

PENDLETON

‘Parklets’ pitched to make room for outdoor dining

East Oregonian

Before the city council decided to delay a funding idea to repair streets, the Pendleton Development Commission revived an idea for something to put atop them.

The development commission is composed of the city council and holds its meeting before the second council meeting of the month.

At the meeting, commission Associate Director Charles Denight said parklets have become popular in cities across Oregon, including Astoria, La Grande and The Dalles.

As described by Denight, parklets are decks located on top of on-street parking spaces that are built parallel to the curb. The decks contain outdoor seating and planters for public use.

Installing parklets downtown was considered as recently as 2007 before the commission turned its attention elsewhere.

With many downtown restaurants placing outdoor eating areas on the sidewalk, Denight said it was a good

time to revisit parklets, which would give restaurants outdoor space while keeping the sidewalk open to pedestrians.

Denight suggested forming a committee to explore the idea and put together a plan, which would give concrete recommendations on the parklets’ size, locations, ownership and seasonal schedule.

Denight admitted that parklets’ location on top of parking spots might draw opposition from people who think the downtown area already suffers from a scarcity of parking.

The commission took no action.

The commission did take action on an amended budget, which moved \$45,000 from the contingency fund for capital improvement.

The money will cover the costs of purchasing and demolishing a property at 1825 S.W. Byers Ave.

The Byers property is one of several parcels of land west of the Round-Up Grounds the commission has purchased since 2006 with the intention of redeveloping them.

MISSION

Burke keeps BOT chair, joined by 4 new faces

By TIM TRAINOR
East Oregonian

In Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation elections on Tuesday, four new members swept onto the Board of Trustees, the tribes’ governing body.

Tribal chairman Gary Burke won re-election and will keep his seat, but he will be joined by a number of new faces.

Jeremy Wolf was elected to the vice chair position, Rosenda Shippentower won treasurer, the secretary position went to David Close and a new member at large will be Aaron Ashley.

In addition to Burke, trustees who remain on the board include: Justin Quae-mpts, Woodrow Star, Armand Minthorn and general council chair Alan Crawford.

Burke finished with 298 votes, ahead of challenger Kat Brigham, who finished with 188 and Elwood Patawa who received 155 votes. Stuart Harris, the fourth and final candidate for chair, received 77 votes.

Wolf nipped incumbent Leo Stewart for the vice chair position, 368 votes to 352.

The treasurer race was also a close one, with Ship-

pentower edging incumbent Aaron Hines 371-350.

In the at-large races, where four positions were at stake, Justin Quae-mpts was the top vote getter with 455. He was followed by Ashley with 324, Star with 291 and Armand Minthorn with 265. He just nosed out Les Minthorn with 238, Ellen Taylor with 229 and David Wolf Jr. with 210. A total of 13 tribal members ran for the four open positions.

The only constitutional amendment on the ballot asked voters if they wanted to change the status of Section C tribal members to full tribal members. The amendment passed by a vote of 417 in favor and 258 opposed.

Section C members will now receive the same benefits as fully-enrolled tribal members, including gaming dividends, elder support checks, loan eligibility, scholarships, job preference and more. Currently there are 93 Section C tribal members, according to the CTUIR.

There were 2,199 voters eligible to participate in the CTUIR election and 753 returned ballots, a 34 percent participation rate. Those elected Tuesday will take office Dec. 2 at 9 a.m. at Nixy-aawii Governance Center.

PILOT ROCK

Council picks discredited chiropractor to fill seat

East Oregonian

The five members of Pilot Rock city council picked a discredited chiropractor over a former city recorder to fill a vacant seat on the council Tuesday night.

Kacie Moss recently resigned the seat after selling her house, and two people turned in applications to the city: Jackie Carey, a former city recorder who is active in the Pilot Rock community; and Terry Womack, a member of Pendleton’s airport commission who is a former chiropractor. He lost his license in 2006 after the Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners found him guilty of inappropriate sexual

touching of at least 11 female patients over a 15-year period.

Womack was also cleared of charges of sexual abuse by a Umatilla County jury. He revealed none of that on his hand-written application.

Carey submitted a typed application explaining her involvement in the Pilot Rock community. She also told the council the city faces challenges in hiring a police chief and finding the best option for the city’s aging sewer lagoons.

The city councilors — all men — voted 5-0 in favor of Womack, even though on his application and at the meeting he admitted he has no idea what challenges Pilot Rock faces.

Semi driver dies in stormy 11-vehicle wreck on I-84

Wind knocks down trees, power lines

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The season’s first brutal wind storm resulted in an 11-vehicle pileup Tuesday near Echo that killed an Idaho man.

Oregon State Police Lt. Mike Turner said five semi-tractors and six passenger cars crashed at about 6 p.m. on the eastbound side of the highway near milepost 192, about a mile east of the turnoff for Echo.

William Hernandez, 47, of Caldwell, was driving one of the semis and died from the collision.

State police from Pendleton responded at approximately 6 p.m. to another crash involving two semi-trailers and two passenger cars on Interstate 84 eastbound near milepost 193. One person suffered serious injuries, according to state police.

Troopers out of Hermiston at 6:17 p.m. responded to several minor crashes on I-84 eastbound near milepost 192. State police in a written statement reported those wrecks occurred during high winds that limited visibility.

The National Weather Service recorded gusts in the area from about 4:45 to 7:30 p.m. that hit 55-60 mph. The winds kicked up a swath of dust.

“Visibility was down to almost nothing at times,” Turner said.

While troopers worked their way through the minor collisions, they discovered the larger crash nearby. Emergency medical personnel from Hermiston, Echo, Stanfield, Umatilla and Pendleton were already on scene.



Photo courtesy Oregon State Police

Multiple crashes on Interstate 84 about 6 p.m. on Tuesday, caused by high winds and rains and blowing dust, caused at least 11 cars and trucks to crash, killing one person.

The wreckage trapped several people, Turner said, and crews spent hours laboring to free them. Ambulances then rushed injured victims to hospitals in Hermiston and Pendleton. “The low visibility and dangerous conditions hampered rescue efforts,” according to a statement from Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services. “But first responders worked hard to stabilize the scene as quickly as possible.”

Nearly 40 emergency personnel were on-scene for about five hours, Hermiston Fire reported. State police and Oregon Department of Transportation workers assisted with traffic control and scene safety.

Turner said the wreck closed the interstate in both directions for several hours. The westbound side opened first, and Wednesday morning one eastbound lane was open.

The wind started picking up after noon Tuesday and created problems throughout the day, including knocking out power for nearly 1,900 Umatilla Electric Cooperative customers around

Hermiston and Pendleton.

Stanfield police at 5:31 p.m. received a report the wind broke off the arms of the railroad crossing guard at East Main Street and North Thielsen Street, Echo, and a little after 6 p.m. a power line fell near Echo High School.

Lines also fell at on Prindle Loop Road, Hermiston, and a tree tumbled and blocked a lane at Umatilla River Road and Bonney Lane, Umatilla. The wind also toppled a large spruce tree at East Main and Ninth streets, Hermiston, taking out power for much of the east side of the city.

The Hermiston Butte Substation feeder, which serves 1,762 customers, lost power at 5:48 p.m., according to the co-op. And a failure at about 4:30 p.m. at the Ordnance Substation affected 126 members in southeast of Hermiston, Butter Creek, in and around the city of Hermiston and in the Mission area near Pendleton.

The traffic signal at South First Street and West Hermiston Avenue ceased

working in the winds, and a few minutes past 6 p.m. — around the same time as the other crashes — two vehicles there collided. One passenger complained of pain to her left shin, according to Hermiston police, but declined medics. A family member took her to Good Shepherd Medical Center.

Emergency services at about 8 p.m. responded to a downed power pole across the road at Highways 331 and 11 on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Calls for emergency services continued late into night, including a report Wednesday at 12:52 a.m. of a power pole on fire of Lee Street Grade about half a mile north of the Umatilla River.

The storm passed early Wednesday, and the National Weather Service reported rain Thursday for Hermiston and Pendleton, though there is a winter weather advisory in effect though the Blue Mountains.

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

PENDLETON

City council delays vote on street fee

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Led by Jane Hill, the Pendleton City Council voted to postpone a decision on a \$5 street utility fee until the Dec. 15 meeting, while the city conducts additional public outreach.

The council was scheduled to vote on ordinance enabling the street utility fee at the Tuesday meeting and a resolution setting the \$5 fee on Dec. 1.

After John Brenne made a motion to approve the ordinance and Neil Brown seconded it, Hill offered a friendly amendment to delay the vote a month while the city stepped up its public outreach efforts.

“I think we can all agree there are many people that don’t understand how this fee works, are unsure about whether they’ve already been paying it or when it will go into effect,” she said.

If the council wants to start collecting the street utility fee before April, Public Works Director Bob Patterson said the council must institute the fee before

January. The city will be transitioning to new financial software and will not be able to add any new fees over the first several months of 2016.

Patterson said the vote could be delayed until December as long as council invoked an emergency clause to put the ordinance into effect immediately and also pass the resolution setting the \$5 fee.

To provide citizens with more information about the street utility fee, City Manager Robb Corbett said he could write an editorial in the *East Oregonian*, speak about it during the KUMA radio program “Coffee Hour” and at the December “Coffee with the City” event and brainstorm further ideas with city councilors.

Brown wasn’t completely sold on the idea.

“I don’t have a problem putting it off a little bit longer but I just don’t see the reason. I think the education factor is already behind us”

— Neil Brown, Pendleton City Councilor

the city collected, the building’s value is between \$236,000 and \$345,000.

The council also unanimously approved the publication of a notice of elections in the East Oregonian.

The notice will advertise the city council seats that will be on the ballot — Ward I, Ward II, Ward III, an at-large seat and the mayor. The incumbents that currently hold those seats are Becky Marks, Chuck Wood, Tom Young, Jane Hill and Phillip Houk, respectively.

Candidates must file with the city recorder by March 8, 2016 and municipal elections will be held May 17. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote in any given race, then the top two vote getters square off in a run-off election Nov. 8.

Filing paperwork and more information on the elections is available on the city website.

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

FREE THANKSGIVING MEAL

The Faith Center Church is offering Thanksgiving meals for families in need. Please contact the Faith Center Church office at 541-276-9569 to register.

Meals will be distributed to confirmed recipients Tuesday, November 24 from 5-6 pm in the church foyer.

ALTRUSA
Holiday Bazaar

SATURDAY ★ NOV 21
Pendleton Convention Center
9 AM-4 PM
Only \$1 Admission!

APPROXIMATELY 100 VENDORS!
HOURLY RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDING CASH AND FABULOUS GIFT BASKETS!

Lunch & Dessert Available
Raffle Tickets available at the door or from any Altrusan

Enjoy the Jazz sounds of Brass Fire

Sat., Nov. 21 2015
7 pm - 10 pm
In the Red Lion Lounge

304 SE Nye
Pendleton
541-276-6111

Fundraiser for Starlet

Help us raise money for Starlet’s surgery!

Nov. 20th
10 AM - ?
Let’er Buck Room