

EOTEC: Umatilla County, city of Hermiston must share full responsibility of project loan

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loan program was in place.

"We're working the phones, and people have been great," he said.

The original plan was for the loan to be backed using the EOTEC property as collateral, but county council Doug Olsen pointed out in December that EOTEC — formed by an intergovernmental agreement between the county and the city of Hermiston — could not do anything the county was not authorized to do, and the state constitution prohibits counties from

using land as collateral for loans.

The resolution on the agenda at Tuesday's meeting offered full faith and credit backing for up to \$750,000 in loans to EOTEC, with the assumption that the city of Hermiston would back the other half of the loan. But Rivera told the commission that the banks needed both partners to officially back the entire \$1.5 million on paper, however they might end up splitting it up in the event of a default.

Commissioner Bill Elfering proposed that the

number be increased to \$1.5 million and that a clause be added that made the backing contingent on the city of Hermiston's willingness to also guarantee the \$1.5 million. Commissioner Larry Givens voted with Elfering in favor of that resolution, with Commissioner George Murdock absent.

If the EOTEC fundraising committee raises at least \$625,000 by March 1 it will add a third livestock barn to the project. Another \$600,000 will buy 2,000 permanent seats at the

rodeo. The next \$700,000 will buy panels and pens for livestock instead of renting them. And the last \$75,000 of the \$2 million goal would be used to add electrical and water hook-ups to the RV sites provided for exhibitors.

The EOTEC board's regular meeting, originally scheduled for Friday, has been postponed until Jan. 29 at 7 a.m. at the Stafford Hansell Government Center.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Search suspended for missing Marines

KANEHOE BAY, Hawaii (AP) — Officials Tuesday suspended their massive search for 12 Marines who were aboard two helicopters that crashed off Hawaii last week.

The around-the-clock effort failed to locate any sign of the 12 service members despite five days of searching by several agencies.

Officials said at a late afternoon news conference that the search would be suspended at sundown and the Marine Corps would transition to "recovery and salvage" efforts. A memorial is tentatively planned for Friday at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay.

"The decision to suspend the search without finding survivors is particularly difficult," said Capt. James Jenkins, chief of staff and acting commander of the Coast Guard 14th District in Honolulu.

The search began late

Thursday when a civilian on a beach reported seeing the helicopters flying and then a fireball.

The Marines were alerted when the CH-53E helicopters carrying six crew members each failed to return to their base at Kaneohe Bay following a nighttime training mission. Hours later, a Coast Guard helicopter and C-130 airplane spotted debris 2½ miles off of Oahu.

The crash was near the north shore, but the search area spanned from the western coast of Oahu to the northeast corner of the island.

The transport helicopters were part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Known as Super Stallions, they are the U.S. military's largest helicopter, capable of carrying a light armored vehicle, 16 tons of cargo or a team of combat-equipped Marines, according to a Marine Corps website.

HILL: Will teach business classes in Croatia

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foothold, access capital and markets, develop their products and expand beyond their ZIP codes.

Hill, also BMCC's Vice President of Economic Development, leaves his job at the end of the month, but the 69-year-old isn't ready to retire — not hardly. The business world is Hill's playground and the perfect place to exercise his agile brain.

He will head across the ocean to teach college business in the Mediterranean nation of Croatia. In addition, he recently released a book ("Venture Finance: The essential growth guide for startups and small businesses") and he will soon start writing another book aimed at helping American and European entrepreneurs navigate each other's business landscapes.

Hill will also grow his own company, Argo Resources, an import/export firm that handles Croatian wines, oils and other products such as an electric hybrid motor designed and manufactured in Croatia.

Hill's relationship with the Eastern European country started in 2006 when he traveled there to guest lecture at the Poly-

"There's the sheer beauty of it. Anyone who goes there comes back with their jaw dropped."

— Art Hill, on Croatia

technic University of Pula. His infatuation grew as he returned multiple times in the next decade.

"There's the sheer beauty of it," he said. "Anyone who goes there comes back with their jaw dropped."

Hill's brown eyes get a touch dreamy when he

talks about Croatia, an oasis of turquoise water, sandy beaches and Roman ruins. Hill said he thinks one reason he feels so at home there is because of family roots in nearby Slovakia, where the language is similar. After he arrives in Croatia, he will spend three months in an immersion program to improve his Croatian while he teaches class in his native

tongue.

"I'll teach in English," he said. "English is the language of business throughout Europe."

He has already purchased a small motorcycle for driving in downtown Pula, where parking places are almost nonexistent and gas cost about \$8 a gallon the last time he checked.

Hill will bring his acumen into his Croatian classroom and as he launches his second book. He started his first about a year ago, partially to satisfy Croatian university requirements that include being published. Hill wrote about what he knew — small business. Chair Seven Books, the first publisher he approached, made him a deal.

"I still wake up at night thinking, 'Is this really true? Did this really happen?'" Hill admitted.

Hill has eased back from leading the SBDC as his replacement, Carol Frink, adjusts to her new job. Frink, a business coach with her own consulting business and SBDC experience, is a good hire, Hill said. He won't waste a moment worrying about the future of the program.

Hill imparted his business

acumen to local entrepreneurs and big employers alike, according to former BMCC President John Turner.

"He was a really valuable interface between BMCC and regional employers," Turner said.

Hill also served on the Oregon Economic Development Association and Oregon Workforce Alliance. He chaired the Roundup City Development Corporation.

Jayne Clark, president of Pioneer Construction, and commercial lender Mike Short, of Bank of Eastern Oregon, say they will miss Hill's positivity and problem solving.

"He is driven, hard-working, ever busy and a voracious road warrior," Short said. "Art has left the SBDC in excellent shape, with great people in place to carry on after his protracted departure."

"He's been a mentor and an asset for me for many years — someone I could call and bounce ideas off," Clark said. "He's been a wonderful resource."

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

MYTHBUSTERS: Show filmed in July

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and consulting company in North America, to put the myth to the test. But first, they needed somewhere remote to film the segment.

Gino Smith, a quality assurance and hazardous materials specialist with AllTranstek, does trainings with Pacific Ethanol at the Port of Morrow. Smith recommended the site, and put the MythBusters crew in touch with Lyndon Jones, the plant manager.

Jones said he didn't think twice about welcoming the show to Boardman. With the port's approval, the MythBusters arrived on Monday, July 13 and wrapped up the evening of Thursday, July 16.

"They were great guys," Jones said. "It was a good experience overall."

Now in its 16th and final season, MythBusters has been one of Discovery's longest running and most popular programs. The show stars Savage and Hyneman, two special effects experts, who use science to test popular myths, adages, rumors and even movie scenes.

MythBusters touted the episode, "Tanker Crush," as their biggest ever logistical operation. For the experiment, AllTranstek coordinated not one, but two decommissioned tanker cars 67 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, with half-inch thick steel walls. The cars were brought to the port and onto a rail loop near Pacific Ethanol's facility, in view of the Columbia River.

"The river's a real pretty setting," Jones said. "They loved it."

Jones said he checked in on the set periodically, and had two employees spend all week with the crew. Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe and several volunteers from the rural fire department were also called in to help.

Firefighters were initially brought in just for emergency medical services,

but ultimately took part in the filming. In order to simulate the "rain" portion of the experiment, they used a portable fire monitor to douse the first tanker after it was filled with steam.

After spraying close to 350 gallons per minute for over an hour, the car never buckled. It wasn't until the next day, with the second tanker, that Savage and Hyneman theorized internal damage to the car might make a collapse more likely.

For this, they used a crane to drop a 3,500-pound concrete block onto the car and lowered the pressure inside with an industrial vacuum. This time, it crumpled like a crushed soda can.

However, since rail tankers are designed to withstand severe conditions and are only susceptible if they're badly damaged, Savage and Hyneman declared the myth "busted."

"We got it a little bit on the third try after some manipulation," Jones said. "It was dramatic."

Adam Cole was one of four firefighters with the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District who helped out on the project. He said he has been a fan of MythBusters for years.

"None of us even knew it was their last season," he said. "That made it really special."

As excited as he was, Cole said he and others were required to sign a confidentiality agreement and were forbidden from talking about the episode before it went to air. That didn't stop the rumor mill from swirling, especially after some locals recognized Savage and Hyneman eating at Hale's Restaurant in Hermiston.

Gary Neal, general manager at the Port of Morrow, said there was speculation that Savage and Hyneman were in the community, but by the time word got around they had already left.

"They were trying to be low key," Neal said. "There

weren't a lot of people driving by and gawking."

Neal said he wanted to bring in school classes for field trips to learn about the science behind the project, but was told no. He said they're hoping to get a copy of the episode to show at the SAGE Center.

Cole described Savage

and Hyneman as down-to-earth guys who love their jobs. He said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work on the show.

"Who thinks of Boardman, Oregon being on MythBusters, let alone the biggest production they've ever had?" he said. "It's amazing what they can do."

Umatilla Electric Scholarship Program



Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2016-17 school year:

Academic Scholarships - 12 \$2,500 scholarships are available for members of UEC and/or their dependent children who receive electric service from UEC at their primary residence, and are enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at a two- or four-year college. Apply online at www.oregonstudentaid.gov by **March 1, 2016**.

Electrical Engineering Scholarship - a \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply by **March 1, 2016** at www.oregonstudentaid.gov

Lineman Scholarship - a \$2,000 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member who receive electric service from UEC at their primary residence, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Apply by **March 1, 2016**. Go to www.umatillaelectric.com to download the application.

UEC wants to help make college accessible to our young members. We hope you apply.

For more information about UEC's scholarship program, visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman on online at www.umatillaelectric.com. You can also call us for more information at 541-564-6414 or the Oregon Student Access and Completion (OSAC) at 1-800-452-8807.