

**PENDLETON**



Sketches by Jerry Werner of the bronzes of Aura Goodwin Raley (left) and Chief Clarence Burke.

# Sculptors nominated for new downtown statues

East Oregonian

Familiar names could sculpt the next two statues on Pendleton's Main Street.

The Pendleton City Council will consider awarding \$35,000 contracts to Jerry Werner and Greg Polutanovich to sculpt the bronzes of Aura Goodwin Raley and Clarence Burke, respectively.

Werner, the owner of the Bend-based Werner Graphics, previously made the George Fletcher bronze and was recommended by the city's committee to depict Raley.

Known as the "Mother of Pendleton" for her role in founding Pendleton, Goodwin's likeness will be featured on the 300 block of Main Street, across from the Stella Darby statue.

In addition to his work in Pendleton, Werner has commissioned sculptures and other public art in Wilsonville and Bend.

Polutanovich is no stranger to Pendleton either, having made the Jackson Sundown bronze.

Burke's statue on the 100 block of Main Street, across from the Sundown bronze, will memorialize the longtime co-chief of the Round-Up Indian Village.

Polutanovich, a Simi Valley, Calif.-based sculptor, has also had work commissioned from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

"They were both good to work with, there's no question about that," said Phillip Houk, Pendleton's

mayor and a member of the art committee.

Houk said the sculptures will cost \$70,000 while ancillary costs like plaques and signs could cost an additional \$5,000.

The city's art fund, which is funded through the 1.75 percent earmark of the transit room tax, has an estimated balance of \$85,000.

Houk said the fund will be used to pay for the statues' upfront costs while the committee writes grant applications.

The committee has already secured a \$10,000 grant and will ramp up application efforts once the council approves the sculptors.

The council meeting will be held Tuesday at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Avenue.

**HERMISTON**

# Roundabouts out, signal still needed

Transportation update calls for traffic light at Hermiston Foods truck entrance

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

Roundabouts are off the table, but the Hermiston City Council on Monday night will discuss adding a traffic signal to south Highway 395.

The council discussed updates to the city's transportation system plan on Feb. 22 but voted to extend the public hearing to Monday after citizens and councilors alike expressed strong disagreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation's request that roundabouts be considered for several locations along the highway.

According to a memo included in the council's Monday agenda packet, city staff held a conference call with ODOT and the department agreed to withdraw its requests for roundabouts, which it considers safer in high-speed zones.

The updated amendment being considered Monday night says nothing about roundabouts but does shorten the length of a previously proposed "backage road" parallel to the highway and proposes to add a traffic signal at the Hermiston Foods truck entrance just north of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

The two adjustments would help accommodate increased traffic from a planned Ranch and Home store between Hermiston

Foods and the distribution center.

On Monday the council also will discuss a contract with ODOT to construct a multi-use trail along Highland Avenue between Riverfront Park and Southwest 11th Street. The trail would be another piece in the planned city-wide loop that started with the Oxbow Trail project.

Under the agreement, ODOT would pay 77 percent of the \$663,225 project through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The city's remaining 22 percent match would come from the bicycle trails reserve fund, community enhancement reserve fund and other reserves. Construction is estimated to start in early 2017.

The council also will consider a name proposal for the small neighborhood park at 80 Beech Avenue: Greenwood Park. The small lot is without an officially recorded name but is sometimes known as the Northside Park.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has been working with the park's neighbors on a plan to update the park's design and replace rusted, broken play equipment. As part of that process the committee has requested that the council approve naming the park after longtime Hermiston resident Greenwood Woodrow Luster. According to city records, Luster was the one who petitioned the city to create the park and got the Hermiston Jaycees involved in creating it.

The city council meeting is 7 p.m. on Monday at city hall, 180 N.E. Second Street.

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# Safe Communities terminates ODOT grant

Group looking for new members, focus

By **JENNIFER COLTON**  
East Oregonian

the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Grant funding is gone, but the West Umatilla/North Morrow Safe Communities will continue.

This week, Safe Communities notified the Oregon Department of Transportation it would terminate its grant at the end of the month. The organization itself, however, will continue and is looking for new members and a new focus.

Safe Communities is a sub-committee of the Healthy Communities Coalition, a service of Good Shepherd Medical Center. The coalition began in 2006 with a focus on health and safety issues for the west end of Umatilla County and the northern sections of Morrow County. The Safe Communities sub-committee was created in 2009, when the organization first received the grant from

The grant funded a safety coordinator position and training for car seat technicians, as well as items distributed in the community such as bicycle helmets, car seats and reflective clothing and materials for pedestrians and cyclists.

"The diversion funds will be set aside for car seats and helmets, but it won't be the level we had," said aid Juli Gregory, health educator for Good Shepherd Medical Center. "It's not a huge amount of money, but it's there."

The group is looking to refocus on new issues and discussed internet safety, bullying, homelessness, domestic violence, fall prevention, prescription disposal, child abuse, pedestrian health and gun safety.

"If we're looking at community safety, it is almost limitless," Gregory

**"If we're looking at community safety, it is almost limitless. We'll continue meeting and developing our focus."**

— **Juli Gregory**, health educator for Good Shepherd Medical Center

said. "We'll continue meeting and developing our focus. I'm excited. We've got a lot going on and a lot of exciting things we're doing."

For more information about Safe Communities, visit [www.healthycommunitiescoalition.com](http://www.healthycommunitiescoalition.com), attend the committee meeting — the second Wednesday of each month at Good Shepherd Medical Center — or contact Gregory at 541-667-3506.

Contact Jennifer Colton at [jcolton@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jcolton@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4534

# Airport bike trails set to take off

East Oregonian

A grassroots effort to create bike trails west of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport could come closer to fruition Tuesday.

That's when the Pendleton City Council will consider a resolution converting 290 acres of sparsely used land into the Pendleton Adventure Trails Recreational Area, a system of trails for hikers, cross country runners and mountain bikers.

According to a report from City Attorney Nancy Kerns, a group of cyclists and the Pendleton High School cross country team came together to support the project.

Kerns wrote that the area is currently being leased for cattle pasture, but the tenant is amenable to the bike trails.

Although improvements including signage and bike racks will be needed, city officials are estimating the project will cost no more than \$1,000.

The city has received support from the people behind similar trail networks near La Grande and Echo.

In a letter to the city, Bart Barlow of the Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding and maintaining singletrack trails in Northeastern Oregon, wrote that he has already observed enthusiasm for the project.

"A properly designed and maintained trail system will also be a significant economic asset to Pendleton," he wrote. "Access to the proposed trails is ideal with the nearby (Interstate) 84. Fun events and competi-

itive races could be sanctioned, which will increase the economic benefit to the community."

Chuck Wood, a city councilor and a founding member of the Pendleton on Wheels cycling club, also saw potential in the park, which he thinks could attract an event akin to the Echo Red 2 Red Cross Country Mountain Bike Race. That race brought more than 400 competitors, along with their families, to the town.

While approval of the bike trails is currently slated for the consent agenda — a space reserved for lesser items that require minimal discussion — Wood said he will request Mayor Phillip Houk move it to the "new business" section, where the issue could be discussed more thoroughly.

The council meeting will be held Tuesday at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Avenue.

## Hill Meat waterline expansion on council agenda

PENDLETON — A water project intended to help Hill Meat Co. expand may take a step forward.

The Pendleton City Council will consider awarding a \$190,764 bid to Quesenberry Construction on Tuesday to expand water lines at the eastern portion of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport industrial area, a project city officials say will adequately supply sprinkler water to the Hill Meat expansion and accommodate additional industrial expansion.

Quesenberry's bid came in \$25,000 less than an initial estimate and will be partially covered by a \$150,000 state grant. The other \$40,764 will be covered by the city's water fund.

**Employers... we need your input.**

Tell us about your workforce needs. Search online for Umatilla County Workforce Needs Survey. Make a difference, take part now!



# Little Darlings!

**This special section will be full of adorable little darlings that have arrived over the last 3 years to bless many families and our communities. Families will want to keep this special keepsake for their child and family for years to come.**

Submit a photo of your Little Darling (Age 0 - 3) & be entered into a drawing for prizes by local sponsors!

Send in, or drop by, a full color high resolution photo, your child's name and a message to your child today!

Little Darlings  
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**Deadline for photos: April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Publish date: April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Message: \_\_\_\_\_

**EAST OREGONIAN** **Hermiston Herald**

## Violet Hall 90th Birthday Party!

Hermiston Senior Center  
435 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston

**March 19, 2016**  
**2:00-4:00pm**

Drop by for cookies & ice cream, to share a tall tale or two, wonderful visiting & great memories!