

BOARDMAN

No charges filed against Riverside football coach

By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson will not file criminal charges against a Boardman high school football coach who got into an altercation with a 17-year-old student athlete.

The incident was reported Oct. 12, when Riverside High School assistant coach Neil Livingston was seen knocking a player down during Pirates football practice.

Livingston admitted there was an incident, but described it as "just kind of an awkward football play." He said he was standing on the field when he turned and saw the student running at him full speed from behind, and put his hands up to keep from getting hit.

"I redirected him and fell over," Livingston said. "The momentum from that caused both of us to fall to the

ground."

One play earlier, Livingston said the same student came up from behind and hit him on the shoulder. After the next play — the one where Livingston put up his hands — he said he pulled the student back up and told him to stop hitting him in the back.

Neither one of them were hurt.

According to Nelson, the student admitted he "nuded" Livingston on the shoulder the first time, but meant it playfully. On the next play, the student claimed he was running to block another player on the field when Livingston collided with him.

Police interviewed Livingston, the student, the student's father, four other coaches and seven players, who each gave accounts of the story. The student and his father declined to press charges.

Based on the facts of the

case, Nelson said he would not file charges either but encouraged anyone with more information to get in touch with Boardman police.

However, Morrow County Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said the school district is continuing its own investigation and Livingston remains on leave.

Livingston said he has no bad feelings toward the student, and didn't think the situation should have escalated to this point.

"The kid is a good kid ... I've never had any problems with him in any way," Livingston said.

In addition to coaching football, Livingston is a former Boardman city councilor, member of the city's budget committee and owner of DeadRock Sporting Goods in Boardman.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

ARLINGTON



Photo contributed by Scott Thompson

This barn, designed by Sand Creek Post & Beam in Wayne, Nebraska, serves as a conceptual model for the Woolery, a proposed regional events center in Arlington.

New events center proposed for community

Oktoberfest raises \$20K for project

By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

As the owner of an Old West-style chuckwagon catering service in Arlington, "Rattlesnake" Rod McGuire is used to cooking for large parties.

Which is how McGuire came up with the idea to build a landmark events center in the community, where people from across the region could have weddings, festivals and other large get-togethers.

McGuire pitched his vision — which he named the Woolery, in honor of Arlington's sheep and livestock heritage — at a town hall meeting in February. Since then, the nonprofit Friends of Gilliam County formed over the summer to start rallying support for the project.

Their first major fundraiser, the inaugural Arlington Oktoberfest, brought in approximately \$20,000, McGuire said. The celebration included a dinner, dance and auction Saturday night, with people coming from all over the Columbia River Gorge and Eastern Oregon.

"It was a huge, wonderful, beautiful event," McGuire said. "People believe in this building from a long ways

away. That's what I'm trying to create."

McGuire, who lives in the tiny rural community of Olex, halfway between Arlington and Condon, operates Paradise Rose Catering, serving western cuisine out of an 1880s chuckwagon. He remembers working a local benefit dinner three years ago to raise money for a family whose house burned down, which was held at the Rock Creek Schoolhouse. It was charming, he said, but pretty cramped.

That's when the concept for the Woolery started taking shape. McGuire proposed building what he described as a "big, classy barn," something with a grange-like feel that could hold at least 300 people. But his idea didn't gain any traction until he laid it all out at a town hall meeting Feb. 24, which 125 people attended.

"They stood up and said 'Let's get it done,'" McGuire said.

The Friends of Gilliam County formed with five board members and organized the Arlington Oktoberfest to get McGuire's proposal off the ground. They eventually hope to secure 10 acres of a roughly 40-acre parcel owned by the city near the airport, atop a high desert ridge visible from the freeway.

The city can provide water and electricity to the site, but not sewer, McGuire

said. The group hasn't surveyed the land yet, but will look into installing their own septic system.

"Once we know the septic can go there, we're off and running," McGuire said. "Then we can apply for grants."

McGuire is confident the Woolery would provide a shot in the arm to Arlington's economy, becoming a feature destination and potentially attract further development.

Pat Shannon, who served as interim president of the Friends of Gilliam County through Oktoberfest, said plans are still preliminary, and the group is fleshing out ideas for what the building would look like, and what it needs.

Cost estimates have ranged anywhere from \$300,000 to \$2 million, he said. But nothing is set in stone, Shannon said.

"The initial idea is it would be a venue in this town that could pull people from the region as far as The Dalles and Pendleton," he said. "It's kind of being designed with an old, rustic look."

If all goes smoothly, McGuire said he could envision breaking ground as early as next year.

"People are always looking for a new destination with character," he said. "I want this to stick out for the gorge to see."

UMATILLA

City to end manager's contract early

By JADE MCDOWELL East Oregonian

The Umatilla city council approved a transition plan Tuesday night that will end the contract of city manager Bob Ward seven months early.

Current public works director Russ Pelleberg will be the new city manager in March.

The document was adopted by a vote of 4-1 after an executive session with a motion that noted the plan could be adjusted later by the city's personnel committee.

According to the document adopted into the record

on Tuesday, Ward was originally set to retire in February 2017 but city councilors had expressed a desire for Pelleberg to assume the role of city manager on March 1, 2016.

The plan proposed that Ward stay on as city manager until March 1, then serve in a transitional capacity from March 1 to July 1, at which time his contract would be terminated "with buy-out provisions."

Under the plan Pelleberg would continue to serve as public works director in addition to becoming city manager, while finance director Melissa Ince would

become deputy city manager in addition to her finance duties and public works supervisor Jason Barron would assume some additional responsibilities in the public works department.

Councilor Mary Dedrick voted in opposition of the plan and councilor Sharon Farnsworth was absent. Councilors Mel Ray, George Fenton, David Lougee and Roak Ten Eyck voted in favor.

Ward declined to comment after the meeting.

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

BRIEFLY

Pendleton Lions set tasty meeting

PENDLETON — People interested in learning more about the Pendleton Lions Club are invited to an upcoming program and meeting.

The no-host event is Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at Roosters, 1515 Southgate, Pendleton. The program, presented by Alexander's Chocolate Classics, features delectable tastes and a chance to win raffle prizes. The meeting also includes planning for the upcoming year.

Those planning to attend, including people interested in becoming a Lion, are asked to RSVP by Thursday by contacting Bill Taylor at 541-969-7321, btaylor@wtechlink.us or John Taylor at 541-240-0579.

Boardman chamber plans awards banquet

BOARDMAN — Planning continues for the Boardman Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet.

Anyone interested in helping with the event is invited to a no-host planning luncheon Friday at 11:30 a.m. at Sunrise Cafe, 101 Front St., Boardman.

A romantic French theme is planned for the Feb. 12, 2016 event.

For more information, call 541-481-3014.

Guardian Angel Homes hosts Fall Festival

HERMISTON — Cash prizes, a free dinner and fun activities are planned for the Guardian Angel Homes Fall Festival.

The free event is Friday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 540 N.W. 12th St., Hermiston. It includes face painting, a freaky feeling room, a maze, a bouncy house, painting pumpkins and cupcake decorating.

Money and prizes will be awarded for the scariest, prettiest, most original and

most outrageous costumes. The meal includes chili, hot dogs, cornbread and dessert. Also, pressed apple cider, cotton candy and popcorn will be available.

For more information, call 541-564-9070 or visit www.guardianangelhomes.com.

The REACH offers Halloween truths

RICHLAND, Wash. — A special Halloween program at The REACH provides information about things that go bump in the night.

Screech at the REACH explores myths surrounding creatures associated with Halloween and provides facts about the things that scare you in the night.

The spooky presentation starts Friday at 5:30 p.m. at The REACH, 1943 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, Washington. At

6:15 p.m., kids' activities begin with live owls, spiders, scorpions and snakes on hand. Crafts include making owl masks, clothespin bats for decoration and critter mobiles.

Regular admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors/students/military personnel and free for 5 and under. Bring a canned food item for Second Harvest and receive \$2 off admission.

For more information about the event, contact Dan Haas at 509-546-8333 or daniel_haas@fws.gov or visit www.visitthereach.org.

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.

Join the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center for the 3rd annual



Saturday, October 31 • 10 A.M. West McNary Park, Umatilla

Prizes • Goodie Bags • Lots of Fun!

\$5 per dog (3 dog limit) Free for the dog's family Each dog must be on a leash.

Scariest • Funniest • Most Original Best Costume • Best Trick

For more information, please call the Umatilla Chamber at 541-922-4825. Tickets be available at the chamber office.

Advertisement for Veterans Day Tribute. Includes 'EAST OREGONIAN Herald' logo, 'Veterans Day Tribute' title, pricing for 1x4 (\$40.00) and 2x3 (\$55.00) examples, and photos of veterans Joseph B. Davis and Joseph Smith with their names and service dates.