

UMATILLA

Sipe is picked as Oregon's top super

East Oregonian

Heidi Sipe, the superintendent of the Umatilla School District, was chosen as the 2016 Oregon Superintendent of the Year at this week's Oregon School Boards Association annual conference in Portland.

Sipe has been the Umatilla superintendent since 2007 and is now in the running for the National Superintendent of the Year. The state honor is given by the Oregon Association of School Executives and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators.



Sipe

"Heidi is an outstanding educational leader with a deep commitment to equity and a strong belief in the promise and potential of each and every child," said Salam Noor, Oregon Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Her passion, dedication, and vision make her a true asset not just to her district and region but to the whole state. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor."

Nearly 90 percent of Umatilla's 1,400 students qualify for free or reduced meals and about one-third are active English Language learners.

"When others look at the demographics of our school, they see barriers to college, including limited financial resources, lack of college-going role models, and citizenship status," Sipe said at the conference. "But inside our schools, our students no longer accept those barriers. Umatilla students are college material, and in fact are college success stories. They see themselves for the stars they are."

Sipe led the creation of the STEM Academy of Umatilla and serves as volunteer coach of the district's award-winning FIRST Robotics team. She has also been a prominent education leader in Oregon for nearly a decade. Among her many leadership roles: OASE President in 2014-15; COSA Board of Directors, 2013-15; and Teacher Standards and Practices Commissioner, 2013-present.

She also assisted the Oregon Department of Education during a time of transition by serving as interim assistant superintendent in 2012-13.

Sipe and her husband, Kyle, a middle school teacher in Umatilla, have two children. Their son, Caden, is a freshman at Washington State University. Her daughter, Cameron, is a junior at Umatilla High School.

Information provided by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators.

PENDLETON

Windmill stands tall again

Walla Walla windmill fanatic helped repair historic icon quickly

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Less than three weeks after a driver crashed into a century-old windmill in Pendleton, hard work stood it back up.

An errant driver on Oct. 26 crashed an SUV through a fence at the Umatilla County Historical Society's Heritage Station, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., and wiped out the galvanized steel support beams that kept the windmill aloft in Eastern Oregon for a hundred years. The nearby display barn saved the 30-foot-tall windmill from crashing all the way to the ground.

Bob Vance, 71, of Walla Walla, saw a news report about the windmill and flew into action.

Vance and his wife, Sharon, own and operate a miniature horse business, and as it turns out he is something of a windmill fanatic.

Bob Vance was a bit too busy Friday to talk while overseeing the windmill's set-up at Heritage Station, but Sharon Vance said her husband has been putting up windmills for years and realized he had just the fix — an old windmill of his own that was



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The windmill at Heritage Station in Pendleton is transferred from a flatbed trailer onto the museum grounds Friday using a crane from Anderson Construction.

the perfect size for the historical society's.

Rod Anderson, owner and operator of a local construction company, had his crew haul the battered windmill to his shop near Rieth. Anderson said they had to remove the wooden water tank from the old windmill and attach it to the one Vance provided. Vance also repaired and replaced some of the fan blades the fall also damaged, and Anderson's workers made other fixes, including to the top of the water tank.

Anderson said they were ready to put it back into place Friday afternoon. Vance, Anderson and a handful of others attached the 12-foot fan,

and a boom crane lifted the 6,000-pound windmill while the men danced the structure into place.

The whole process took about an hour.

Society executive director Barbara Lund-Jones watched it all. She said she was so pleased to see the museum's iconic piece back up and at full height, and considered it a record for how fast the project came together.

She also said insurance will cover the tab, including to fix the fence and repair the barn's roof.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

ODFW confirms Imnaha Divide calf attacked by wolf

By STEVE TOOL
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed a Nov. 10 wolf attack on a 600-lb. calf that was grazing on a Forest Service allotment on the Imnaha Divide. The calf was seriously wounded but survived the attack. The attack follows a confirmed wolf depredation of another calf Oct. 27 in the nearby Harl Butte area.

ODFW wildlife biologist Mike Hansen confirmed the incident Friday.

"The stockgrower was able to find it and bring it in the vet's office (the Double Arrow clinic), and they're taking care of it," Hansen said. "They (clinic staff) think the calf might make it."

Hansen said there was little doubt the attack involved the Imnaha Pack, as it was reported in the area about two days before.

"It's part of their territory," Hansen said.

Wallowa County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Fred Steen said the affected rancher notified him of the attack late in the afternoon of Nov. 10. Hunters in the area had discovered the profusely bleeding calf and its mother. They shot video footage of the affected animal as well as tracks and signs of a struggle in the area. The hunters notified a nearby homeowner, who notified the affected rancher.

The rancher located his calf the next day, although the search failed to turn up the calf's mother. The rancher brought the calf to the clinic, where it was examined by Hansen, Steen and a veterinarian. All the examiners agreed that the injuries were the result of a wolf attack.

According to Steen, the affected rancher has been gathering cattle from the area since mid-September and was short about five cows and two calves as of Nov. 11.

PENDLETON

Marijuana sales ban gets another shot

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

A ban on marijuana sales in Pendleton could hinge on the vote of City Councilor Chuck Wood.

At the Nov. 3 Pendleton City Council meeting, councilors Becky Marks, John Brenne, Tom Young and Neil Brown voted for a ban while councilors Jane Hill, Al Plute and McKennon McDonald voted against it.

Without the requisite five votes to pass an ordinance, the council was forced to extend its deliberations to its next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday.

Wood was absent from the Nov. 3 meeting while on a month-long vacation, but Mayor Phillip Houk said Friday that Wood will be in attendance for the upcoming meeting.

The last time Wood voted on a marijuana-related issue, it was at the Oct. 20 meeting, when he joined Marks,

Brenne, Young and Brown in a vote to direct City Attorney Nancy Kerns to draft a marijuana sales ban.

At the time, Wood said there hadn't been a great deal of public input at city meetings despite numerous discussions on the issue.

That trend was reversed Nov. 3 when 14 people spoke at the public hearing — 10 people against a ban and four people for it.

Despite a majority of the speakers opposing a marijuana ban, the four pro-ban councilors weren't convinced to change their opinions.

Only needing a simple majority, the same four councilors also voted against a motion by Plute to consider referring the issue to the November 2016 ballot.

If Wood joins the majority in approving a sales ban, Pendleton voters won't see it on a ballot unless someone successfully petitions the

decision.

But if Wood or any other pro-ban councilor changes their vote, a 4-4 tie would force further consideration at the next meeting.

While the mayor can break a council tie in certain situations, Houk said the city charter prohibits him from casting the tie-breaking vote on an ordinance.

Although polarizing votes on the council aren't common, they're not unheard of.

When allowed to do so, Houk said he's broken a tie three times in his 11 years as mayor and has been involved in 12 to 15 votes on ordinance that haven't garnered enough support and have been referred to the next meeting in his 22 years on the city council.

Houk said the contentious debate among council members is a positive development, a sign that

they're representing the varying viewpoints of their constituents.

"It's not always going to be unanimous vote," he said.

The council has until Dec. 27 to opt out of marijuana sales, after which any sort of prohibition on sales will have to go to a ballot.

The council will also take the next step in putting the old police station on the market.

According a report written by Kerns to the city council, the council must pass a resolution directing City Manager Robb Corbett to market the property to comply with the state statute.

Based on real market value and opinions from two local real estate agents, city staff estimated the property is worth between \$236,000 and \$345,000.

"Uncertain maintenance needs may affect price,"

Kerns wrote about the property, which hasn't had a physical inspection.

The building is located at 109 S.W. Court Ave. and previously housed Umatilla County Alcohol and Drug Treatment after the police department moved to Airport Road in 2010.

The council will also consider an ordinance enabling the street utility fee, although the actual fee amount will be recommended at a later meeting.

Staff has recommended that the council consider a \$5 per month fee at the Dec. 1 meeting, along with water and sewer rate increases and system development charges.

The \$5 utility fee will raise \$481,000 per year for street maintenance.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

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