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EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Lehnert running for sheriff

Veteran of Pendleton Police Department will challenge incumbent Terry Rowan

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Ryan Lehnert, a 15-year-veteran of the Pendleton Police Department, will challenge Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan in the May election. And another officer with years of experience has signed on as the challenger's undersheriff.

Lehnert filed his candidacy paperwork with the county elections division. He still needs to provide documentation of his police certification to make it official, but that should not be a hurdle.

Lehnert, 43, began his law enforcement career in 1993 as a Umatilla County reserve deputy and two years later became a

regular deputy. He left the sheriff's office in 2001 for Pendleton police, where he currently holds the rank of corporal. He has organized participation in National Night Out and Neighborhood Watch and oversees "crisis training intervention," a program to help police better recognize the symptoms of people suffering from mental



Lehnert

illness. He also retired in 2009 from the Oregon National Guard as a master sergeant. Four years earlier, he led soldiers during a tour in Iraq.

Lehnert said Tuesday he has no personal gripe with Rowan, but felt the sheriff's office is not taking full advantage of county

See LEHNERT/10A

HERMISTON

School district leases property for senior center

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston overcame another hurdle on its way to building a new senior center after Hermiston School District's board of education agreed to let the city lease land needed for the project.

The 1.19 acre piece of property sits along Northeast Second Street behind the First United Methodist Church. It will be added to the parking lot behind the Hermiston Public Library and the stretch of road where Northeast Second Street curves around to become Ridgeway Avenue.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter said there were two potential orientations for the 8,000-square-foot Harkenrider Center — one where the district's property would house the building and one where it would be used for a 100-vehicle parking lot.

"There is some consideration that if we build on your property we could add a daylight basement," he said.

Fetter asked the school board to either donate the property or agree to a 50-year lease at \$1 per year. District administrators recommended a lease.

Deputy superintendent Wade Smith pointed out there was precedent for the city owning a building on school district property. The current senior center on the Umatilla County fairgrounds is in that exact situation, and the city has agreed to demolish the building as soon as the lease expires on Dec. 31.

He said the property the city was requesting has a water right and an alley right of way running through one corner, making it unsuitable for a school or other building of that size.

He said the intention was for the old Armand Larive Middle School arch on the edge of the property to be kept in place and integrated into the Harkenrider Center campus.

"It's a historic piece," he said. "The city is aware of that."

Back in 2012, the school board offered the same piece of property to the senior center board when they were trying to raise money for a new center on their own. That offer expired, but now that the city has obtained a \$2 million community development block grant to build the center on behalf of the seniors, the city requested that the district make the property available again.

Fetter said the city felt comfortable with a 50-year lease. He said it was highly doubtful a new senior center would be built by the time the current one is demolished in January 2017, but that he was in discussion with the ARC of Umatilla County about temporarily using their building at 215 W. Orchard Avenue for a lunch program until the new center is completed.

In answer to questions from the school board, Fetter said some senior citizens were not happy that the Harkenrider Center would feature breakout rooms and more recreational opportunities, or that it will be made available for city-sponsored classes in the evenings. Current seniors just wanted a place to eat lunch, he said, but research indicates that isn't what the younger Baby Boomers are interested in.

"This is a \$2 million investment. We want to take advantage of it," he said.

The school board voted unanimously to allow district staff to enter into a 50-year lease agreement with the city for the property.

More inside

Hermiston School District hires pre-bond architect
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Pendleton, Morrow Co. to expand CTE programs



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sparks fly as sophomore Jakob Harshfield uses a grinder on a piece of steel for a welding assignment on Monday in the metal shop at Pendleton High School.

Forging a strong future

State grants will bring in new equipment

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Like any workplace, a career technical education program without proper equipment is at a disadvantage.

The InterMountain Education Service District announced Monday that the Pendleton School District and the Morrow County School District each received a \$390,745 grant from the state to strengthen their CTE programs with new equipment

and infrastructure.

Pendleton and Morrow County were just two of 70 districts that competed for \$9 million divvied up by the state to revitalize programs that provide the training needed to help students secure jobs in the trades.

The Pendleton School District has already committed to bolstering its CTE program, using a portion \$57 million bond to convert West Hills Intermediate School into the Pendleton Technology and Trade Center.

"It will contain 'real work' lab settings, giving students

See CTE/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Career and technical educator Ed Fisher, right, watches as sophomore Justin Easlon practices tig welding Monday in the metal shop at Pendleton High School.

HARNEY COUNTY STANDOFF: DAY 10

Armed group calls meeting to talk with community

PORTLAND (AP) — The armed activists occupying a national wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon said Tuesday that they plan to hold a community meeting this week to explain themselves and inform residents when they will leave.

A member of the anti-government group told reporters that the meeting will be held Friday evening in Burns, 30 miles from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, *The Oregonian* newspaper reported.

Arizona rancher Robert "LaVoy" Finicum said the location has yet to be determined. He said "there should be a dialogue" but declined to give any specifics about the group's exit

plans. The small group is under pressure from many locals to end the occupation that began Jan. 2. The activists are there to oppose federal land-management policies.

Ammon Bundy, the group's leader, has previously said the group would not leave until a plan was in place to turn over federal lands to local authorities. They also want the release of Dwight and Steven Hammond, father-and-son ranchers convicted of arson who returned to prison last week to serve longer sentences.

See REFUGE/10A



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

A member of the group occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge stands guard at the refuge on Sunday in Burns.



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