

STATION: PGG building received some traction

Continued from 1A

volume of emergency calls, living space is tight — the department's female paramedic sleeps in a closet.

With a renovation of the current building prohibitively expensive, Ciraulo said the city would need to demolish it and rebuild from the ground up.

Instead, Ciraulo presented six sites he thought would be better locations for a new fire station.

The six proposals — the old St. Anthony site, the old Bi-Mart site, Til Taylor Park, the Pendleton Grain Growers building, the Galloway property at 420 S.E. Ninth St. and the O'Grady property at 210 S.E. Fifth St. — all came with pros and cons.

"There's not an obvious winner in this group," he said.

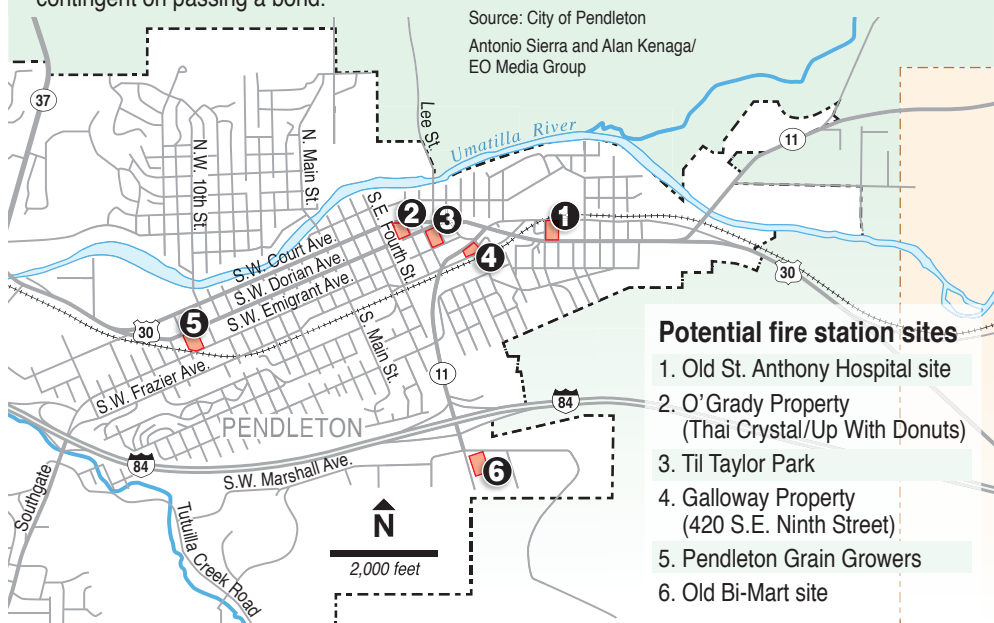
The PGG building got some traction, especially with resident Bob Byer, who said the location would meet the needs of the more highly developed west side of town.

"I don't think you can find a better place," he said.

Ciraulo said the department is mandated by the

Pendleton mulls new fire station location

Over a series of public meetings, the city is soliciting input on sites for a new fire station that is contingent on passing a bond.



Potential fire station sites

1. Old St. Anthony Hospital site
2. O'Grady Property (Thai Crystal/Up With Donuts)
3. Til Taylor Park
4. Galloway Property (420 S.E. Ninth Street)
5. Pendleton Grain Growers
6. Old Bi-Mart site

Federal Emergency Management Agency to build its fire station so that it can withstand earthquakes.

With seismic upgrades costing up to \$2 million, Ciraulo said it might be better to build the fire station in the PGG parking lot, although the co-op has yet to quote a price

or indicate its willingness to subdivide the property.

To save taxpayers money, Pendleton tea party leader Eli Stephens suggested the city build another satellite station rather than replace the existing facility with a new "mega station."

Ciraulo said funding a

new fire station would be at the will of the people, but he just wanted the public to be aware of the consequences of the department continuing to stay in a deteriorating facility.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

INFANT: Dominic was the first baby born this year in the Walla Walla Valley

Continued from 1A

said she only found out about the arraignment after the *East Oregonian* broke the news online.

"The DA, the police, or someone should have told us — he's a minor," she said.

Abby and her family were not there either, but Stapleton said they knew of the hearing and did not go.

She also said she first alerted her younger sister that something was wrong with the baby back on June 8.

A friend with a police scanner called Stapleton after hearing a report of an ambulance going to Abby's apartment on North Elizabeth Street, Milton-Free-water, for a baby that was not breathing. Stapleton said she was on the phone moments later with her sister.

Abby was little more than an hour into her second day at work when she took that call. Abby uttered, "Oh my God," her sister said, and got a ride to the Walla Walla hospital from her supervisor. Stapleton said she showed up 10 minutes later, but Dominic died before either arrived.

Stapleton said her sister was a little wild as a teen, until she became pregnant. Then she embraced the notion of motherhood, and was careful enough to ask her doctor about the safety of taking bronchitis medication while pregnant. Getting the job at McDonald's was another step into her adult life and providing for her baby.

"She rose to the challenge with grace, she loved that baby," Stapleton said. "I honestly believe that baby saved her life."

The *Walla Walla Union Bulletin* reported Dominic arrived Jan. 1 at 12:14 a.m., making him the first baby born this year in the Walla

Walla Valley. Dominic was perfect, his aunt said.

"He was just so easy and so happy. He would smile and snuggle and was happy and content all the time," she said.

"Without a doubt this is a nightmare," Stapleton said. "... this happens on TV cop shows or horror movies, not real life," she said. "Every mother fears losing a child, but having it come to reality? I can't even imagine."

Her heart aches for her sister and nephew, she said, but the family is coping with their anguish. Abby had a counseling appointment Friday, and Stapleton said she has spoken to counselors. She also praised the caring and compassion of Walla Walla fire and police chaplain Cole Massey and his wife Lacey, who have helped the family with its grief and sorrow.

Stapleton, her husband and their two children, a son, 3, and a daughter, 9, live in Dayton, Washington. She said her two sisters, ages 14 and 25, also live there and her mother recently moved in as well. Abby has recently taken sanctuary in their home, too.

Stapleton and her husband are the only breadwinners, she said, and while it is good to be with family at this time, the finances are thin.

"Right now, I can't even make any funeral arrangements for Dominic," she said. "I can't even get him a casket to get that poor baby buried."

Stapleton said she set up a donation account on behalf of Abby and Dominic at Washington Federal and on the fundraising website GoFundMe under the name Rest for Dominic Our Sweetest Angel.

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CITIZEN: 653,416 people became U.S. citizens in 2014

Continued from 1A

story and not speaking for the immigrant community at large.

"For some people, it is not so easy," she said. "Everyone is different."

Gossler's first introduction to the United States was in 1989, when she came from Mexico to Hermiston High School as a foreign exchange student. She returned to Mexico when the year was over, but two years later her employer, Helping Hands, sent her to Minnesota for a language training program.

She said she had every intention of returning to Mexico when she was done, but a visit to her former host family in Hermiston changed everything. She fell in love, and in the end chose marriage over returning to her native country.

"I never, ever thought I would live in the United States," she said.

The marriage allowed her to apply for a change in status from student to permanent resident. The process took three to four years, she said, complicated by the fact that had married a Canadian who wasn't a U.S. citizen himself. The couple felt compelled to hire an immigration lawyer to make sure that no mistakes were made, which would have jeopardized Gossler's status or set the timeline back even further.

In 2006 Gossler divorced and later remarried a U.S. citizen. Recently she decided to join her children and husband in citizenship, and in February went through the interview process. This time, after more experience with the immigration system, she didn't hire a lawyer.

"If you don't have any convictions or trouble with the law it's OK to do it yourself," she said.

She said sometimes nonprofits will offer free or reduced-price help with navigating the immigration system, but she urged caution because there also are people out there who prey on the immigrant community.

To qualify for citizenship, also known as naturalization, a person must be a lawful permanent resident of the United States, be at least 18 years old and have lived in the United States continuously for at least five years.

They must file an N-400 application for naturalization. Once their paperwork is processed and cleared they are interviewed by officers from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. To pass the interview (often referred to the "citizenship test") they must demonstrate good moral character, the ability to speak English and a knowledge of U.S. government and history.

Gossler said the interview was nerve-wracking, but in the end not too difficult.

"It's not hard if you study," she said. "You just have to learn a lot about the United States."

On Thursday Gossler was one of 68 people from 32



Contributed photo by Francisca Gossler
Francisca Gossler poses with the judge who conducted her naturalization ceremony at the Hatfield Courthouse in Portland Thursday.

countries who took the oath of citizenship in a naturalization ceremony at the Hatfield Courthouse in Portland. The courthouse holds the ceremonies once a month for Oregon's newest crop of citizens.

Now that she has officially been sworn in, she said she is looking forward to becoming a registered voter before the November presidential election.

"I want to be able to vote and express myself," she said.

She didn't name a preference for a specific candidate, but she did say she is tired of the stereotypes of Mexican immigrants. She isn't a criminal, she said. She speaks fluent English. She works in an office, she's not on welfare and she volunteers in the community.

"Not every Mexican is a bad person," she said.

Gossler's story fits into a larger picture of legal immigration in the United

States. In 2014 — the most recent data available from the Department of Homeland Security — a total of 1,016,518 people were granted permanent lawful resident status and 653,416 became U.S. citizens.

For those granted a "green card," 47 percent were new arrivals to the country and the rest gained a change of status after previously living here on some type of temporary visa.

Sixty-three percent were sponsored by immediate family members. Another 15 percent were sponsored for employment reasons. The rest were a mixed bag of refugees, those granted asylum and special categories such as children born abroad to permanent residents and members of the diversity program, which allows in people from countries with extremely low immigration numbers.

Mexico was the most

common country of birth, at 13 percent. Forty-two percent came from somewhere in Asia.

As for citizenship, of those who became U.S. citizens in 2014, 14 percent of them were born in Mexico. The other top countries were India, the Philippines, China and Cuba.

Fifty-five percent of people who were naturalized in 2014 were women, and 64 percent were married at the time. The median number of years they were a lawful permanent resident in the United States before becoming a citizen was seven.

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

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