

MEACHAM

Heritage Days offers outdoor fun

East Oregonian

Food, music, history and fun are planned during this weekend's Heritage Days at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area.

Wood carvers will whittle away, pioneer actors will present a living history display and muzzleloaders will show off their craft during the two-day event, which runs Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge. Emigrant Springs is about 20 miles east of Pendleton off Interstate 84 at Exit 234.

In addition, the Blue Mountain Fiddlers will perform Thursday through Saturday from 6-9 p.m. in the park's community building. The public is invited to enjoy the music and kick up their heels with some dancing.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase Friday and Saturday, courtesy of the Oregon Trail Store & Deli. The Heritage Days event will include a scavenger hunt for kids, a chance to try your hand at gold panning with Buck's Mining and a presentation about the uses of trees and how to make paper by the Women of Timber.

Other sweet activities



Heritage Days features muzzleloaders, woodcarvers, pioneer actors and the Blue Mountain Fiddlers Friday and Saturday at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area.

include a cake walk and a raffle, with a chance to win seats for the Pendleton Round-Up.

People are invited to

come up for the day or check for overnight camping accommodations, which can be reserved at www.oregon-stateparks.org or by calling

800-452-5687.

For more information about Heritage Days, contact 541-983-2277 or tom.v.peterson@oregon.gov.

PENDLETON

District passes on bond after grant bid fails

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

After the Pendleton School District was relegated to a wait list for a \$4 million matching state grant, district officials did not wait to pull the plug on a possible \$4 million bond measure.

Director of Business Services Michelle Jones made the announcement at a school board meeting Monday, explaining that Pendleton had fallen short in its attempt to obtain \$8 million for facility improvements to McKay Creek Elementary School, Sunridge Middle School, Pendleton High School and West Hills Intermediate School, soon to be the Pendleton Tech and Trade Center.

The Legislature established the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program in 2015 to award school district matching grants contingent on passing a bond measure.

The program created two routes a district could take to win a grant.

One method ranked every school district in the state by its student poverty levels and awarded grants to the top applicants. The other is a lottery where the grant winners are selected at random. The first round of grants was successful in convincing local voters to chip in: Districts in Milton-Freewater, Athena-Weston and Echo all received \$4 million grants after passing bonds in May. Statewide, 44 percent

of the districts that were initially selected for a grant under the program passed the corresponding bond. The 56 percent of the grant money set aside to selected districts that did not get a local match was instead directed to wait-listed districts that passed bonds.

Ranked 26th in the state in terms of student poverty, the Umatilla School District was one of six districts selected under that criteria in the second round of grant awards and is now seeking a \$10.25 million levy in November to go along with a \$4 million state grant.

Pendleton wasn't as successful.

Ranked a middling 91st in poverty, Pendleton was fifth on the waiting list for a grant. The district had worse luck in the lottery, coming in at eight on the waiting list while only five school districts made the cut.

If Pendleton obtained the grant and passed a bond, district officials said they would have used the money to pay for facility improvements that the \$55 million bond passed in 2013 couldn't cover. Although applying for the grant won unanimous support from the school board in June, some members were concerned that another bond campaign so close to the previous one would be too much too soon.

Unless the Legislature extends the program beyond the May 2017 election, Pendleton's last chance at a matching grant will come next year.

BRIEFLY

At-large council seats up for grabs

HERMISTON — Hermiston residents interested in running for city council have until Aug. 30 to file for election.

Hermiston's four at-large council seats are up for election in November. They are currently held by Manuel Gutierrez, Doug Primmer, Rod Hardin and John Kirwan.

Terms are four years. Instead of running for individual seats, all at-large candidates run against each other and the four candidates who receive the highest number of votes will take the four open seats.

Filing forms and manuals are available at city hall, 180 N.E. Second St., and on the Oregon Secretary of State's website. Forms must be filed with the city recorder at city hall.

Candidates must be eligible Oregon voters who have lived in the city for at least one year immediately prior to running for election. They cannot be employed by the city or a candidate for another city office in the same election.

M-F bus rides to become free

MILTON-FREEWATER — Starting July 15, everyone will be able to use the city of Milton-Freewater's fixed-route public transportation system for free.

According to a press release, the Milton-Freewater City Council unanimously agreed Monday to permanently eliminate fares.

The bus route takes riders from Milton-Freewater to College Place and Walla Walla, serving each stop three times a day.

In a statement, Public Transportation Coordinator

Theresa Dutcher said the free fare would ease the burden for the system's senior and disabled riders. Increased ridership could also mean more federal funding for the program through the Small Transit Intensive City program.

The city has seen a jump in ridership when instituting fare-free periods.

Kayak Transit offers free service through its Walla Walla Whistler route, which runs on a fixed route from Pendleton to Walla Walla with stops in Milton-Freewater and College Place.

USFS to hold conference call on Forest Plan Revision

PENDLETON — Forest Service staff will hold a public conference call Wednesday evening to discuss their latest findings into the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision, including recommended wilderness, backcountry areas, wildlife corridors and designated routes.

The call will run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in listening can call 1-888-844-9904 and enter access code 2651088.

For those who cannot listen to the live broadcast, the call will be recorded and a link to the recording will be posted online in the near future. The website is www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision.

Ione School Board looks to fill vacancy

IONE — The Ione School District Board of Directors is looking to fill a vacancy after former member Anne Morter resigned at the end of June.

Morter, who also works at Blue Mountain

Community College in Boardman, had served in Position 4 on the board for 13 years. She was last elected in May 2013.

The district will appoint someone to finish Morter's term, which runs through June 30, 2017. An election for the next four-year term will take place in May 2017. Anyone interested in filling the position must submit a letter of interest by July 22 to Ione School, 445 Spring St.

Applicants must also be registered voters and residents of the district for at least one year prior to appointment.

Children's clothing swap this weekend

PENDLETON — Parents can get clothes for their children this weekend as part of Pay It Forward Exchange at Bethel Assembly of God Church.

People are invited to bring gently used children's clothes that do not fit their children and trade for clothes that do. The Children's Clothing Swap is Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church, 1109 Airport Road, Pendleton.

In addition, people can join a Facebook group that includes online clothing swaps at www.facebook.com/groups/344786488922498.

Echo announces Open Air Market

ECHO — An open air market is planned this weekend in Echo.

Held the third Saturday of each month, this weekend's event is from 4-7 p.m. on the corner of Main and Dupont streets in Echo. Ashley Harwood, market manager, said they are searching for growers and

producers of produce, herbs, eggs, flowers, fruits, trees, honey and craft vendors. Space is \$12 per market.

For more information or an application, contact echoopenairmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/echoopenairmarket.

Library display features Hart's photographs

HERMISTON — Former Hermiston Fire Chief Pat Hart has several of his photographs on display at the Hermiston Public Library.

Specializing in landscape photography, Hart considers himself a semi-professional photographer. He has been hired by local businesses, such as Banner Bank, to provide images to use as decoration.

The public is invited to a reception Thursday, July 21 from 4-6 p.m. at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

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

HERMISTON

School board member resigns, leaves vacancy

East Oregonian

The Hermiston School Board met Monday evening and discussed the resignation of Maria Duron from the board.


Duron accepted a paid position as a communications officer with the Hermiston School District and as a result chose to resign from the board. Her resignation leaves seat five on the school board open.

The school district will post the vacancy on its website with instructions for interested parties on how to apply to fill the vacancy. At the next regular board meeting on August 8,

board members will review applications and have the opportunity to interview candidates before appointing a replacement that evening.

The appointee will serve on the school board through June 30, 2017, but will face an election in May to fulfill the remaining two years.

The board also accepted the resignations of three Hermiston High School teachers: careers teacher Chris Demianew, woods teacher Robert Greybeck and choir teacher Joshua Rist. The board approved the hiring of five teachers, including a new high school choir teacher, Jordan Bemrose-Rust.



Pepsi Primetime Lunch Break!

"The Map Is Not The Territory" Short Films

Pushing borders: Skateboarding in Palestine

Kickflips Over Occupation

Friday, July 15
Noon-1pm FREE


Bring a sack lunch!
Free Pepsi beverages!

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