PENDLETON

Fire chief lists six possible station sites

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

After negotiations fell through with St. Anthony Hospital over donating its old site, Pendleton City Council tasked Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo with identifying other places to build a fire hall.

He came back with six.

Starting Tuesday at 9 a.m., the fire department will host a series of public meetings to collect public input for the city council to consider when zeroing in on a property and a possible May 2017 bond proposal.

The old St. Anthony Hospital land is still an option, but the other five sites are new proposals, a result of property owners soliciting their land in recent months.

Previous sites were analyzed for response times by a consultant, but Ciraulo said a new report isn't necessary. The initial report determined that a new fire station should be closest to the intersection of Main Street and Dorion Avenue, and Ciraulo said the new sites are in close proximity.

However, many of the new proposals are not shovel ready.

Ciraulo said putting a new fire station at the old Pendleton Grain Growers building would present some particular challenges, including $1.5 million to $2 million in seismic upgrades.

Staff photo by Drew Langton

Til Taylor Park is one of six sites Pendleton Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo identified as possible locations to build a new fire hall.

While there is a state grant the city could apply for to help pay for those costs, Ciraulo said it might be easier to build the fire station in the PGG parking lot and leave the structures untouched.

Even though some residents have suggested renovating the current fire station, Ciraulo said the current site still has too many issues to seriously consider, even if the city acquired land around it.

Among other issues, an expanded fire station at 911 S.W. Court Ave. would still have to contend with backed-up traffic on Court, especially during Round-Up week.

Meetings starting at 9 a.m. are on the following Fridays: June 17, June 24, July 1, and July 8. Evening sessions begin at 7 p.m. on these days: Thursday, June 23; Wednesday, June 29; and Wednesday, July 6.

Below are the proposed sites along with their potential costs and pros and cons, as supplied by the city of Pendleton.

Old St. Anthony Hospital

Address: 1601 S.E. Court Ave.
Size: 1.07 acres
Anticipated acquisition cost: $387,000
Pros: Sufficient land to allow training area, drive-through bays and parking bays; easy access to Highway 30
Cons: Property cost; would require new street (Southeast 15th Avenue); significant site improvement costs; site is east of the preferred location; railroad adjacent

Old Bi-Mart

Address: 312 S.E. Nye Ave.
Size: 2.81 acres
Anticipated acquisition cost: $900,000
Pros: Plenty of room for all needs; easy access to Interstate 84
Cons: Outside downtown area; property cost

O'Grady Property

Address: 210 S.E. Fifth Street
Size: 1.14 acres
Anticipated acquisition cost: $700,000
Pros: Near downtown area
Cons: Property cost; no room for training; removal of existing businesses/structures

Til Taylor Park

Address: 700 S.E. Dorion Ave.
Size: 1.61 acres with pool and memorial, 1 acre without
Anticipated acquisition cost: None
Pros: Near downtown area; no property cost
Cons: Loss of existing park land; relocation/removal of play structure; insufficient land for training

PGG

Address: 1000 S.W. Dorion Ave.
Size: 3.66 acres
Anticipated acquisition cost: Unknown
Pros: Near downtown area; plenty of room for all needs
Cons: Unsure of willingness of land owner to divide property and cost of land; old building renovation costs; railroad adjacent

Galloway Property

Address: 420 S.E. Ninth Street
Size: 0.83 acres
Anticipated acquisition cost: $150,000 plus another $250,000 for the land and structures to the west
Pros: Near downtown area
Cons: Limited access; no room for training; removal of existing structures; unknown if additional property to the west is available

Feast your eyes on 'naked' barley

Yield, resistance, quality keys to grain research

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

Golden wheat swayed in the breeze Thursday afternoon as researchers with Oregon State University updated farmers on the latest statewide variety trials in Morrow County.

Bob Zemetra, a wheat breeder with OSU's Department of Crop and Soil Science, said the keys to successful breeding are yield, resistance and quality. A solid wheat variety should be able to make the most of Eastern Oregon's limited rainfall, while withstanding potentially cold winters and avoiding damage from diseases such as stripe rust.

"It's hard to make a variety have everything," Zemetra said.

In order to test new varieties against the local elements, OSU Extension Service conducts a number of field trials along Highway 207 between Hermiston and Lexington. Some wheat types might mature early or be more susceptible to certain diseases, which are things that farmers need to know ahead of time before they plant or spray fertilizer.

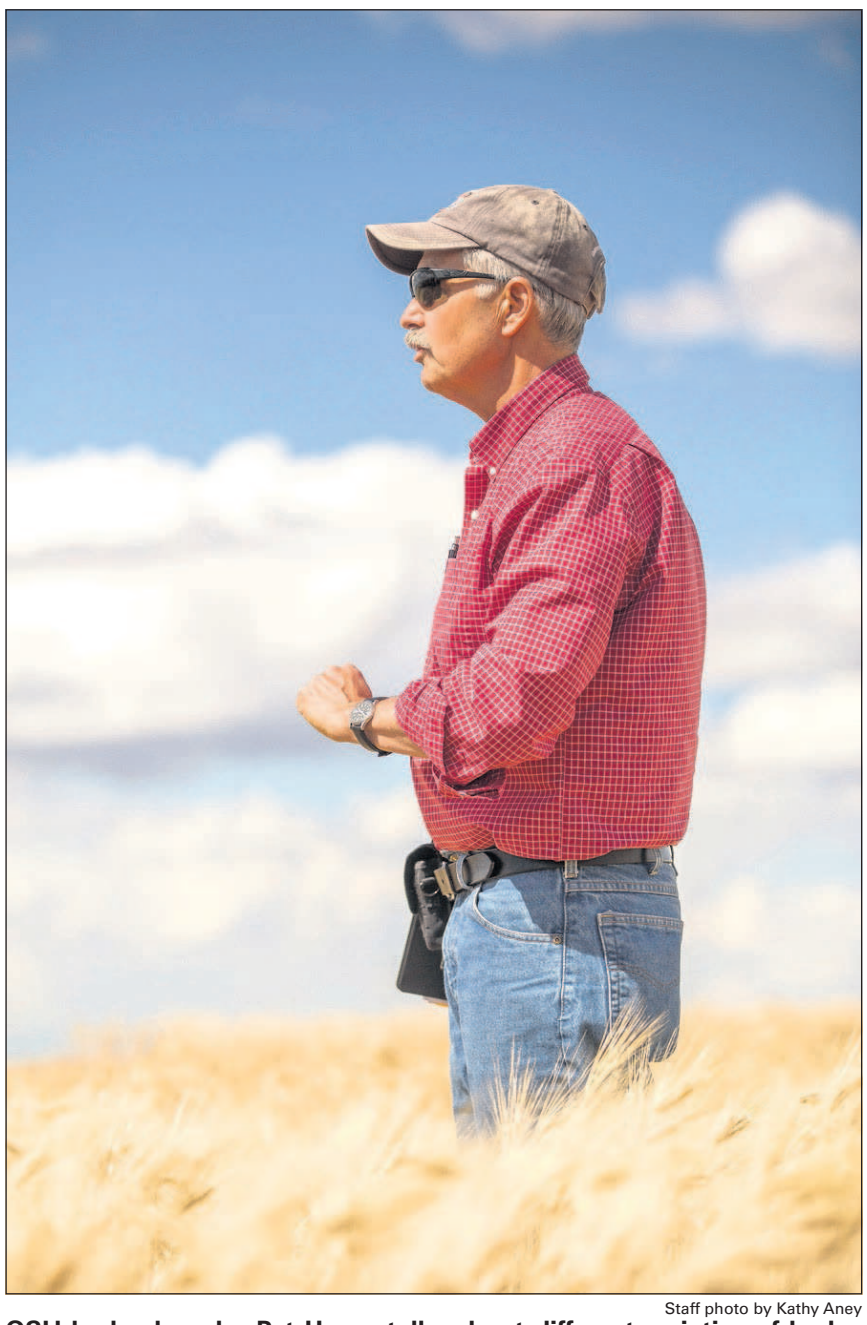
At the end of the day, Zemetra said growers should hang their hat on quality, which gives the Northwest a distinct edge in the marketplace.

"We produce some of the best wheat in the world," Zemetra said. "You have to push for quality."

Wheat wasn't the only grain that caught the farmers' attentions on Thursday. Pat Hayes, a barley breeder with OSU, is also pushing for that crop to gain more of a foothold across the state as craft breweries continue to rise in popularity. He highlighted the results of his research in Morrow County following a second year of trials.

With names like Alba, Verdant, Glacier and Strider, Hayes said barley holds plenty of promise if the price is right. Prices are higher for malting and food barleys than feed varieties, he said. He especially pointed to "naked" barleys — where the grain can be removed from its hull — as an attractive option for their versatility in all different markets.

"It all comes back to the hull, which is inedible to humans and have little to no benefit in feed," Hayes said. "After 30 years of pushing the barley envelope in every direction, I believe it's time to go naked."



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

OSU barley breeder Pat Hayes talks about different varieties of barley during Thursday's OSU/Morrow County crop tour along Highway 207 between Lexington and Hermiston.

Larry Lutcher, with OSU Extension in Heppner, said field days are an important resource for farmers looking to improve or diversify their operations and potentially improve their bottom line.

"Variety selection is a huge part of that," Lutcher said. "I hope they'll go home and think about one or two, possibly three different lines, and see how they do on their own farms."

As for this year's wheat crop, Lutcher said harvest should hopefully be better than last year after the region received nearly an inch and a half of rain in May. However, he said farms are still struggling to recover from three consecutive years of drought and below-average precipitation.

"Water conservation is key," he said. "That's kind of the name of the game."

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

BRIEFLY

Walden coming to Umatilla County

ECHO — U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon, will hold a town hall Monday in Echo where residents can listen and ask questions about the latest work happening in Congress.

The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at the Echo Community Center. Afterward, Walden will travel to Pendleton for lunch with the local Rotary Club. That visit will begin at noon at the Red Lion Hotel.

Walden's day will continue with a veterans roundtable discussion at 2:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 2990 in La Grande. The congressman will hold a second town hall at 5:15 p.m. in Baker City, and attend the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Leslie Davis at the Baker VFW Hall.

For more information, visit www.walden.house.gov.

Stanfield library to provide summer reading, meals

STANFIELD — The Stanfield Public Library announced that its Summer Reading Program will also include a Summer Meals Program for children ages 1-18.

The Summer Reading Program runs each weekday from Monday, June 20 through Monday, July 25 beginning at 11 a.m. at the library, 180 W. Coe Ave. During the program, all children through age 18 are also eligible to receive a nutritious lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. free of charge, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

The library has been selected to receive a Summer Meals Support Fund grant from Partners For a Hunger-Free Oregon to help meet the goal of making sure kids in the Stanfield community have the fuel they need to learn and grow during the summer.

For more information on local summer meal sites, visit SummerFoodOregon.org

Frazier Farmstead hosts summer festival

MILTON-FREEWATER — It's almost time to kick up your heels during the Frazier Farmstead Summer Festival.

The 21-and-older event features dinner, music and dancing. An annual fundraiser for the museum, the event is Saturday, June 25 from 6-10 p.m. at 1403 Chestnut St., Milton-Freewater. Tickets are $40 per person.

Dinner will be provided by Specialty Catering by Jennifer. Also, many Walla Walla Valley wines and beer by Dragon's Gate Brewery will be available for purchase. Music features Robin Barrett and Coyote Kings with Tiph Dames.

The Frazier Farmstead Museum is a six-acre site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was settled in 1868 by community founder W.S. Frazier. Money from the event goes to support the museum.

For more information, call 541-938-4636 or visit www.facebook.com/events/261605557563496.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

PENDLETON MASTERS SWIM CLUB, 5-6 p.m., Round-up Athletic Club pool, 1415 Southgate, Pendleton. Fees are $5 per session coaching fee; non-RAC members pay $8 pool fee per session. (Tania Wildbill 541-310-9102).

PENDLETON EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY KITCHEN, 6-8 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge No. 28, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. (541-278-2828).

COLUMBIA GRANGE, 6:30 p.m. potluck; 7:30 p.m. meeting, Columbia Grange hall, 32339 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. (Doris Reid 541-567-8663).

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

WHITE EAGLE GRANGE POTLUCK AND MEETING, 5:30 p.m., grange hall between Pendleton and Pilot Rock on Highway 395. Public welcome. (Gail Wilson 541-276-3778).

PENDLETON EAGLES STEAK AND LIVE MUSIC, 6-8 p.m. dinner, music 8 p.m. to midnight, Pendleton Eagles Lodge No. 28, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Open to members and guests. (541-278-2828).

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

PENDLETON EAGLES BREAKFAST, 9 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Eagles Lodge #28, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Open to members and guests. (541-278-2828).

MONDAY, JUNE 20

BLUE MOUNTAIN PIECEMAKERS, 12 noon, Thimbles Fabric-N-More, 1849 Westgate Place, Pendleton.

PENDLETON ROTARY, 12 noon, Pendleton Elks Lodge, 14 S.E. Third St.

DIRT DABBLERS GARDEN CLUB, 12:30 p.m., Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. Visitors welcome. (johnsonstub@yahoo.com).

HERMISTON TEEN LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL, 4-5 p.m., downstairs Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

OREGON TRAIL GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Tom Moon 541-278-9702).

BLOOMER GIRLS GARDEN CLUB, 7 p.m., meeting site varies, Hermiston. (Marge Timmons 541-567-4069).

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

PENDLETON TOASTMASTERS No. 154, 6:45 a.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave. (toastmasterdarlenesue@gmail.com).

TOPS CHAPTER OR 1110, 8 a.m. weigh-in, meeting starts at 8:45 a.m., Missionary Baptist Church, 125 E. Beech St., Hermiston. (Margaret Wetterling 541-720-0276).

BIBLE STUDY, 10 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. (Rev. Jim Pierce 541-276-2616).

GREENFIELD GRANGE PINOCHLE, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Greenfield Grange Hall, Boardman. (Jane Dean 541-481-5223).

GREATER HERMISTON AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB, 11:45 a.m., Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. No-host lunch. All women welcome. (541-567-0006).

PENDLETON TOASTMASTERS, 12 noon, Roosters Restaurant, 1515 Southgate. (Jim Marquardt 541-969-4845).