

POOL: Cost \$85,000 to operate last year

Continued from 1A

will provide answers about air quality in BMCC's pool.

Anderson Poolworks, of Wilsonville, inspected the 25-meter-long pool in February. According to the inspector's recommendations, "the BMCC pool is in desperate need of a renovation," Parker said.

The cost of repairing the pool is only part of the problem.

"Once the pool is repaired, we don't have money for ongoing maintenance," said Casey White-Zollman, BMCC vice-president of public relations. "The revenue and expenses don't line up."

The group retired to the bleachers in the gymnasium and listened as BMCC Camille Preus gave usage, revenue and expense numbers.

Pendleton and Hermiston Swim Teams paid nothing for a combined 488 hours of pool use in the last year. The swim association paid \$1,125 for 360 hours of usage. Other community groups contributed \$500. Tuition and fees brought in another \$1,245. In all, the pool generated \$2,960 in direct income last year plus a fluctuating amount of state money given for each full-time equivalent student who took pool-related curriculum, estimated in the neighborhood of \$74,000. The pool cost \$85,000 to operate last year.

"It's been a pretty good deal for the community," Preus said. "We have charged nothing or a very nominal amount."

She threw open the floor for brainstorming, any and all possible solutions were welcome. Some suggested partnerships with organizations such as Pendleton Parks & Recreation or St. Anthony Hospital. Others talked about building a pool away from the campus, with BMCC



A section of the pool's water filtration system at BMCC in Pendleton.

remaining a partner.

Many in the crowd worried about the upcoming swim season and the lack of time to nail down a long-term solution. Money to operate the pool is available for the coming school year, but the air quality is still a question mark. Some worried that BMCC might want to get rid of this ongoing headache.

PHS Athletic Director Troy Jerome decided to acknowledge the elephant in the room.

"What benefit does BMCC see in partnering with the group that is sitting in front of you?" Jerome asked. "Why raise \$2.3 million when you can make the tough decision tomorrow and say the pool is closed?"

Preus answered quickly. "Community is part of our name," she told Jerome. "We feel a sense of responsibility to do what we can do to keep the pool. We need your support to make it a reality."

Allen Madril, a parent, voiced worry about the approaching swim season.

"What's really holding our feet to the fire is the short time frame," he said. "We need time to give the community a chance to mobilize."

Fred Robinson, of the Pendleton Swim Association, asked the question everyone wanted answered. Would

passion for the pool is undeniable.

"We know the pool is important to the community. It means a lot to the college, too. It's been here since 1974," she said. "But these are taxpayer dollars and we have to be fiscally responsible."

As the two-hour meeting wound to a close, former PSA coach and swimmer Darcey Ridgway offered a tongue-in-cheek solution.

"My only suggestion is that we each go out and buy a lottery ticket," Ridgway said.

A fund been started to collect donations for pool repairs now has a balance of \$1,575. To donate, make a check to the BMCC Foundation with pool repairs on the memo line. Another tour will take place 5:30 p.m., August 3.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

Elephant sedative emerges as threat in overdose battle

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A drug used to sedate elephants and other large animals, 100 times as potent as the fentanyl already escalating the country's heroin troubles, is suspected in spates of overdoses in several states, where authorities say they've found it mixed with or passed off as heroin.

The appearance of carfentanyl, one of the most potent opioids known to investigators, adds another twist to the fight against painkillers in a country already awash in heroin and fentanyl cases.

Each time authorities start to get a handle on one type of drug, another seems to pop up, said Joseph Pinjuh, chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and narcotics unit for the U.S. attorney in Cleveland.

"You feel like a kid with his finger in the dike, you know?" he said. "We're running out of fingers."

A man suspected of selling carfentanyl as heroin was indicted this week in central Ohio on 20 counts, including murder, in connection with a July 10 death and nine other overdoses that happened within hours of one another.

Some of the surviving users told investigators they thought they were buying heroin, but testing found none, Franklin County prosecutor Ron O'Brien said. The suspect, Rayshon Alexander, pleaded not guilty.

Investigators are trying to track down the source of the carfentanyl. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said he was unaware of any thefts of the drug, which, he noted, could be shipped from abroad or produced here.

STOLTZ: Was one of 650 foreign students to come to U.S. in 1955

Continued from 1A

Dean look. He thought I'd fit in better with a crew cut. I didn't mind."

Stoltz noticed other cultural differences, too, and made adjustments. In Sweden, people eat with knife in the right hand and fork in the left, for example, while Americans do the opposite. Stoltz switched over.

"I was keen about adapting to the circumstances where I was," he said.

His classmates welcomed Stoltz warmly and proceeded to get to know the personable Swede. Bob Temple said their foreign classmate spoke impeccable English.

"He fit right in," Temple said. "You wouldn't even know he was Swedish because he was so fluent."

Temple had just given Stoltz a bear hug in the Wildhorse Resort & Casino's Cayuse Room. About 45 of the original 130 classmates had gathered. Their number has diminished over time — a poster near the door displayed photos of the 53 classmates who have passed away.

Stories flowed as they sipped drinks, though some of the details depended on who did the telling. Both Stoltz and classmate Jim Thorne recalled one afternoon when some members of the track team left practice at Washington Elementary School and headed to the Umatilla River to cool off. The water was extremely high and the current looked strong. They dared each other to swim across and back. The story diverged from there.

"I was the first one across," said Thorne. "Jan was struggling. I pulled him out."

Stoltz, who remembers it differently, said he rescued Thorne.

"I was quite a good swimmer and Jim was not," Stoltz said, laughing.

Stoltz was one of 650 foreign students who came to the U.S. that year through the American Field Service. The Pendleton Rotary Club

covered transportation and arranged housing for the teen. Stoltz spoke to the club, sharing his impressions of life as an exchange student in America. That led to a string of speaking engagements — about one every week — to different civic organizations in the area.

Stoltz said he felt sad about departing as the year drew to a close and was reluctant to leave an all-night party and dance on the last day of school.

"I wanted to stay as long as possible," he said. "It was my last chance to be with friends. By the time I left, the sun had risen."

Stoltz brought his wife, Magdalena, to the class's 25th and 50th reunion, but she stayed behind this time for health reasons. They celebrated their 45th anniversary on Tuesday on different continents.

"I arranged to send roses — the reddest I could find," Stoltz said.

The two met in 1968 during Stoltz's social worker years. Magdalena, a Jew, fled Poland during an anti-Semitic campaign. Stoltz had learned Polish from another exchange experience in that country during his university years and served as a translator at a refugee camp where Magdalena ended up. They married. Magdalena became a physician and Jan eventually traded his social worker career for one as a high school teacher.

Though decades have passed since his time at PHS, Stoltz still remembers writing a love letter to Pendleton that ended up in the school newspaper in 1955. The article started, "Pendleton, oh, Pendleton, you wonderful town. Just a year ago, you were nothing to me, half a year later, a point on the map, now you are the center of my world."

Stoltz said he hopes to return for future reunions.

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