund.

In the months leading up to the budget meeting, district officials have said significant budget cuts could be on the table if the state didn’t raise its \$7.255 million education budget.

While a \$730,000 deficit does exist, the district was able to cover the gap using savings in other parts of the budget.

Anticipating the state wouldn’t thoroughly fund full-day kindergarten, director of business services Michelle Jones said the district previously set aside \$125,000.

The district also didn’t need all the money it budgeted for a \$500,000 curriculum purchase, allowing officials to put the savings toward the deficit.

Combined with smaller amounts of money culled from other parts of the budget, Jones said the district should be able to maintain the status quo.

Although district officials are unhappy with the state’s education budget, more money could be on the way. The Legislature’s May 14 revenue forecast revealed higher than expected revenue streams.

Since the Legislature previously promised to allocate 40 percent of any extra revenue to education, Oregon schools are expected to get an additional \$105 million.

But even with the

extra funding, the district wanted to play cautious with money that’s still technically hypothetical.

If the money does come through, the district expects to add \$270,000 to the general fund — \$220,000 for instruction and \$50,000 for support services.

If the district gets more than \$270,000, Jones said that spare funding will be directed at the discretion of the school board.

Despite the announcement of no layoffs, it wasn’t all good news at the budget meeting.

While the district originally wanted to hire two full-time employees for its preschool program for three- and four-year olds on the Head Start waiting list, the budget squeeze slashed those positions to part-time.

The district’s student population also continues to take a tumble.

“As of May 1, 2015 the District is down 48 students from May 1, 2014,” Peterson wrote in his annual budget message. “While enrollment projects completed as part of the PSD’s Facility Master Plan a few years ago predict that enrollment will remain relatively flat over the next several years, it is of great concern to lose almost 50 students in a one year period.”

Peterson said the decline in enrollment is mostly due to families moving out of the city for better jobs or housing situations.

The 14-person budget committee, which is comprised of the school board and various community members, unanimously voted to recommend the budget for approval. The board is scheduled to formally adopt the budget June 8.

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

BRIEFLY

Echo Preschool taking enrollment

ECHO — As Echo Preschool’s first year wraps up, the school is preparing to continue admitting students next year.

Echo School District, which sponsors the preschool, is taking registrations for the 2015-2016 school year now. An open house for prospective families to ask questions and meet the teacher will be June 2 at 6 p.m. at the preschool, across the street from Echo High School.

The preschool can serve up to 25 four-year-olds. It costs \$400 a month for the traditional 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. program, but parents can also pay \$25 a month for a morning program from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and \$25 a month for an after-school program from 3:45-5 p.m.

For an enrollment form visit echo.k12.or.us online or call 541-376-8436.

Church hosts rummage sale

UMATILLA — A craft table, clothing, stuffed animals, dolls and various “white elephant” items will be available during the Rummage & White Elephant Sale at the Umatilla Presbyterian Church.

The event is Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 from

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the church’s fellowship hall, 14 Martin Drive.

For more information, call 541-922-3250.

United Way annual benefit raffle

A \$1,000 Visa gift card is among the items available in the United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties’ annual benefit raffle.

Other raffle items include a Xbox One, Beats Pill 2.0 (wireless speaker), a 50-inch LED HDTV, teeth whitening gift certificate and a Pendleton Woolen Mills blanket. Only 2,000 tickets will be sold.

The drawing will be held Friday, July 24 at the United Way’s benefit golf tournament at Wildhorse Resort Golf Course. The winner doesn’t need to be present.

Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Tickets can be purchased from United Way board members, Executive Director Cricket Nicholson via 541-276-2661 or unitedwayumco@eoni.com, Columbia Bank in Pendleton and Hermiston,

US Bank in Athena, Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Hermiston FunFest seeks vendors

HERMISTON — More than 4,000 people are expected during the 10th annual Hermiston FunFest.

Scheduled for Saturday, July 11 with set-up from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and the event running through 3 p.m., vendors are needed for the one-day event. Vendors can promote businesses, sell artwork, crafts or commercial products and more. Spaces are available on Main Street, Hermiston. The cost is \$25 for nonprofit organizations, \$35 for chamber members and \$50 for commercial vendors.

Food vendors need to contact Melissa Ney at 541-278-6394 of the Umatilla County Health Department to obtain required licensing.

For more information or to obtain a vendor application, contact the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce at 541-567-6151 or visit www.hermistonchamber.com.

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Program manager to speak at The Arc meeting

HERMISTON — Mary Olsen, program manager of Umatilla County Developmental Disabilities Program, will speak at the annual membership meeting of The Arc

Umatilla County.

Open to the public, the meeting is Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. at The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. The Arc works to increase opportunities for people with intellectual and development disabilities.

The agenda also will include the election of officers. For more

information, call 541-567-7615.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

\$300.00 REWARD MISSING DOG

• **Mini Aussie**

Please help us find our lost dog that comes to the name of **Charlie!**

Charlie

Charlie was lost on 5/16 on the old stock driveway outside of Pilot Rock. He could have made his way to Spring Creek road or out that way.

Please call or text 541-969-7180 or 969-8502 - Brittany Doherty

Kevin Andrews, MD, L.L.C.

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Everything **South of the Border**

is Happening at Prestige in May

McKay Creek Estates invites you to our

Everything South of the Border Open House

Friday, May 29th
3:00 - 7:00pm

We are having a FIESTA of a good time for all our family, friends, and professionals!

Enjoy our South of the Border hospitality while you tour all of the updates at our community, and preview all of the new exciting services and activities we offer!

Sizzling appetizers and refreshing Margaritas will be served.

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