

UMATILLA

City could ban firearms, alcohol in parks

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Umatilla is considering a set of rules for the city’s parks. The ordinance, which includes bans on firearms and alcohol, is on the agenda for the city council’s Oct. 20 meeting. The council discussed the rules drawn up by the Parks and Recreation committee during its Oct. 6 meeting but councilors voiced concerns about the rules — particularly a prohibition against alcohol consumption — being applied to the Umatilla

Marina and RV Park. City manager Bob Ward said the ordinance drawn up for the Oct. 20 meeting would exclude the marina and RV park, which are governed by their own set of rules for paying users. “Those circumstances are a little bit different,” he said. The proposed ordinance sets rules for reserving parks, allows the city to post signs at each park setting hours of use and restricts alcohol to only pre-approved events. The ordinance also bans smoking, littering, vandalism, playing loud music, letting dogs off leashes, building fires

outside designated fire pits, using bicycles outside designated bike paths, threatening violence or using “loud, obscene or abusive language.” Under the new ordinance all firearms would be banned from city parks. Ward said most users of the city’s parks are “generally well-behaved” but there are times police are asked to respond to a situation where someone is disrupting others’ use of a park. “Without having any established rules in our parks the police are pretty limited in their response,” he said.

The proposed ordinance states that consequences for breaking the rules could include being trespassed from the park, fined up to \$250 or sent to jail for up to five days. It would cover the picnic and swimming area near the marina, city parks, the soccer fields and various basketball and tennis courts owned by the city. The next Umatilla City Council meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at city hall, 700 Sixth St.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

PENDLETON

Warming station sets training sessions

With the crisp fall weather, organizers of the Pendleton Warming Station and Day Center are gearing up for colder nights. Operated by Neighbor 2 Neighbor Pendleton Inc., the nonprofit organization is preparing for the upcoming winter season, including scheduling volunteer training sessions. The operational season begins Nov. 1. The Warming Station and Day Center offer homeless individuals a safe, warm place to sleep and spend the early morning hours when overnight temperatures are predicted to be below 32 degrees or the risk of hypothermia is elevated. Opening the doors to the center depends on people willing to give of their time. Volunteers include people from churches and service organizations, as well as individual concerned citizens. Training sessions take



A pair of homeless guests wait for a bus at the Pendleton Warming Station. Volunteer training is scheduled to help man the facility when it opens for the season.

place at the Pendleton Church of the Nazarene, 2801 S.W. Hailey Ave. They are scheduled for: •Thursday, 6:30-9 p.m. •Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon •Thursday, Oct. 22, 6:30-9 p.m. •Saturday, Oct. 24 9 a.m. to noon. People don’t have to RSVP, they can merely show up for a session. For more information, visit www.n2npendleton.org or call 765-791-8332.

BRIEFLY

Infant’s death in Irrigon ruled accidental

IRRIGON — The death of a six-week-old infant in Irrigon was ruled accidental based on the autopsy performed by the State Medical Examiner’s Office. The boy was rushed to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston late Monday morning when his mother called and said he was not breathing. Brian Snyder of the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office investigated the case, and confirmed with Dr. Larry Lewman in the state office that the death was caused by co-sleeping with no evidence of foul play or suspicious activity. Based on that finding, no criminal charges will be filed by Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson and the case is considered closed.

Hermiston police taking more action this year

HERMISTON — Hermiston police had almost 2,100 fewer calls for service through the end of September compared to the same time frame in 2014. But officer-initiated activity rose from 8,010 through the third quarter last year to 10,054 this year. That amounts to about a 0.3 percent difference in total police incidents in the first nine months of 2014 compared to 2015, according to statistics from Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston. Most of the increased police activity came in traffic stops. Hermiston police made 3,717 traffic stops through the end of September in 2014 and increased that to 5,110 this year. Total citations also jumped from 4,462 to 5,285. And Hermiston police made 1,052 arrests through the end of September, 100 more than last year. Hermiston also had a 74 percent rise in auto thefts — 19 in 2014 to 33 in 2015 — an 80 percent hike in aggravated assault — five in 2014 to nine this year. Still, according to the figures from Edmiston, violent crime and property crime are both down 1 percent.

College night scheduled for Thursday at HHS

HERMISTON — Area residents interested in applying for college are invited to Hermiston School District’s College Night on Thursday. The event begins at 6 p.m. in the Hermiston High School commons, with presentations starting about 6:45 p.m. Counselor Liz Marvin said the night includes free pizza, plus booths and presentations to help students learn about colleges and financial aid. At the end of the night organizers

will host a drawing for three \$500 scholarships for prospective college students who are present at the event, and will present a Friends of the Library scholarship as well. Marvin said the event is not limited to Hermiston High School students, or even high school students in general. “If there was an adult in the community who was thinking about going back to college we would absolutely welcome those folks,” she said.

Oktoberfest raises money for Arlington event center

ARLINGTON — A weekend of fun is planned during an Oktoberfest event in Gilliam County. Let’s Raise A Barn serves as a fundraiser for The Woolery, Gilliam County’s future regional event center. The fun begins Friday with a scarecrow contest at Arlington City Park and a Parade of Goblins at 4 p.m., with participants assembling at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. All ages are welcome to dress up and shuffle through downtown. Refreshments and goodies will be provided to all ghouls and goblins. Saturday’s activities kick off with a 5K run/walk at 8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m., park vendors open. Live music begins at 11 a.m. Family fun activities include a pumpkin carving contest, human foosball, a petting zoo, hay rides, face painting, bouncy houses, balloons and chalk art. A social starts at 4 p.m. at the Arlington Fire Hall. The evening includes music by the Wheeler County Ramblers, a prime rib dinner at 5:30 p.m. (\$35 per person, available at the Condon and Heppner chambers or by calling 541-454-0025). The auction, which begins at 7 p.m., features everything from artwork and a Henry rifle to Pendleton blankets and Pendleton Whisky, plus trips to Sun River, Skamania Lodge, Wallowa Lake and more. A dance with Countrified follows the auction. Get ready to get active on Sunday with the Lion’s Club Shootout, volleyball, a paddle board race, a pie-eating contest, a golf tournament and trap shooting. For more information, call 541-454-0025. A full schedule is posted at www.facebook.com/oktoberfestinarlington2015.

Leadership Hermiston plans alumni reception

HERMISTON — Leadership Hermiston alumni are invited to meet the newest class during an alumni reception. Mayor Dave Drotzmann will speak at the event, which is Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Wine tasting is provided by

Columbia Crest, beer tasting by Hermiston Brewing Co. and appetizers by Midway Tavern. There is no charge. The deadline to RSVP is Friday. For more information or to RSVP, contact barb@hermistonchamber.com or 541-567-6151.

Fall trip features kayaking, changing colors

HERMISTON — The changing color of fall leaves and kayaking will come together during a spectacular day offered by Hermiston Parks & Recreation. Participants will spend the day on the water and land during the fall color and kayaking Lost Lake trip. The event includes views of Mt. Hood and being served a picnic lunch along the shores of the lake. In addition, the guide will provide a tour along the Hood River Fruit Loop to see the changing fall colors. Participants also will enjoy dining at a local restaurant along the loop. The event is Saturday, Oct. 24 with a departure time of 9 a.m. at Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St. The anticipated time of return is 9 p.m. The cost is \$60 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. The fee includes transportation, lunch and dinner. Kayaks are available to rent for \$15. Open to ages 14 and older, space is limited. Those interested in participating need to register by Friday, Oct. 16. For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Discussion centers on death and dying

PENDLETON — A community conversation will feature a time of sharing about death and dying. Talking About Dying is Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. The free 90-minute discussion provides people with an opportunity to reflect on what influences shape their thinking about death and dying and to hear other’s perspectives. Facilitated by Oregon Humanities and Cambia Health Foundation, the program is being presented in 30 locations across the state. Each is facilitated by trained professionals working in the fields of chaplaincy, counseling, gerontology, facilitation and hospice care. For more information, contact Mary Finney at 541-966-0380 or mary.finney@ci.pendleton.or.us.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

PENDLETON

Book thieves steal titles from library fundraiser

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Book snatchers last week plundered the annual Pendleton Friends of the Library Book Sale. The theft may have hurt the bottom line of the all-volunteer fundraiser that for 35 years has helped out the Pendleton Public Library. Diedre Byrd serves on the Friends of the Library board and has headed up organizing the event for the last two years. She said she was appalled someone would take advantage of the small nonprofit. The sale began Friday, but Friends of the Library members were invited to preview the stacks prior to the sale. “We went home Wednesday night and came back Thursday morning,” Byrd said, “and there were empty spaces on the tables.” She said one person told her six or eight people were looking through books Wednesday evening after volunteers and members had left. In the children’s section, an entire box of 30-40 books was gone, and some books people set aside during the preview were missing. Thieves may have taken off with hundreds of books, but Byrd said she could not provide an exact number. The convention center’s main doors were open Wednesday night so people could attend events in other rooms, and Byrd said the doors to the main room were unlocked. Still, she said, signs made it clear there were no pre-sales. And no one was there to take money for books. The center’s surveillance system did not capture relevant video, Byrd said, and there were no descriptions of the people who were in the main hall. With so little to

go on, she said she saw no reason to alert police. Byrd said the book sale went on and brought in about \$12,000, a drop from the \$13,500 of last year’s sale. The theft may have brought down the total, but Byrd said that was hard to assess without knowing what books people took. Pendleton library director Mary Finney said the thefts were unfortunate. Byrd said the sale draws members and locals, as well as book store owners from around the region, even as far away as Philomath. “All the books are donated, and this year we had so many we had to rent a storage unit,” she said. The sale usually fills 100 tables in the main hall of the Pendleton Convention Center, but with so many more books, this year there were 110 tables. The Pendleton High School cross country team volunteered to heft books out of the basement of the Pendleton Public Library so Hodgen Distributing of Pendleton could wrap them in plastic on pallets and haul them in a truck to the convention center. There, Byrd said, volunteers sorted the books into categories. Byrd said the money the sale generates pays for the library’s magazine subscriptions and the use of ancestry.com, the predominate genealogical and historical record website. The sale also provides materials for the children’s library. Finney said the yearly sale is a huge asset for the library. The theft, though, has not deterred the Pendleton Friends of the Library. “We already have books for next year,” Byrd said. And next year, she said, volunteers and staff will make sure doors inside are secure.

PENDLETON

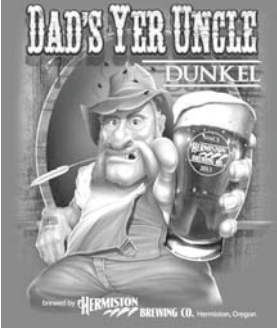


Leah Lamney, 18, was injured Friday when her Acura was hit at the Highway 11/Highway 331 intersection in Pendleton by pickup.

Intersection crash injures teen

East Oregonian

An 18-year-old Boardman girl suffered a broken leg in a crash Friday morning in Pendleton, at an intersection with Highway 11 after another driver blew through a stop sign. Oregon State Police reported Leah Lammey was heading south on Highway 11 when a Chevrolet Silverado going north on Highway 331 ran the stop sign at the intersection, crashing into her Acura. The collision broke Lammey’s femur, according to state police, and an ambulance took her to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. State police reported David H. Falthers, 70, of The Dalles, was the driver of the pickup and also required an ambulance ride to the hospital. Police did not specify his injuries. While there was fog that morning over much of the area, state police cited Falthers for failure to obey a stop sign.



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