

## CINEMA: The movie theater closed July 2015

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commissioned report, would keep short response times because of its proximity to the intersection of Main Street and Dorion Avenue.

"You couldn't ask for a better site," Ciraulo said.

Saying the Pendleton economy wasn't large enough to support a movie theater, Pendleton Cinema owner Bruce Humphrey closed the theater in July 2015 and sold it to Goodwill, which had prior success in turning the old Hermiston Cinema building into a thrift store and distribution center.

Despite posting signs advertising its impending arrival and a projected opening date in the first

quarter of 2016, a Goodwill store has yet to open.

While Goodwill's course reversal could still have some benefit for Pendleton, Ciraulo said any decisions regarding a new fire station still are in the public's hands when a fire bond is presented to voters on the November ballot.

The fire station will continue to host meetings to discuss the pros and cons of each site and solicit public input.

The remaining meetings will be held on July 1 at 9 a.m. July 6 at 7 p.m. and July 8 at 9 a.m.

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## POLICE: Cannot afford fees to bring in extra law enforcement

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on light duty in six weeks and maybe back to patrol by late October. Roberts said Hubel is a go-getter and even injured is helping with investigations from a desk.

New officers are coming on, Roberts said, but not in time to police events this month. Cass Clark is in field training and could go solo in August. Curtis Hanson starts July 1 and has been through the Oregon Public Safety Academy's police training but also needs to finish field work. And Travis McMasters and Joe Toepfer start July 11 and go to academy until Dec. 9.

Unionized staff of the Pendleton City Police Association made a deal to skip pay raises if the department hired a 24th officer. Roberts said that now will not come to fruition until the spring of 2017.

Even when the department gets back to full staff, Roberts said the push to add destination events to Pendleton is a concern, and the upcoming music fest, a first in Pendleton, presents its own set of challenges.

Festival promoters Doug Corey and Andy McAnally brought on John Trumbo, former Umatilla County sheriff, to oversee security at the event, which takes place at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds and uses the nearby Pendleton Convention Center for camping and parking. Corey said Trumbo is a good fit because he was security director of the Round-Up for years and knows the facility.

Trumbo will have four assistants, Corey said, and Rovers Security, which has worked as Round-Up security for years, will check bags and monitor entrances and exits. The festival also has a contract with the city fire department to provide emergency medical services if that need arises.

"We're taking it very seriously," Corey said, because the idea is to provide a fun but safe event. He did not give ticket sales numbers but estimated there will be 14,000 people in attendance and plenty of seats still available.

Roberts said Pendleton police also will have a presence at the event with two teams in uniforms and a third team in "soft uniforms," typically causal clothes but with a top that displays "police."

Uniformed teams will start at entry points, but the event opens at 4:30 p.m. and goes until 11:30 that night. Once the bulk of people are inside the venue, he said, one team will cover certain areas and will work with medical personnel to make sure they can get to people who need help. The team in the soft uniforms will roam the area to keep an eye out for possible problems and trouble.

Maintaining emergency communications is another concern. Roberts said Pendleton police helped at the Gentleman of the Road music festival last August

**"We're taking it very seriously."**  
— Doug Corey, festival promoter

in Walla Walla. The event used technology to block the transmission of streaming video so people could not broadcast live performances. But Roberts said that dampening tech also interfered with police communications. Roberts said his department is working with the Zac Brown Band security team and will have an officer with that team to ensure communications.

Crowd control after the show at night is the greater safety issue, though, as people are going to spill onto Southwest Court Avenue. Roberts said the Oregon Department of Transportation gave the OK for police to close Court from the west side of the 10th Street intersection to 12th Street just before the end of the show.

"I can't even ascertain how many personnel we'll need to be there to control the flow," he said. "I'm totally uneasy with the darkness aspect ... We're bound to have some close calls."

Roberts also admitted all of this planning and police presence could amount to "overkill," but "this is kind of our first barbecue for this type of event ... and there are a lot of things we can learn from."

Pendleton during Round-Up brings in law enforcement from around the region, but Roberts said that is not happening for the music fest or other events this summer because the city does not have the money. Some cities have event fees to help cover those costs. Roberts said he is not in favor of tacking on fees for police services because it carries negative connotations. At the same time, he said, the department has only so much money in its budget and the events do not pay the police tab.

Cops also could not write more tickets to pad the department's bottom line.

Roy Blaine, the trial court administrator for the local circuit court, said in general the jurisdiction that writes a traffic ticket gets a portion of the fine and the state gets a portion. Pendleton finance director Linda Carter said the city anticipates \$385,000 in revenue from fines and forfeitures for 2016-17, and while that ends up in the general fund, the city uses the stream for the municipal court, not the \$4.34 million police department.

Police departments often work a balancing act between ensuring public safety, avoiding officer burnout, counting pennies, and working within the parameters of labor agreements. For Pendleton police this year, that act is going to be a tough one to balance.

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## WAGE: Starts with 25-cent increase on Friday

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Pendleton Howard Johnson hotel with her husband. Together they employ four people at the motel and one person at Govinda's Garden, an Indian restaurant attached to the building. Many of the workers start at minimum wage with bumps in pay as they gain in experience and cash bonuses for good work.

Das worries that customers would stop staying at their motel if they increased their nightly rates.

Even though the set of minimum wage increases enacted by the legislature March 2 and going into effect Friday was a compromise, meant to ward off campaigns to establish a statewide \$15 per hour minimum wage, the resulting law is still a sore spot for the local business community.

The Oregon Legislature divided the state into three tiers, each one raising the current \$9.25 per hour minimum wage at different rates.

Eastern Oregon falls in the lowest tier, which was specifically created for rural counties.

The wage increase starts innocuously enough — a 25-cent jump starting Friday — but it continues to go up by 50 cents each year through 2022.

From 2023 on, rural Oregon's minimum wage will be \$1 below the state's middle tier, which increases on an as-needed basis based on the consumer price index.

The actual number of employees who benefit from the pay bump is unknown, said Nick Beleiciks, state economist with the Employment Department. Minimum wage workers who receive tips may not on paper appear to be minimum wage workers because of that extra income, Beleiciks said.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Josh Herron of Helix throws a couple of beef patties on a grill while working at Short Stop Mini Mart and Deli on Wednesday in Pendleton.

But those costs still materialize for employers. Tips in Oregon don't count toward the wages owed to an employee, but employees are required to report any money they receive on the job as income for tax purposes.

Business concerns about the new minimum wage rate extends beyond higher priced goods. The additional cost comes at a time when employers also are adjusting to new paid sick leave requirements and facing the potential of a corporate tax increase under Initiative Petition 28, which voters will consider in the November general election.

Junki Yoshida of Portland-based Yoshida Food International said he will cut many temporary positions in his company to offset the cost of the wage increases. He said he also is looking at ways to pare down benefits.

"It is hurting those people," Yoshida said of the people who would lose jobs. In lieu of the temporary workers, he is asking his

better-paid staff to increase production.

Dave's Chevron owner Toni Walters, who also expects to increase her retail items as wages rise, said she pays most of her employees well above minimum wage.

While she may not have to worry about clearing the new wage floor, Walters said her more experienced workers will probably start requesting higher wages to put distance between themselves and the minimum wage.

Das said it's difficult to find good workers willing to clean rooms. As the minimum wage continues to rise over the next few years, she said she'll start looking to states with lower minimum wages to recruit qualified employees worthy of higher pay.

Das understood the need for a fair wage but wondered how the new minimum wage system would incentive hard work or career advancement.

"You just can't pay people more money and expect them to change their mindset," she

said.

The new law has some complications for employers who have itinerant employees working in multiple regions.

Generally, employers have to pay employees the regional rate in which an employee works more than 50 percent of the time, but if an employee works in more than two regions, the employer has to track that employee's time spent in each region and pay different wages according to the amount of time spent in each region.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries has scheduled a series of seminars to help employers comply with the new law.

Enforcement of the law will be mostly complaint based, said Charlie Burr, a spokesman for Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian.

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## ROUND-UP: Arena will also boast a new outdoor bar

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Round-Up Association Board hope to attract foodies with a hunger for a novel experience. Along the way, they hope to transform the guests into rodeo aficionados.

The idea arose months ago as the board considered what to do with a section of deteriorating grandstands. The seating needed renovation, so the board cast about for a creative way to reconfigure.

"It gave us an opportunity to think about reaching out to people who are looking for a high-end experience," Thomas said. "We decided to create a space with tables, tablecloths and wait staff and to invite a celebrity chef from Portland."

They asked Chef Max Germano, of Portland's TeSoAria restaurant.

"The Portland food scene is really huge," Thomas said. "Chef Max Germano is a rising star."

Thomas got a taste of Germano's talent earlier this month, before Portland's Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade. Thomas, Corey Neistadt (publicity director on the Happy Canyon board) and royalty from Round-Up and Happy Canyon courts



Contributed photo

Executive chef Max Germano, of the trendy TeSoAria Winery Tasting Room, will go on a road trip to Pendleton in September for a four-day stint at the Round-Up as celebrity chef in the new 1910 Room.

traveled to TeSoAria and did on-air interviews with KPTV weatherman Andy Carson during the morning television program "Good Morning Oregon."

During five-minute segments each half hour, they chatted about such topics as the new 1910 Room, the rodeo's storied history and the upcoming centennial of the Happy Canyon Night Show. In addition, Germano made some of the dishes he will serve at the Round-Up and paired them with wines.

"Chef Germano prepared several dishes on the air," Thomas said. "He made a Caprese salad to start and then prepared some pork chops. They were out of this world."

Neistadt said he especially drooled over Germano's version of S'mores, which incorporate blue-jean fresh marshmallow, house-made graham cracker and dark chocolate.

"He infused the chocolate with some kind of chili pepper," Neistadt said. "It

had a little kick," Neistadt described Germano, a Boise native, as "a down-to-earth guy."

"He's not the guy in Hell's Kitchen," Neistadt said. "He's going to fit in well in September in Pendleton."

Germano has a special affection for Italian, French, Asian and classic southern American cuisine. The chef left a comfortable job in the financial industry to pursue his culinary career and worked his way up the ladder from prep cook.

In September, he will head to Pendleton for his four-day stint at the 1910 Room. Packages are available for the bar area, dining section and two private suites.

Next door to the 1910 room, regularly ticketed spectators will find a new outdoor bar called the Loading Chute. Thomas said the bar, located under the scoreboard near a chute that is no longer used, offers trackside viewing for spectators wanting to get a good view of barrel racers rounding their third and final barrel.

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## GOODWILL: Deposit likely to increase to 10 cents in future

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with cans and bottles, then drop them off at the center 24 hours a day. Staff will sort the containers for them and add the money to the person's BottleDrop card.

Money on the card can be redeemed for cash or can be used to purchase groceries at participating stores (including Safeway) that will honor the voucher at a 20 percent increase.

Bertges said stores that participate will stop collecting bottles and cans at their own locations and start sending customers to the bottle drop center instead.

"I always encourage people to come give it a try," she said. "Change is always hard, but what we're finding with our other 16 centers is that once people come once, they love it."

People may have an extra incentive to use the center

next year, as refunds are likely to double from a nickel to a dime per container.

Oregon's Bottle Bill, created in 1971, was the first of its kind in the U.S., and required a 5-cent deposit on most plastic and aluminum beverage containers. That deposit is refundable when the container is returned to a retailer.

The 2011 Legislature added the provision that if the statewide return rate is below 80 percent for two consecutive years, the deposit and refund will double to 10 cents per container no sooner than April 1, 2017.

According to the Bend Bulletin, the return rates were around 70 percent in 2012, 2013 and 2014, compared to 90 percent when the legislation was first implemented.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which oversees the program, will meet on July 22 and deter-

mine the 2015 return rate.

"We think the (deposit) increase is likely. We're expecting it to probably go up," Bertges told the Bulletin last week. "And we expect this to increase return rates."

Bertges said the Hermiston center is expected to open on Aug. 26 at 740 West Hermiston Avenue and will hire six to seven employees.

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is a corporation made up of beverage distributors,

and is not funded by any taxpayer money. Containers collected by the cooperative at recycling centers and from grocery stores are all recycled at one of eight centers around Oregon, keeping 138 million pounds of plastic, aluminum and glass out of landfills each year. For more information visit [www.obrc.com](http://www.obrc.com).

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