

HERMISTON

Rising property values create early URA revenue

East Oregonian

Hermiston’s Urban Renewal Agency will have more time to pay back a \$50,000 loan from the city after the council Tuesday approved an adjustment to the terms of the loan.

City planner Clint Spencer said the loan, which has served as seed money for a downtown façade grant program, was set to start being paid back when the agency began earning revenue through an increase in property values in the urban renewal district covering downtown.

“We assumed it was going to be several years before we started collecting revenue,” he said.

Instead, in its first year the district collected \$15,800. At the same time, it has only paid out \$5,000 in façade grants. Spencer said allowing the urban renewal agency to delay payment until it has collected at least \$50,000 in revenue would allow for more façade grants.

“It will add about \$2,500 in interest but we feel it is worth it,” he said.

The city council also paved the way for maintenance at the Hermiston Municipal Airport on Tuesday by authorizing the signing of agreements with the Oregon Department of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The city and state are leveraging federal grant funds to complete

the runway re-paving project this summer at no cost to the city.

During a work session preceding the meeting the council got a demonstration of Hermiston Police Department’s body cameras that have been in use for a little over a month.

Chief Jason Edmiston said the ability to review footage of arrests and traffic stops has proved useful.

When a pastor called to question the decision to arrest a 67-year-old woman for disorderly conduct, for example, Edmiston was able to call up video of the incident and feel confident in backing up the arrest.

“The officers put up with a lot more than they needed to,” he said.

“She probably should have been arrested several minutes prior.”

On the other hand, when a parent complained about their child’s arrest, video of the incident gave the department a chance to see how some things could have been handled better.

Edmiston cited a study from Rialto, California, showing that police use of force dropped 59.5 percent and citizen complaints dropped by 87.5 percent in the first year of introducing body cameras to the force.

“Officers are more careful with how they interact with people and citizens are more compliant and cooperative when they know they are being recorded,” he said.

City attorney Gary Luisi noted that the video is also useful evidence in court. When an officer hits “record” the camera automatically saves the 30 seconds of footage prior to hitting the button. That means if they hit record within 30 seconds of seeing a traffic violation it gets caught on camera for a judge to review.

“They’ll come in and swear the light was yellow,” Luisi said.

Mayor David Drotzmann said he supported HPD’s use of cameras as a way to hold officers accountable and citizens accountable.

“If we can do anything to de-escalate crime ... then that’s a win,” he said.

PENDLETON

Classic cars, vintage machines

By TAMMY MALGESINI

East Oregonian

For more than a decade, the first weekend in June has included a pair of popular events with the Old Iron Show at Roy Raley Park and June Cruisin’ and British Touring, a car show in downtown Pendleton.

Jack Remillard, who began refurbishing cars and old farm equipment engines more than three decades ago, started the Old Iron Show for people to gather and show off their interests. Since it began in 2003, the Umatilla County Historical Society has seen the show grow each year, prompting an additional day for the 2015 event. The show features everything from horse-drawn equipment and single cylinder engines to pre-war automobiles, vintage trucks and a large selection of antique tractors.

The free show is Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 from 8 a.m. to dusk and Sunday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. There’s no entrance fee for exhibitors or spectators. Donations are gladly accepted to support the event.

Equipment demonstrations are available throughout the day. During the past couple of years, a crowd has gathered while John Olsen of Pendleton showed off an old apple press. In addition, exhibitors



EO file photo

John Olsen of Pendleton did a restoration project on a 1946 John Deere model B in his shop. Over the years, the equipment enthusiast has displayed some of his tractors in the Old Iron Show. This year’s event is Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 at Roy Raley Park in Pendleton.

welcome questions about items on display.

Exhibitors can bring equipment all day Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5. All the items must be removed by 4 p.m. Sunday, June 7. A forklift operator will be available for assistance. Also, recreational vehicle parking for exhibitors is available in the park on a first-come basis as space allows.

For more information about the Old Iron Show, call 541-276-0012. or visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org.

The June Cruisin’ and British Touring car show

begins Saturday, June 6 with registration and set-up from 8-10 a.m. on Main Street in Pendleton. Vehicles will be on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The vehicle registration is \$20 each.

Chris Roop, a car enthusiast and former teacher at Washington Elementary School, was the event’s organizer for many years. Proceeds from the show still go to the school, Roop said.

The popular car show attracts participants from as far away as Seattle, Portland and Boise, as well as many local car enthusiasts.

Other activities held in conjunction with the show include a poker walk from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; a \$100 roll, which tests people’s skills in operating a remote control vehicle while blindfolded, from 1-2 p.m.; and marshmallow spitting and hubcap toss contests at 2 p.m. In addition, there’s a 50/50 drawing and a raffle. Contest results, prizes and awards will be announced at 3 p.m.

For more about the June Cruisin car show, visit www.roopsmg.com/jcatbi.htm or contact 541-429-8784 or premiumlube1@gmail.com.

UMATILLA

Woman’s hair singed in house fire

East Oregonian

A house fire in Umatilla on Wednesday was contained to the inside of a bathroom and bedroom but resulted in minor injury to a resident of the home.

Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District Chief Mike Roxbury said a woman was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center where she was treated and released. Her hair was “singed pretty bad” while she was trying to put out a fire that started in a trash can in the bathroom.

Umatilla firefighters responded to 129 John Day

St. shortly after 10:30 a.m. Hermiston and Stanfield’s fire districts were automatically called out for mutual aid, but Roxbury said he sent Stanfield’s trucks back because the fire was already under control.

He said the department found several garbage cans containing cigarette butts in the house and that smoldering materials in the bathroom trash can seems to be what started the fire. He said it’s a reminder for people to never throw cigarette butts or ashcan contents into a garbage can full of tissues and other flammable items.

Roxbury said the fire might have been caught sooner if the batteries in a nearby smoke detector had been installed properly, another important safety measure he urged people to take.

“This is a classic example of making sure your smoke detector works,” he said.

Weather reports predict temperatures will stretch past 90 degrees in Eastern Oregon this weekend. Roxbury said he hopes people take proper precautions to account for the increased fire danger the hotter, drier weather will bring.

Chinook season opens Thursday upstream from Bonneville Dam

PENDLETON — Spring chinook and steelhead fishing season will once again open on the Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon-Washington border beginning Thursday and run through Monday, June 15.

Fisheries managers announced they will reopen the Mid-Columbia based on stronger-than-predicted returns from the Pacific Ocean. In January, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife forecasted a return of 232,500 salmon and set the spring season for March 16 through May 6. The season was already extended once through May 10, and as of Monday, the run is now up to 260,000 fish.

“We’ve gained almost 30,000 fish, which allows for more flexibility,” said John North, Columbia River fisheries manager for ODFW. “It’s all based on the actual run size.”

Anglers can keep two adult fin-clipped salmon or steelhead per day, but only one may be a chinook. Sockeye may not be kept until the summer season opens on June 16. In addition, fishing is limited to the riverbanks only on both sides of the Columbia from Bonneville Dam to the Tower Island power lines, which are located about six miles below The Dalles Dam.

On June 3, ODFW will also close the John Day Pool of the Columbia to retention of white sturgeon. Catch and release for sturgeon will still be allowed, except in the species spawning sanctuary that runs from McNary Dam to the Interstate 82 bridge.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

TUESDAY

•A Morrow County sheriff’s deputy at about 1 a.m. assisted a stranded driver. The driver reported he was on Interstate 84 westbound near Boardman in a Dodge Stratus with a U-Haul trailer when a tire blew out. On top of that, the driver said, the tire jack did not work. The deputy helped him change the tire.

•An employee of Eastern Oregon Center For Independent Living, Pendleton, told police at 8:51 a.m. someone damaged a company vehicle during the weekend.

•An Irrigon resident at 10:15 a.m. reported possible prowlers in the night moved items around her house on Southeast California Avenue.

•A Pendleton woman at 10:47 a.m. complained about her neighbor on Southwest Eighth Street spraying her dog through the fence with a pressure nozzle. She also advised he has a history of poisoning the previous tenant’s dog.

•A Umatilla resident at 11:13 a.m. reported someone parked their car in front of her garage on Sloan Avenue and she would like it removed.

•A caller at 11:59 a.m. reported the theft of an old truck frame and other metal from an old farmhouse on Speare Canyon Road, Echo. The caller also said he saw an older gray car creep by, and when he came out it drove by again. He also said there has been graffiti on the old buildings. He said he did not need contact but wanted law enforcement aware of this.

•A Hermiston-area man on Northeast Seventh Street at 4:08 p.m. reported he had “an encounter” with a neighbor who “took a couple of swings” at him.

•An Irrigon man at 5:05 p.m. reported the theft of medication from his mailbox on Northwest Washington Avenue.

•The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office at 5:26 p.m. received a report of a neglected horse in a small pen near a bridge over McKay Creek outside Pilot Rock.

•A hitchhiker and his wife at 5:47 p.m. reported they were the victims of theft. A man in a white Dodge van gave the couple a ride to the Pilot Travel Center, Stanfield, then left them and took their belongings. The male victim claimed the van had a Texas license plate on the vehicle and a New Mexico plate on the dashboard. He also said the driver was drunk. Law enforcement checked this off as a civil problem.

•A Pendleton caller at 7:55 p.m. reported someone cut through a screen in an attempt to break into her residence on Southwest Hailey Place. They were not successful, she said.

•A renter in the midst of facing eviction at Chinn Apartments, Hermiston, tried to run over the people evicting him. The would-be victims reported the incident and said they would wait at the apartments for law enforcement.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

•Milton-Freewater police released details on Sunday’s arrest of Ronnie Cowden.

Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer reported officers at about 9 p.m. Sunday received a call to respond to 169 S.E. Sixth Ave. for 10-12 people in a fight. Police at the scene, though, discovered brothers Ronnie Cowden, 38, and Donald Cowden, 35, were in a physical confrontation in front of other family members.

“The incident was apparently caused by a dispute regarding automobile tires, and who they belonged to,” according to Boedigheimer.

Officers determined Ronnie Cowden allegedly held a box knife to Donald Cowden’s throat with one hand while tightly grasping his brother’s throat with the other hand, constricting Donald Cowden’s ability to breathe, Boedigheimer reported, and Donald Cowden’s juvenile son was the witness. Officers also seized a utility knife they found by a woodpile near a detached outbuilding next to the residence.

Officers arrested Ronnie Cowden for menacing, strangulation, unlawful use of a weapon and harassment, and took him to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. Boedigheimer also stated the incident was domestic violence under Oregon Law because the suspect and victim are biological brothers.

Thursday-Friday- Saturday

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7th Annual Return to the River Salmon Festival

Saturday, May 30, 2015 • 10 am – 1 pm

At Walla Walla Community College by the ball fields on Tausick Way

Interactive Exhibit Booths

Wildlife Cartoon Drawings

Birds of Prey

12 PM - 1 PM

Salmon Luncheon \$11

Children’s Hot Dog Lunch \$5

Presented by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Walla Walla Community Colleges Water and Environmental Center.

For info visit www.watereducationcenter.org