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PENDLETON

The road forward

Council considers options
for infrastructure crisis

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

In a cartoon that was posted with an announcement for a recent Pendleton infrastructure committee meeting, a rickety pipe holds up a large city with the words “aging infrastructure” splayed across it.

While not quite at that level, Pendleton’s infrastructure is long past its prime.

City staff and consultants have estimated it would take \$35.7 million over 10 years to bring all the streets up to good condition, \$56.9 million to adequately replace and maintain the city’s water and sewer system over the next decade, \$7.5 million over five years to initiate a stormwater utility and \$24 million over 20 years for complete upkeep of city facilities.

To start the process of restoring Pendleton’s public inventory, the city has suggested a number of fees, system development charges, taxes, rate hikes and a bond, some of which will have to be approved by local voters.

None of these measures would completely cover those enormous backlogs, but Pendleton city officials say its a good start toward supplementing a city budget that barely covers other essentials like public safety.

While the council has been unanimously supportive of seeking the new sources of revenue, which could bring in an estimated \$1.3 million a year, they have been less united in when to seek them.

Councilwoman Jane Hill was opposed to pursuing any ballot measures in 2015, feeling that the city was ill prepared to put forward a winning campaign.

Hill, a veteran of successful campaigns for the Pendleton School District and Blue Mountain Community College bonds, said at a July 7 meeting that she would not participate in a gas tax campaign. Hill declined to comment for this story.

On the opposite side of the spectrum is Councilman Al Plute, who not only supported putting both a bond and a gas tax on the November ballot, but taking more drastic measures to address the city’s infrastructure issues.

Plute proposed a \$15 million bond — \$10 million for deferred maintenance and another \$5 million for neighborhood streets — at the July 7 council meeting, but it did not

See **PENDLETON/10A**

**“We’re not
kicking a can
down the road,
we’re kicking
a barrel down
the road.”**

— **Neil Brown,**
Pendleton City
Councilman



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Local and state police officers practice ground fighting as DPSST training officers evaluate their performance during a firearms instructor development course on Tuesday in Pendleton. Ground fighting is a close-quarters firearms tactic where trainees simulate being knocked to the ground by an aggressor and have to retreat and get to their feet while firing their sidearms.

ARMS OF THE LAW

Local police rarely use force in their work

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Police in four local agencies used force in fewer than 1.7 percent of arrests, but expect that figure to rise due to new tracking.

The Hermiston and Pendleton police departments and the sheriff’s offices of Umatilla and Morrow counties reported making a total of 4,006 arrests in 2014 (although Hermiston tracks its numbers for fiscal years, not calendar years), and officers used force in 67 of the them. Force included painful holds, using stun guns and pointing a firearm at someone.

No agencies reported firing a gun in the last year and none reported using dogs to subdue suspects.

Hermiston used force in seven of 1,351 arrests, or about .52 percent of the time; Pendleton 41 times in 1,711 arrests or about 2.4 percent; Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office eight in 552 arrests, about 1.4 percent; and the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office 11 in 392 arrests, the highest rate, about 2.8 percent.

The numbers are for hand-on arrests only and not for citations in lieu of arrests, such as when police ticket someone for drunk driving and release the person to a sober friend. Pendleton police reported zero complaints from citizens in 2014, and Hermiston had two.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

State and local law enforcement officers practice a four-man tactical drill where they breach a doorway while doing active-shooter exercises Wednesday during a firearms instructor development course in Pendleton.

Hermiston’s use of force has been on a slow and steady decline since 2011-12, when 1.2 percent of arrests involved force. But it also was the lone department not to classify pointing a firearm as “use of force.” That has since changed.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston reported Friday morning he would begin tracking “the pointing of a firearm at a person” but not each time a gun was simply

See **POLICE/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

It’s a strings thing

Marquelle Barfuss, 11, of Pendleton, left, and Jefferson Case, 10, of Helix play a piece called “Fiesta” in their quintet The Happy Pandas on Friday at the Strings Music Camp in Pendleton. Fifty-four area students took part in this year’s camp put on by local string enthusiasts Lisa Robertson, Rebekah Faccinto and Loree McKenna.

After raucous debate, GOP is back at work

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT**
and **SERGIO BUSTOS**
Associated Press

BARRINGTON, N.H. — The raucous field of Republican presidential candidates hustled back before voters Friday, hoping to build on momentum from their first meeting of the 2016 campaign, clean up any debate-night messes or just get back to work persuading voters.

Jeb Bush, among the rivals scrambling for notice in a campaign dominated at the moment by Donald Trump, played down the importance of Trump’s performance, which drew a mix of cheers and jeers during the freewheeling 120 minutes Thursday night.

“I had fun last night,” the former Florida governor said during a New Hampshire event that drew more than 300. “I really enjoyed getting to know Donald Trump up close and personal.”

Bush bounded back on the campaign trail Friday in the format he prefers, an open-ended question-answer forum — not the 10-way debate, which he called “not easy.”

With billionaire businessman Trump showing no signs of letting up, and none of the other 16 major Republicans in the race ready to concede anything after just one debate, the contest for the Republican nomination

See **GOP/9A**



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