

PENDLETON

Cycles, cinema and suds to return in '16

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Pendleton's designation as the Round-Up City has been both a boon and bane to the town, a nickname that has both boosted its profile as a tourist destination and limited outsider perspective on what goes on in the city beyond the rodeo.

Three major events tried to fill out the social calendar last year — the Pendleton Real West Festival, Pendleton Bike Week and Oktoberfest Pendleton.

According to Travel Pendleton Event Coordinator Pat Beard, all three events did well enough to merit a second go-around in 2016.

Out of all three, the Real West Festival faced the toughest road to a second year.

A film festival centered around lesser-seen Westerns and films about the Northwest, the event was beset with technical difficulties and a rush to organize.

A total of 600 tickets were sold, with festival director Thomas Phillipson admitting the inaugural event cost more to produce than it took in.

Phillipson has since moved from Portland to Germany. But despite the distance, Beard said Phillipson has agreed to stage the festival again during the last week of April.

Beard said that in his discussion with the organizers of the Eastern Oregon Film Festival in La Grande and the We Like 'Em Short Film Festival in Baker City,



A long line of motorcyclists ride down Dorion Avenue for the start of the inaugural Pendleton Bike Week in 2015.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

film festivals need time to grow and establish themselves.

Pendleton Bike Week had less trouble finding a footing in 2015, with the first-year event attracting 1,500 registrations for rides across Eastern Oregon.

Organizers have already committed to a second bike week at the Pendleton Convention Center from July 20 to July 23.

Along with many of the activities from the first-year event, bike week organizers expect an expanded vendor area, a concert from rock band Three Dog Night and a performance from the Nitro National Hill Climb.

"They run on nitrous oxide," Beard said about the

performers. "They're wild to watch."

Bikers are responding to the expanded lineup in-kind. Beard said five times as many registrants have already signed up for the 2016 bike week.

Oktoberfest Pendleton also found an instant fan base, bringing more than 1,500 to the Round-Up Grounds for beer and sausages when organizers were only expecting 400.

Using the proceeds made from the event, Oktoberfest organizers were able to donate \$7,000 to the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, Altru, the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon and the Pendleton Elks Lodge.

While revelers were confined to the southern vending area during the first Oktoberfest, Beard said the hope is to eventually expand to the arena's grass field.

Beard said next year's event is set for Oct. 15.

2016 will bring at least one new event to Pendleton, this one having the advantage of already being well established.

The Walla Walla Kennel Club will hold its Conformation, Obedience and Rally Dog Show at the convention center April 30 and May 1.

Beard said the dog show will attract 1,000 entrants.

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STANFIELD

Council opts to not increase system development charges

Charges help cover cost of increased strain on roads, water, sewer

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Stanfield would be justified in more than doubling its system development charges, according to a report by an engineering firm, but city councilors aren't interested in raising fees that high.

Dave Wildman of Anderson Perry & Associates presented the firm's findings to the Stanfield City Council on Tuesday. According to their methodology for calculating system development charges, Stanfield's rate should be \$13,347 per new residential unit instead of the current \$5,399.

Wildman recommended against raising the charges that high, however.

"You would probably put a screeching halt on development in Stanfield if you charged that much," he said.

System development charges are meant to help a city pay for the costs associated with new development, including increased strain on roads, water and sewer systems.

To calculate how much the city would be justified in charging to completely recoup those costs, Anderson Perry & Associates calculated how much the city still has to pay for system infrastructure like a new pump station, as well as how much capacity those systems have left before they need to be expanded again.

City manager Blair Larsen told the council he would be against significantly raising system development charges, but it was helpful to have the justification on paper in case developers challenged the fees in the future.

He did, however, suggest that the council look at diversifying where the money from the fees goes. Currently the city uses the money for water and sewer system improvements, but Larsen suggested the council consider splitting some of that money with transportation and parks funds as well.

Mayor Thomas McCann said setting system development charges seemed like a "catch-22" for the city, because raising fees too high would discourage new development but keeping them low would

"You would probably put a screeching halt on development in Stanfield if you charged that much."

— Dave Wildman, of Anderson Perry & Associates

draw in development without providing the means for the city to pay for services.

No official action was taken on the draft report after a few minor inaccuracies were pointed out by public works director Scott Morris, but councilors expressed a desire to follow Larsen's recommendation to keep system development charges at their current rate and add transportation and parks to the list of funds served by the charges.

During Tuesday's meeting the council also approved a request by Stanfield's senior center board to turn the Stanfield Community Center building at 225 W. Roosevelt Ave. over to the group.

The group recently spent \$75,000 on improvements to the building and is pursuing further capital improvement grants.

According to board members in attendance and councilor Pam McSpadden, the building was in the senior center board's possession in the past, until someone decided the center's name should be changed from the Stanfield Senior Center to the Stanfield Community Center.

Stanfield Senior Center, Inc. was dissolved and a new corporation called Stanfield Community Center, Inc. was created. Afterward it was discovered that the action had caused a reversionary clause to kick in and the group no longer owned the building.

Larsen said in 2008 Umatilla County deeded the property to the city with a stipulation that it be reserved for public use for the next 20 years. He said the senior center board planned to continue providing the building for public use, and councilors approved the move as long as the senior center group agreed to bear any associated legal costs.

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HERMISTON

Chess club's best play match in The Dalles

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

As Hermiston's fledgling chess club grows, the students are getting more opportunities to play in a competitive setting.

Chess advisor Delia Wallis, who supervises the combined high school and middle school team, said in the past few years students have only competed once a year at the regional tournament. But last week they were invited to send its best high school players for a varsity match in The Dalles.

"It was just what the doctor ordered," Wallis said.

She said it was a good experience for the seven students who attended to practice the social rules of competitive chess with students from another school. The club in The Dalles is coached by U.S. Chess Federation expert Ben Lin and practices three times a week, compared to Hermiston's once-a-week practices. Wallis said it wasn't a surprise Hermiston lost, but she was impressed with their performance nonetheless.

Last year there were about 30 students in Hermiston's chess program; this year Wallis said they have had up to 44 students in a practice.

Chess club president Oscar Galdamez, a Hermiston High School junior, said he got beaten soundly but would still be interested in playing more matches at other schools in the future.

Senior Lewie Stoddard said his game



Hermiston Chess president Oscar Galdamez, left, plays Chantal Hinkley, while behind them Lewie Stoddard plays Joshua Hinkley during a practice.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

lasted an hour and a half, but he learned to take his time with moves and not rush when the game was long.

In addition to Galdamez and Stoddard, club members who competed in the match were sophomore Bobby Bellinger, sophomore Logan Miller, freshman Harrison Temple, junior James Nordquist and sophomore Thomas Wall.

Wallis said as the program grows and she makes more contacts with chess club advisors at other schools she hopes to set up more matches. Hermiston will host the Region 23 chess tournament on Feb. 27.

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PENDLETON

Council approves controlled burn fee

East Oregonian

The Pendleton Fire Department will burn down a structure upon request, but payment is now a requirement.

The Pendleton City Council unanimously approved Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo's request to institute a \$1 per square foot fee for controlled burns.

The department already offered controlled burns to residents as a way to give personnel a live fire training opportunity, but Ciraulo said the city never charged a fee.

Ciraulo said charging a

fee for controlled burns is common practice among fire department across the country as a way to recoup the cost of doing the burn.

Even with the fee in place, Ciraulo said a controlled burn would be 10 percent the cost of a traditional demolition. The fee has a floor of \$1,000 and a ceiling of \$5,000.

Ciraulo said he expects two to five controlled burns per year.

The council also unanimously approved allocating \$6,000 from the art fund for promotion of the Vert Auditorium.

The \$6,000 would cover

part of the costs of paying promoter Michelle Liberty, who has promised Pendleton Convention Center staff she could bring six shows to the Vert this year.

Although Liberty estimates her fee would be \$1,000 per month, City Manager Robb Corbett said no contract has been negotiated between her and the city.

Lastly, the council approved the renewal of Municipal Judge Jeff Wallace's contract through 2019.

Under the terms of the contract, Wallace will earn \$27,900 per year.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS
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.

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