

**PENDLETON**

# Council makes budget its top priority

Selling some land and buildings also makes the short list

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

Faced with every issue its members have discussed in the past year and then some, the Pendleton City Council on Tuesday made a list of four priorities it wants to tackle next.

Public Works Director Bob Patterson presented the council with a 20-item list featuring a wide array of topics, but it didn't take long for members to zero in on the top issue — the budget.

The council wanted to specifically focus on what the city can afford and if there were any areas where they could trim costs.

"We need to dissect this

budget, we need to come to an agreement on how to dissect the budget, how to prioritize what we got in our budget and some of these other things will fall into place," Councilor Al Plute said.

Plute also favored getting more detailed reports from city staff that showed ideal funding levels, as opposed to reporting just what their current funding level allows them to do.

Second on the list was starting the process of selling off non-essential land and buildings owned by the city.

Patterson said there is land throughout the city that was originally set aside for parks but never developed, making them possible candidates for sale.

Selling non-essential, city-owned buildings might be a more difficult proposition. The buildings that house the Pendleton

Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Station Museum and the Pendleton Center for the Arts can only be leased. Patterson said city staff is currently compiling a list of non-essential, city-owned properties.

Coming in third was finding other sources of revenue.

Besides heavily discussed revenue sources like property tax, system development charges and utility fees, the council has thrown around the idea that the city could impose an income or payroll tax to generate an additional source of revenue.

Patterson said other Oregon cities have created a payroll tax to cover public transit expenses, but staff needs to do more research into the idea.

Last on their shortlist of priorities was creating a communications plan, a

concept that has taken more of a hold as the city has struggled to attract support for infrastructure funding.

The city is consulting with InterMountain Education Service District spokeswoman Michele Madril, whose presentation on a communication plan was postponed until City Manager Robb Corbett could be present.

Other topics that were discussed but did not make the cut were purchasing temporary construction easements for the Eighth Street bridge project, obtaining levee accreditation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and solving an effluence issue with the city's wastewater system.

Contact Antonio Sierra at [asierra@eastoregonian.com](mailto:asierra@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0836.

**BRIEFLY**



Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division believe this bull elk was poached approximately Nov. 10 and left to waste near La Grande.

## Bull elk poached near La Grande

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is seeking information in the poaching of a branch bull elk in the Starkey Unit near La Grande.

The bull was shot and left to waste on approximately Nov. 10 just west of Foothill Road in the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area. The incident happened during the general hunting season for Rocky Mountain elk, which is open to spike bulls only. There was no season open for branch bulls.

The Oregon Hunters Association is offering a reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case through the state's Turn-In Poachers program. The TIP program number is 1-800-452-7888, and callers can remain anonymous.

Anyone with any information can also call Senior Trooper Kris Davis at the OSP office in La Grande at 541-805-4757.

## Stanfield man injured in motorcycle crash

HERMISTON — A Stanfield man was taken to the hospital Tuesday after he crashed his motorcycle on Interstate 82 on the Washington side of the border.

Alan W. Sells, 52, was driving a 2004 Harley Davidson in the westbound lane of the freeway at about 4 p.m. when the motorcycle left the road, according to Washington State Police. He was taken to Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, Washington, and was in the surgical unit on Wednesday afternoon.

Sells was wearing a helmet and neither drugs or alcohol were involved, according to the report. Sells was cited for improper lane travel.

## Girl Scouts collect food donations

UMATILLA — Members of Girl Scout Troop No. 50117 continue their food collection drive this weekend.

The public is encouraged to donate non-perishable food items that will be distributed to those in need. Donations can be dropped off Thursday and Friday from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District at 921 Sixth St., Umatilla. They will give a handmade ornament to each person who donates, while supplies last.

For more information, contact troop leader Denise Griffith at 541-579-0768.

## Walla Walla hospice plans holiday event

WALLA WALLA — A special candle lighting ceremony is planned by Walla Walla Community Hospice.

In its 29th year, the Tree of Life ceremony is Monday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Die Brucke Building in downtown Walla Walla at the corner of Main and First streets. The ceremony includes the reading of the names in the Tree of Life book, music, candle lighting and refreshments.

In coordination with the ceremony, individuals may dedicate a light on the tree in memory of or in honor of a loved one for a donation of \$10. The name of the person is printed on a tree ornament and placed on the tree and is inscribed in the Tree of Life book. For a contribution of \$25, donors may request a glass tree ornament, which features an angel design.

Lights and ornaments may be purchased by calling the hospice office at 509-525-5561 or at [www.wwhospice.org](http://www.wwhospice.org).

## Pendleton Rite-Aid sets up senior tree

PENDLETON — The public is invited to brighten the holidays season of seniors living at Elizabethan Manor and Willowbrook Terrace.

Rite-Aid of Pendleton has a Tree of Giving that has tags with gift ideas for adults living in the facilities. People can take a tag and return the wrapped gift by Tuesday, Dec. 15. The store is located at 1900 S.W. Court Place, Pendleton.

For more information, call Pam Bliss at 541-276-1185.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to [news@eastoregonian.com](mailto:news@eastoregonian.com)



Photo contributed by Angela Treadwell

# You can lead a horse to Hamley's

A horse and rider, Drew Pearce, enter Hamley Western Store in Pendleton Wednesday for a commercial shoot.

**BOARDMAN**

# Kiwanis Club reins in old-fashioned holiday fun

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**  
East Oregonian

An old-fashioned holiday celebration is planned this weekend in Boardman.

In its fifth year, Breakfast with Santa offers an opportunity for the community to get together and share the excitement of the holiday season. Kids are encouraged to come prepared to share their wish list with St. Nick.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Boardman, the event is Saturday from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St. The cost is \$3 per person and includes a pancake and sausage breakfast and crafts for kids. Also reining in the fun are Brian and Karli Cook of Equine Elegance, who will provide horse-drawn wagon rides. And, of course, there will be photo opportunities with Santa Claus. A photographer will be on hand taking pictures and making them available for each child and their parents.

Pam Docken said the gathering provides a chance for people of all ages to mingle and share joys of the season. Docken and her fellow members of the Kiwanis Club particularly enjoy sharing the excitement of Christmas with children in the community.



EO file photo

Brian Cook of Equine Elegance gets ready to take passengers for a horse-drawn carriage ride during a past Breakfast with Santa event in Boardman.

"There is nothing more rewarding than seeing those smiling faces and listening to all the laughter that these young citizens provide," Docken said.

The horse-drawn wagon rides help create special holiday memories, as people of all ages climb aboard for a ride around town. To enhance the experience, people are encouraged to sing Christmas carols — laughing all the way.

"There is just something magical about a horse-drawn wagon ride that makes the holiday season seem so real," Docken added.

For more information about Breakfast with Santa, call Michelle Erickson at 541-314-2127.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

# Outdoor School funding initiative pre-qualifies for ballot

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
East Oregonian

An initiative to create a statewide Outdoor School Education Fund has been filed with the Oregon Secretary of State and could appear on the November 2016 ballot, if it gets enough signatures.

Outdoor School for All, which is trying to permanently fund outdoor school programs for every fifth- and sixth-grader in Oregon, formed a political action committee in October and has raised more than \$44,000 in cash contributions, according to the Secretary of State.

The Oregon Legislature already passed a bill

earlier this year creating an outdoor school fund to be administered by the Oregon State University Extension Service, but no money was attached to the policy. Initiative 56 would allocate lottery dollars for outdoor school, along with accepting donations.

The Oregon Constitution sets aside lottery dollars for public education, along with parks, beaches, watersheds and wildlife. Outdoor School for All estimates it would cost \$22 million per year to send 55,000 Oregon students to a full week of outdoor school.

Supporting outdoor school would create jobs and bolster economic development in rural communities,

the organization states in its findings.

The initiative has already received the 1,000 sponsorship signatures needed to pre-qualify for the November ballot. As a statutory initiative, Outdoor School for All now needs 88,184

signatures to fully qualify for the ballot. Signatures need to be verified by the Elections Division four months before the general election.

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

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