

MARIJUANA: Mayor proposed city operate its own dispensary if ballot measure passes

Continued from 1A

agreement, do you think that would be a wise move?” he said.

Not everyone liked the foursome’s fashion statement.

“I would especially like to thank the Fearsome Foursome for ... their illustration of the split of this council, which I think illustrates the split in this town (between) those who think people should have a choice (and) people who think they should have their choice made for them,” resident Bruce Staley said.

Staley was one of three Pendleton residents to voice their opposition to the indefinite ban during the public hearing. Over the course of three city council meetings, 15 members of the public opposed the ban while four members supported it.

The past two meetings were mired in stalemates as the indefinite ban couldn’t get the requisite five votes



Staff photo by Antonio Sierra

Three members of the “Fearsome Foursome” show off the outfits they wore to Tuesday night’s Pendleton city council meeting. Tom Young, Becky Marks, and Neil Brown, along with John Brenne, not pictured, were given that nickname in a Nov. 19 *East Oregonian* editorial for voting to not let residents vote on a marijuana ban.

for passage and an amendment to refer it to the ballot was voted down 5-4. But the council had no such trouble on Tuesday.

Both the ballot referral amendment and the ordinance enacting the tempo-

“I’m not happy about it,” she said. “I think it’s the wrong move for Pendleton to make. I think we’re sending the wrong message to young people.”

Even though the members of the council decided to refer the ban to voters, there’s still work to be done on how the ballot will be presented.

Councilors have previously suggested that medical and recreational marijuana sales be presented as separate referendums, with an additional question asking voters to approve a local 3 percent tax on recreational marijuana.

Mayor Phillip Houk threw another idea into the pot, proposing the city operate its own dispensary if one or both ballot measures pass, which he said would ensure the store would be well-run and properly vetted.

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

Council approves utility rate hikes

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council voted to raise water and sewer rates by 10.5 percent each year for the next five years at a meeting Tuesday.

During that time, the average customer’s bill will increase from \$70 per month to \$116 per month by 2020.

Public Works Director Bob Patterson said the increase in revenue will help the city catch up on the utility system’s maintenance needs and would allow the city to eventually lessen the burden paid by taxpayers in the future.

Councilor Tom Young called the rate hikes “horrendous” and said they would hurt people on fixed incomes.

Councilor Al Plute admitted it would be burdensome to the city’s poorer residents, but added that the city couldn’t afford to continue to kick the can down the road while maintenance issues continued to pile up.

Plute suggested the city bolster its utility bill assistance program, which is run through Community Action Program of East Central Oregon, while Jane Hill proposed the city advertise the program at the bottom of billing statements.

The council voted 6-2 to approve the rate hikes, with Young and Councilor John Brenne voting against.

Santa PAWS offers holiday photos

PENDLETON — Pet owners are invited to have family photos taken with their dogs and cats during a fundraiser for the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter.

In its fourth year, Ric Walters of Wet Nose Studios will take portraits of families and their furry friends. PAWS Pictures with Santa is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pendleton Art + Frame, 28 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. The cost is \$10, which includes a 4x6 photo and an emailed copy. Money raised from the event will help support the Pendleton animal shelter.

Both dogs and cats are welcome, said Crystal Sullenger of PAWS. The dogs must be brought on a leash and cats in a carrier. Refreshments will be served during the event.

For more information, contact 541-276-0181, pawspendleton@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/1695427977368269.



Photo by Ric Walters of Wet Nose Studios

Starlet and Classic are featured in last year’s family Christmas photo with John and Crystal Sullenger of Pendleton. A fundraiser for Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, pet photos with Santa will be taken Saturday at Pendleton Art + Frame.

Ice storm warning issued east of Portland, Salem, Vancouver

PORTLAND (AP) — The National Weather Service has issued an ice storm warning in areas east of Portland, Salem and Sweet Home in Oregon and areas east of Kelso and Vancouver in Washington.

The warning is in effect until 9 a.m. Wednesday for areas below 2,500 feet for the north Oregon and south Washington Cascade Mountains, and for the western Columbia River Gorge.

The heaviest precipitation is predicted to fall through 3 a.m. with ice accumulations of up to a half-inch possible.

Officials say travel could become treacherous or impossible on Interstate 84 in Oregon, and on other roads in the warning area.

Free event provides Medicare information

HERMISTON — Medicare counseling and information is available just in time for the end of open enrollment.

Free Friday Medicare Madness is Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference Rooms 5-6 (by the cafeteria) at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Trained volunteers from the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance office will be on hand to answer questions. They also are available throughout the year for questions. Those attending should bring a list of medications they take.

For more information, contact 541-667-3507 or shiba@gshealth.org.

SAGE Center rings in Christmas

BOARDMAN — A weekend movie at the SAGE Center helps rings in the holiday season.

“The Grinch that Stole Christmas” is Friday at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday at 2:15 p.m. at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors. Admission includes a bag of popcorn. Water is available for purchase.

People are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the special holiday light show. The show, which is set to music, is broadcast on

106.9 FM. The light display remains through the end of the year.

The SAGE Center is open Monday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.visitsage.com or call 541-481-7243.

Classes provide driving refresher course

HERMISTON — A pair of AARP driving classes are offered next week in Hermiston.

The sessions provide information on defensive driving skills, a refresher for rules of the road and how to manage age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. While the class is geared towards older adults, all licensed drivers are welcome.

The class is available Thursday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. at the Bob Shannon Safety Center, 330 S. First St., Hermiston. The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members.

For more information or to register, call Rose Emerson at 541-667-5092.

Fair extends court application deadline

HERMISTON — The Umatilla County Fair has extended the 2016 fair court application deadline.

It also was announced the program is open to all high school age students residing in Umatilla County; previously it was open only to 10th through 12th grade students. Applications are due by Friday, Dec. 11.

Applications are available at www.umatillacounty.net/fair, the fair office, 515 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston, all Umatilla County high schools and 4-H Extension offices. Fair staff will contact all accepted applicants to schedule interviews.

For more information, contact the fair office at 541-567-6121 or 800-700-

3247 or angie.mcnalley@umatillacounty.net.

Bands rock on for PHS fundraiser

PENDLETON — A trio of local bands will get together to support the Pendleton High School theater and band departments.

James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys, Misty Mouth and Suspect are featured in Musical Reunion: To Rock or Not to Rock. The concert is Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in the Pendleton High School performing arts auditorium, 1800 N.W. Carden Ave.

Oldies night features music from ‘85

MILTON-FREEWATER — Dozens of songs from 1985 are featured during Oldies Night in Milton-Freewater.

Number 1 hits from 30 years ago include “St. Elmo’s Fire” by John Parr and “Careless Whisper” by Wham! Hits that missed the Billboard top 40 included “Born in East L.A.” by Cheech and Chong and “Smalltown Boy” by Bronski Beat.

The event is Saturday at 7 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. There is no admission charge.

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

Special Needs Open Gym on Sundays

PENDLETON — Individuals with special needs and their caregivers or families are invited to participate in activities at the Pendleton Recreation Center.

The Special Needs Open Gym is Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m. at 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Recreation equipment and

activities are available for all ages. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, visit www.pendletonparksandrec.com or call 541-276-8100.

Senior center seeks junk

BOARDMAN — If you have junk collecting dust and taking up space, the Boardman Senior Center is willing to take it.

People are invited to donate anything sitting in the garage or around the house that is no longer being used. They will accept everything except clothing.

The best time to drop items off are Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 100 Tatone St., Boardman. For more information, call 541-481-3257.

Party program provides use of gym

PENDLETON — Gym activities and a sound system are included in the Birthday Party Program through Pendleton Parks & Recreation.

The Helen McCune Gymnasium provides a perfect place for energetic fun for kids, their friends and family. Parties are \$50 for two-hour time slots on Saturdays. For an additional fee, a bouncy hose and putt putt golf course can be set up.

For more information, visit www.pendletonparksandrec.com, the parks office at 865 Tutuilla Road or call 541-276-8100.

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.

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

Join us for Winter Wonderland, presented by BMW of Tri-Cities. Tree lighting, performances, family-friendly activities and festivities for all ages!

DECEMBER 3 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Uptown Shopping Center Open House

- Featuring luminaries outside participating store fronts
- Central United Protestant Choir
- Special customer treats, specials, and gift certificates
- Visit Santa

Uptown Theater 6:00 p.m.

Free Holiday Classic Movie: White Christmas

DECEMBER 4 @ 6:00 P.M.

Warming Fire by the Lee Blvd. Dock

Lighted Boat Parade

Santa House, with Santa, the Grinch, Olaf, and an elf too!

Horse Drawn Carriage Ride - Vendor

Food Vendors

Richland Community Center

- Model Railroad Display
- Mid-Columbia Ballet: Nutcracker Excerpt and Photo Opportunity
- Professional Entertainment
- Bingo with Santa's Elf
- Holiday Movie

DECEMBER 5 @ 5:00 P.M.

Holiday Mini-Parade and Tree Lighting

Warming Fire and Entertainment by the Lee Blvd. Dock

Lighted Boat Parade

Santa House, with Santa, the Grinch, Olaf and an elf too!

Horse Drawn Carriage Ride - Vendor

Holiday Movie on a Giant Outdoor Screen: Polar Express

Food Vendors

Richland Community Center

- Bouncy Land
- Model Railroad Display
- Bingo with Santa's Elf
- Holiday Crafts

ci.richland.wa.us/tourism | Need help finding a room? 1-800-254-5824

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Skyler Palmer

HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL

Skyler Palmer is a senior at Heppner High School. He is the son of Larry and Tina Palmer. Skyler is very involved at HHS, and he is currently President of both National Honor Society and his senior class. He also participates in cross country and track. Skyler has a very full academic schedule, which includes honor classes as well as college courses. He enjoys learning, works hard and excels in academics. Next year he plans to attend BYU Idaho. Skyler represents Heppner High School very well and has a bright future.

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