

PENDLETON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Pendleton public works employee Darren Craven uses a chain saw to remove an old willow tree that fell Wednesday at Aldrich Park. Craven, who estimated the height of the tree at 80 feet, said another nearby willow (pictured at left) is also unhealthy and in danger of falling in the future.

City to replace fallen trees

East Oregonian

When a tree fell at Aldrich Park in Pendleton Tuesday, not only was someone around to hear it, she saw it too.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Donnie Cook said a parks employee witnessed the willow topple over without any sort of provocation or wind to aid.

The tree was one of two willows at Aldrich Park the city was planning to tear down because of their advanced age. Cook was glad nobody was in the vicinity of the tree when it came down, although the unexpected development did create one benefit.

"Mother Nature saved us \$1,000," Cook said.

That \$1,000 would have gone to a contractor, who will tear down the remaining tree within the next few weeks. The city will plant replacement trees in the future, and though the type of tree hasn't been decided yet, Cook said they won't be willows.

The city also recently cut down mature trees at the southern end of Pioneer Park, near Northwest Despain Avenue.

Last November, an early freeze killed the five trees.

A year later, Cook got into a conversation with John Taylor of the Lions Club at a Coffee with the City event at Buckin' Bean Coffee Roasters, where they discussed the need to replace the trees.

Taylor took the issue back to the club, which agreed to buy six replacement trees for the city.

Cook said the parks department is currently waiting for public works to locate nearby utility lines, which would allow staff to dig out the stumps and plant the new trees by the end of next week. A plaque will be placed by the trees to commemorate the Lions Club's contribution.

The parks department is using the planting of the new trees lining Despain to plant an additional six trees by the Pioneer Park shelter.

Happy Canyon horse headed to Vegas

Chinook and Bryson Bronson picked for flag duty at NFR

East Oregonian

Happy Canyon's equine icon and his rider will take rodeo's center stage next month at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Chinook, a paint horse well-known for his calm in the Happy Canyon Arena, and Bryson Bronson will present the U.S. flag during the Dec. 5 opening ceremony of the NFR.

The pair performs at both the PBR and Happy Canyon Night Show during Round-Up week each year, but will be in front of a markedly larger audience in Las Vegas. Last year 177,565 people attended the 10-day, nationally televised rodeo at the Thomas & Mack Center.

"They are instantly recognizable to people in Pendleton as the representatives of our two fantastic events," said Round-Up President Bill Quesenberry in a press release. "Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon are lucky to have them."

Happy Canyon President Jason Hill was excited as well.

"What a wonderful kick-off to Happy Canyon's 100th Anniversary," Hill said. "Chinook and Bryson have performed so well at PBR and Happy Canyon over the years, it's nice to see them, and our two events, garner national recognition."



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Bryson Bronson holds the U.S. flag while riding Chinook during the Pendleton Fourth of July Parade.

Chinook, Bronson and the horse's owner, Rusty Black, were picked for the duty after two tryouts of sorts. In April they presented the flag at the Longines FEI World Cup in Las Vegas and in September NFR representatives came to the Round-Up to see the horse and rider again.

"Chinook and Bryson did a fantastic job during Round-Up week this year," said Round-Up publicity director Carl Culham. "We believe they are excellent

representatives of our traditions here in Pendleton."

Round-Up and Happy Canyon will also have a presence at the Cowboy Christmas event that runs with the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. For the past two years the organizations along with Travel Pendleton have set up a booth at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The Wrangler National Finals Rodeo will be telecast on CBS Sports Network. The rodeo runs from Dec. 3-12.

Now 100, Goldie's will open for all-ages New Year's Eve party

If you can't make the rodeo party in Vegas, it will return to Pendleton for New Year's Eve.

Happy Canyon is kicking off its 100th year celebration with an all-ages Dec. 31 party at Goldie's Bar at the Pendleton Convention Center.

"We're awfully good at throwing parties, so we decided New Year's Eve would be a good time to get this celebration started in Pendleton," said Tanner Hawkins, Happy Canyon 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman.

According to Hawkins, Happy Canyon will modify its normal Goldie's Bar configuration to welcome kids and adults alike.

"We are excited to welcome the kids back for this event," he said. "We are hoping to offer them a glimpse of how Happy Canyon used to be with a band in the Pendleton Convention Center Gym so they can dance and have a great time."

The party will also feature the usual Goldie's fun, with a gaming area in the back. Admission to the event will be \$5 for everyone.

Adults over 21 will receive a complimentary \$5 gambling chip to use on the table games. Doors will open on December 31 at 8 p.m.

HERMISTON

Council to consider putting marijuana on 2016 ballot

By JADE MCDOWELL
 East Oregonian

Marijuana is back on the agenda for the Hermiston City Council after an ordinance referring the question of marijuana dispensaries to the voters failed to get the necessary votes.

The ordinance would put a marijuana dispensary ban on the Nov. 2016 ballot. In order for an ordinance to be passed at the same meeting as its first reading the vote must be unanimous. The Oct. 26 vote on the issue was 6-2, with councilors Rod Hardin and Doug Smith voting against.

Now that the ordinance has been read at a separate meeting, Monday's vote does not need to be unanimous for the ordinance to pass.

On Monday the city council will also be asked to confirm the appointment of city manager Byron Smith to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board for a four-year term beginning in January 2016.

The city's position on the board is currently filled by former city manager Ed Brookshier, but when councilors voted during their Oct. 26 meeting to give \$600,000 to the EOTEC board for construction they asked that a current city administrator be given the position instead.

The council will also consider a noise waiver request from the Oregon Department of Transportation for construction work along Highway 395.

The department is planning to repave the highway from Fourth Street near Safeway to Highway 730. The project is expected to last from March to August in 2016 and a letter from ODOT states that doing much of the work at night will cut down on disruptions to traffic and local businesses along the highway.

A memo from city staff recommends the council approve the noise waiver, noting that there are "virtually no residences immediately abutting this stretch of highway within the city" and that the nighttime work would be less disruptive to businesses.

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

Meeting to discuss forest fire fuels reduction project

GRANITE — The North Fork John Day Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest will hold a public meeting Thursday, Nov. 12 to discuss a fire fuels reduction project within the Granite Creek watershed.

The meeting will run from 5-7 p.m. at the Granite city shop in Granite, located about 90 miles south of Pendleton in Grant County.

Forest officials have proposed treating 38,000 acres of land as part of the Ten Cent Community Wildfire Protection Project, straddling the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests. Communities within the project area include Granite and the largely unpopulated city of Greenhorn.

"We are really looking forward to engaging with and listening to the Granite community, introducing the project and discussing

objectives, proposed areas and treatment tools," said Ian Reid, North Fork John Day District Ranger.

For more information about the project, contact Andrew Stinchfield, acting fire management officer for the district, at 541-427-5397.

Irrigon hosts special Veterans Day luncheon

IRRIGON — Bud Costello, a World War II veteran from Irrigon, is the featured guest during the upcoming Irrigon Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The no-host luncheon gathering is Wednesday at noon at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Costello recently traveled to Washington, D.C., as an honored veteran and will share his experiences and show pictures. All veterans are urged to attend.

For more information,

BRIEFLY

contact Phyllis Danielson at irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com or 541-922-3857.

Space Age Fuel wins award

HERMISTON — Space Age Fuel in Hermiston was recognized by Convenience Store News for the best mid-sized remodel in the business.

The Hermiston station is the chain's flagship location.

Convenience Store News, a national magazine that publishes industry research and trends, gave

the award based on several design elements of the travel center, including its separate entrance for diesel fuel customers. It also noted the fresh and nutritious ready-to-go meals for sale and the "farm-to-table" approach that keeps the convenience store stocked with fresh produce year-round.

The magazine stated Space Age Fuel updated the Hermiston location's brand by "reimagining of colors, finishes, lighting, cabinetry, fixtures, graphics and signage" and plans to extend that to its other Oregon locations.

VOTE FOR SCOTT WRIGHTSON
 for District 5 of the Hermiston Irrigation District.
 Stop by the office at 366 E. Hurlburt on Nov. 10th between 7am and 8pm to vote.
Paid for by Scott Wrightson, 366 E. Hurlburt, Hermiston, OR 97838

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