

PENDLETON

Council approves match for \$1.5M radar; county stalls

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Continued development of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport and the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range is still on Pendleton City Council radar, if not as much as the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners.

The city of Pendleton wants to apply for \$1.5 million from an Oregon Department of Transportation grant to install a radar system at the airport control tower and proposed the \$450,000 match be split evenly between the city, Umatilla County and the Port of Umatilla.

The Port Commission agreed to pay its \$150,000 share contingent on approval from the city and the county board. The Pendleton City Council approved its share at a meeting Tuesday, but the county board didn't complete the local match at its meeting Wednesday, instead deciding to put it under review.

A lack of commitment from Umatilla County could muddle plans to acquire the radar system, which Pendleton economic development and airport director Steve Chrisman said would be an asset for the airport.

"In addition to improving the overall safety of the airfield and airspace around it (15-25 miles), radar is a critical component to safely integrating manned and unmanned aerial vehicles," he wrote in a report to the city council. "Other UAS test sites have already installed radars. This marketable asset keeps us on par with those other test sites. It also raises the comfort level of our already existing commercial and general aviation traffic/tenants ... Lastly, it could help attract more corporate



The Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.

traffic to the airport, which is one of our primary goals. All of those could help raise the number of operations at the airport and subsequently raise our perceived importance to the (Federal Aviation Administration)."

Although the Pendleton UAS Range has yet to sign its first customer, Chrisman said the city and state's investment in the range has significantly raised its profile.

"The idea that we're going to grow this city without investing back into the city is just not logical," he said at the meeting.

As evidence, Chrisman shared a heavily redacted email from a "well-known defense contractor" that expressed interest in the range.

Chrisman admitted there was risk in establishing the UAS range but expressed the utmost confidence in its success.

Councilor Tom Young was less enthusiastic about the prospects of expending \$150,000 on the local match,

saying constituents were going to criticize the city for investing in a radar system instead of streets.

Young was joined by Councilor Neil Brown in voting against the grant match, which passed by a vote of 5-2, with Councilor Chuck Wood absent.

Young also asked what would happen if the county didn't join the city and the port in the local match.

Mike Short of the Round-Up City Development Corp., which is helping the city solicit funds for the grant, said he was confident the county would match. That, however, proved not to be true at a meeting Wednesday.

In other city council news:

The council also agreed to contract grant writing services to Gregory Smith & Associates, which is owned by state Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner. If the grant application is successful, Gregory Smith & Associates will receive 2 percent of the grant award.

EO file photo

UMATILLA



The Umatilla Old Town site was closed to the public since the 1960s and only recently reopened for tours.

City to remove non-native plants from Old Town Site

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Umatilla took another step toward its goal of opening the Old Town Site to the public, authorizing the mayor to sign an agreement for non-native plant removal there.

The agreement is with the Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the land, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, which has an interest in the burial site and former Umatilla village site.

City manager Bob Ward told the council Tuesday that normally it would be the Army Corps of Engineers' responsibility to handle the eradication process, but the city volunteered to take the lead on vegetation management for the next five years because the Corps is "bureaucracy heavy and revenue light."

"One of the primary concerns for both the tribes and the city is invasive species, and that has been a concern of the Corps of Engineers too," Ward said.

The land was the site of the original city of Umatilla before predictions of flooding from construction of the John Day Dam forced the city to move. Before that it was a prehistoric settlement and later an Indian village and

burial site.

Ward said the burial site will be the city and tribes' primary focus to start. Other areas of the old town site/Umatilla village will be more complicated because "the wildlife habitat down there people have come to enjoy is primarily invasive species."

Ward said it will take six months to a year for the vegetation management permit to be approved.

On Tuesday the council also authorized the mayor to sign a second agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers, in this case a renewal of a five-year lease of the Third Street soccer field property.

The city is looking to add a second soccer field there and wanted to upgrade to a longer lease before going ahead with improvements. However, Ward told the council after meeting with the Corps he felt it was better to stick with the five-year lease because a longer time frame would open the property to a right of first refusal from another government agency.

He said adding a second soccer field would also require additional parking, restrooms and an extension of the irrigation system already in place.

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

Most local classes smaller than state average

But Pendleton elementary above median number

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

The latest report shows class sizes locally are similar to statewide numbers.

The Oregon Department of Education recently released data gathered in May pertaining to the number of students per classroom for school districts across the state. Elementary numbers were broken down by grade level, and middle and high school numbers were compiled by subject.

Most local districts were at or below the state average of 25 students per class.

Pendleton elementary classes, however, were consistently higher than state numbers by grade level. Except for fifth grade, all classes were at or

Median class sizes			
	Hermiston	Pendleton	State
K	23	25	22
1st	23	28	24
2nd	21	26.5	24
3rd	22	26	26
4th	23	31	26
5th	25	26	27
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL			
English	24	24.5	24
Math	26	23	24
Science	28	24.5	26
OVERALL:	24	25	25

above the state average. At 31 per class, the fourth-grade number deviated most from the state average, which was 26. At the middle and high school levels, the district's math and science classes were below the state average, and its English classes were just above the state

average of 24.

In Hermiston, except for kindergarten, all elementary grades were lower than the state averages. At the middle and high school level, however, English classes tied the state average of 24, and there were two more students per Hermiston class in math and science.

Morrow County School District elementary classes were all below the state average except for the fifth grade at 30 students per class. Middle and high school English, math and science classes were below state averages.

Milton-Freewater kindergarten classes were a half student higher than the state average, but all other elementary and secondary English, math and science classes were less than the state numbers.

Kindergarten and grades 3-5 in Umatilla had larger classes than the state averages, but core secondary classes were below the state numbers.

BRIEFLY

First Saturday Breakfast this weekend

STANFIELD — Homemade breakfast food is available during the First Saturday Breakfast at the Stanfield Community Center.

The meal is Saturday from 7-10 a.m. at 225 W. Roosevelt Ave., Stanfield.

People can order what they like, including everything from pancakes, French toast or biscuits with "real gravy" to eggs, bacon or sausage. The cost for a large breakfast is typically \$5 or so and smaller portions may be as little as \$3.

For more information, call Cheryl Tucker at 541-571-6019.

Oldies Night features '70s hits

MILTON-FREEWATER — Forty-five years ago "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was the biggest hit of the year. In addition, Elton John was enjoying his first chart hit.

Hits from the '70s are featured during Oldies

Night in Milton-Freewater. More than 600 records found their way onto that chart in 1970 — and BJ the DJ will spin about four dozen of them Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. at Wesley Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. The free event is appropriate for all ages.

For more information, contact Bob Jones at 541-938-7028 or dubuquer@charter.net.

Inland Musicians seeks chorale, orchestra members

PENDLETON — What better way to get in the holiday spirit than making a joyful noise?

Additional voices are needed for the Inland Northwest Chorale. Rehearsals are Mondays from 7-9 p.m. at Harris Junior Academy, 3121 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton. The Inland Northwest Orchestra begins its rehearsals Thursday, Nov. 12 from 6:30-9:30 p.m., also at Harris Junior Academy.

The combined Christmas concerts are Dec. 11-13. No auditions are

required to participate in the ensembles. For more information, contact 541-289-4696 or inwm@machmedia.net.

Hospital auxiliary hosts book sale

HERMISTON — A book sale will help pay for hospital equipment and nursing scholarships.

The Good Shepherd Medical Center auxiliary is hosting its Winter Book Sale Wednesday, Nov. 11 and Thursday, Nov. 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the hospital's pharmacy lobby, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Items available include books, games, gifts and toys.

The auxiliary also welcomes new members. For an application, stop by the hospital gift shop.

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.

UMATILLA Student OK after being struck by vehicle Wednesday

East Oregonian

A Clara Brownell Middle School student struck by a vehicle Wednesday is reportedly home and doing well.

Umatilla School District Superintendent Heidi Sipe said emergency personnel responded after a male student was struck by a vehicle early Wednesday morning. First responders examined the student, who was then taken to the hospital by his parents as a precaution, she said.

At 1:30 p.m., the district announced the student was home and doing well.

"He is resting at home today, but the last report we had from the family indicated that he plans to attend school tomorrow," Sipe said Wednesday afternoon.

Sipe didn't know the exact location of the incident. As of Wednesday afternoon members of the Umatilla Police Department were unavailable for comment.

RED WHITE & BLUE SALE

In celebration of Veterans Day
Thursday - Friday - Saturday

POP a Balloon and SAVE an additional 2-5-or 10%
Doors Open 9:30AM Thurs Nov. 5th

ASHLEY Sofa or Loveseat
Starting at **\$399.**

RECLINERS Starting at **\$399.**

Pop a Balloon For Additional HUGE SAVINGS

Mattress Sets Bedroom Sets Recliners And More...

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Starting at **\$699.**

12 Month Interest Free Financing
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