



Staff photo by Drew Langton

Man taken down from silo, arrested

Pendleton fire personnel and police officers work to remove a man from a silo Friday afternoon on the 500 block of Southwest Fourth Street. Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said an officer got Michael Lubeck, 33, to step into a "bucket" at the end of the fire engine ladder. Police then arrested Lubeck for trespassing at the Pendleton Flour Mills site and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Roberts said Lubeck suffers from mental illness, and while he has been in town a short while, police deal with him regularly.

"Apparently, he does not meet the statutory requirement of being a danger to self and/or others," Roberts said in an email. "Nor, does he meet the statutory threshold of being incapable of caring for himself."

IRS phone scams reported in town

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian

The income tax filing deadline is approaching, and scammers are using the date to their advantage.

At least four Hermiston residents received contact from callers claiming to be the Internal Revenue Service on Thursday.

Hermiston residents contacted the Hermiston Police Department about receiving IRS scam phone calls at 7:57 a.m., 9:25 a.m., 10:42 a.m., and 12:44 p.m. Each call came from a different phone number with a different area code.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston cautioned residents that the IRS will mail notifications. He said these scams often target the elderly.

"Do not engage in providing personal information with someone you do not know," Edmiston said. "These scammers have even been known to portray themselves as someone they are not."

The IRS impersonation scams are very difficult for local law enforcement

to investigate. In the past, IRS impersonation scams in Hermiston have been tracked to Canada, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, according to Edmiston.

The IRS website reports scams have cost victims more than \$23 million since October 2013.

If you receive a scam phone call, do not provide any personal information and hang up immediately. Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, at 800-366-4484 or submit a report at https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml.

HERMISTON

Senior center gets mealtime help from Trendsitions

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Volunteers from Trendsitions are helping make meal-times at the Hermiston Senior Center go more smoothly.

After hearing that the seniors were having to serve the meals themselves before eating because of a volunteer shortage, the organization saw an opportunity for its developmentally disabled clients to interact positively with the city's senior citizens while doing a good deed.

Kelly Marscall of Trendsitions said the volunteer work fulfills the organization's mission of helping developmentally disabled adults gain employment.

"It gives them work experience, job skills, teaches them how to interact with the public — things they need to know to work in the real world," she said.

Karen Blair, the senior center's cook, said the help has been greatly appreciated. She said she couldn't believe how quickly cleanup in particular went since Trendsitions started sending volunteers.

"These guys are whizzes,"



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Dave Russell, right, a volunteer with Trendsitions, serves food at the Hermiston Senior Center.

she said. "I have not seen a better bunch."

On Thursday they were helping serve potatoes and gravy to appreciative seniors there for a meal and some conversation with friends. As soon as everyone was through the line, the volunteers whisked the extra food back to the kitchen, where volunteer Dave Russell began rinsing utensils and dishes and loading them into the dishwasher.

"Dave is a fantastic dishwasher," Blair said. "He knows what he's doing."

Russell said it was his favorite part of helping at the senior center.

"I do my own at home," he said, explaining how he had learned to get the dishes so clean so quickly. "I start and just put them through a certain way."

Virginia Beebe of the Hermiston Senior Center said the experience has been positive all around.

"We said, 'Let's see how they do,' and we're getting nothing but compliments," she said. "They're doing a wonderful job."

HERMISTON

Livable committee to present findings

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Livable Hermiston Committee will present a report to city council on Monday that could eventually lead to an indoor aquatic center.

The committee was formed to help determine the function of the Hermiston Conference Center, in light of the opening of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, but its mission grew into a community-wide visioning process.

The result is a 14-page report that recommends the city make ensuring the success of the EOTEC facility its top priority for increasing Hermiston's livability in the next 3-5 years.

Its second priority, the

committee reports, should be an in-depth feasibility study of one of the top four spending priorities listed by the community. The most voted-for priority in community surveys was an indoor aquatic center, followed by downtown revitalization, more parks and a community youth/family center such as a YMCA.

The committee "strongly recommends" combining the indoor pool and community center into one project.

On Monday the council will hold a public hearing on a supplemental budget, which will bring the 2015-2016 budget in line with actual expenditures. Most of the transfers between funds are less than \$10,000 but the biggest line item is \$600,000 the city promised the EOTEC


board for construction costs. Separate resolutions will also authorize a \$90,000 loan from the general fund to the reserve fund for repairs to the Hermiston Aquatic Center, and open a reserve fund to handle the money for the recently approved trail extension from Riverfront Park to Southwest 11th Street parallel to Highland Avenue.

The council will also consider a lease to William Van Ryn to build a 3,000-square-foot hangar at the Hermiston airport and will consider an agreement for part of employee that will handle EOTEC's finances.

The 7 p.m. meeting will be preceded by a 6 p.m. work session on possible improvements to the Recycled Water Treatment Plant to better handle bio-solids.

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