

PENDLETON



As RARE assistant Molly Turner hangs a picture on the wall of the new Pendleton Downtown Association office, PDA President Fred Bradbury and board member Jill Thorne help her with straightening.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Downtown Association gets a home

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Downtown Association now has downtown home.

A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping businesses in Pendleton's downtown area, the association now has a physical presence on the corner of Main Street and Emigrant Avenue, where Sister's Cafe used to be located.

The association also has person to staff the office and hold regular hours, a new development for an organization that had previously been all-volunteer.

The association's attempt at prominence is being led by Fred Bradbury, the owner of Elite Guns & Bows and the association's president,

who raised \$100,000 in grants to rent an office and hire a staff member.

Helping move furniture and hang up pictures Wednesday afternoon, Bradbury said establishing a downtown office gave the association a way to better serve its 57 members.

"I don't want to work out of a basement," he joked.

Jill Thorne, a downtown building owner and a member of the association, said it was symbolic that the association's office is now featured on the ground floor of the St. George Plaza, a building that was formerly the ramshackle Temple Hotel before developer Al Plute restored it.

Thorne said the community has rallied around the downtown as a whole in a

similar way, with the area now boasting an occupancy rate better than 90 percent.

"We're just trying to take the next step forward to get the economy going," she said.

The person tasked with helping the downtown association take the next step forward is also one of the newest people to town.

The association hired Molly Turner to act as the association's program manager through the Resource Assistance and Rural Environments program, an AmeriCorps program administered through the University of Oregon that places interns in community development roles across the state.

Turner will spend the next 11 months figuring out

ways to promote organized events around the downtown area.

A native of Corvallis, Turner recently graduated from the University of Oregon with a double major in biological anthropology and Spanish with a minor in planning, public policy and management.

Turner said she'd never been to Pendleton before applying for the placement, but she was attracted to the region's outdoor opportunities and the city's reputation for friendliness, which the town has lived up to so far.

The association's office is open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

Car crash puts M-F woman in critical condition

East Oregonian

A three-car crash in Walla Walla County Wednesday afternoon injured several people, including a 74-year-old woman from Milton-Freewater.

According to Washington State Patrol, a semitrailer traveling eastbound on Washington State Road 12 collided with a westbound SUV as the semitrailer was trying to turn into the Boise-Cascade paper mill eight miles east of Burbank, Washington. After colliding with the SUV, the semitrailer crashed into a second car in the intersection.

The driver of the SUV, Carol A. Justus, 74, of Milton-Freewater, was injured in the collision and transported to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland.

There were three other

passengers in the SUV. Iona McCauley, 35, of Portland and Crystal McCauley, 18, of Portland, were also injured and transported to Kadlec while a third passenger, Alejandro Torres, 17, of Everett, Washington, was taken Lourdes Medical Center in Pasco.

Justus and Crystal McCauley are in critical condition while Iona McCauley is in satisfactory condition and Torres is in stable condition.

The press memo states that the driver of the third car, Megan Goenen, 22, of Pasco was also injured and transported to Lourdes, but Lourdes has no record of receiving her.

The semitrailer driver, Jeffery T. Rowett, 38, of Rancho Cordova, California, wasn't injured and was charged with reckless driving.

BRIEFLY

Cleaner Air Oregon forum comes to Pendleton

PENDLETON — Cleaner Air Oregon, a program created by Gov. Kate Brown and jointly led by the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality, will hold its third regional forum Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Residents are invited to provide input on the initiative, which aims to reform industrial air toxics regulations and align them with public health. Public comments will be shared with the Cleaner Air Oregon Regulatory Advisory Committee, which will meet from October through April 2017.

The forum will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and include presentations by DEQ and OHA staff. To RSVP, visit www.cleanerair.org.gov/forum-rsvp. An online version of the presentation will also be available through the Cleaner Air Oregon website through Oct. 5.

Umatilla County ends burn ban

PENDLETON — Burning is OK again in Umatilla County. The county board of commissioners during its meeting Wednesday lifted the ban.

The change to cooler, wetter weather prompted the board to allow non-agricultural burning to resume. The change went into effect Thursday and excludes any land under the jurisdiction of the state of Oregon, the United States government, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation or a fire district.

The county's burn day protocol remains in effect. Farmers and other residents who wish to burn need to check the Umatilla County website at www.co.umatilla.or.us and click the link for "Burn Information," or call the county burn line at 800-305-2876 or 541-278-6397.

Open burning in the unincorporated areas and outside fire districts requires a permit. Contact the

county planning department at 541-278-6252 or the county website for a permit applications. You also can find daily burn day information on Facebook at Umatilla County Smoke Management.

For more information about the county's smoke management ordinance or to request a permit application, call the planning department.

Closures lifted on private forests

PENDLETON — The Oregon Department of Forestry will lift regulated use closures Friday on private forests within the agency's Northeast Oregon District. However, fire season remains in effect for private, state, county, municipal and tribal lands protected by ODF.

"While we are trending toward cooler fall weather, the conditions can change rapidly," said Joseph Goebel, Wallowa wildland fire supervisor. "Parts of the region have gotten some moisture, and while that has helped, there is still a danger of fire spreading."

ODF will still need to issue burn permits for any open burns until fire season comes to an end. Fire season is usually lifted sometime in October, depending on conditions.

Campfires are once again allowed, with landowner permission. The Northeast Oregon District covers approximately 2 million acres across Umatilla, Union, Baker and Wallowa counties, as well as small portions of Morrow, Grant and Malheur counties.

Public use restrictions were also lifted Wednesday on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Truck rolls on Cabbage Hill

A semi-truck lays on its side Thursday about seven miles east of Pendleton on eastbound Interstate 84, blocking two lanes of traffic.

Lamb Weston to split from ConAgra Foods

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Lamb Weston, the frozen potato titan with french fry factories in Hermiston and Boardman, is on track to spin off from ConAgra Foods later this fall to become its own independent and publicly traded company.

The move was originally announced by ConAgra officials in November 2015, and a registration statement for Lamb Weston Holdings was filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in July.

A spokeswoman said the separation will not affect any of the local manufacturing facilities. Lamb Weston

employs more than 1,500 people in Oregon.

In 2014, Lamb Weston expanded its operations at the Port of Morrow by opening a new 192,000-square-foot plant with the capacity to make 1 million pounds of fries every day. Corporate offices are located in nearby Kennewick, Washington, and Boise.

ConAgra Foods, based in Chicago, is the largest packaged food company in North America. It purchased Lamb Weston in 1988, but decided they could benefit more as two stand-alone companies.

"We are confident that this separation will best position each company to

compete and win while creating compelling long-term value for shareholders and delivering benefits to employees, customers and other key stakeholders," said ConAgra President and CEO Sean Connolly last year.

After the split, ConAgra will maintain most of their popular consumer brands, which include Marie Callender's, Hunt's, Slim Jim, P.F. Chang's, Chef Boyardee and Orville Redenbacher's. Lamb Weston's portfolio will focus on frozen potato, sweet potato, appetizer and other vegetable products. Stockholders will own shares of both independent companies.

"We carefully consid-

ered a variety of strategic alternatives, and believe that the separation of our Lamb Weston specialty potato business from our consumer brands business is the best way to drive shareholder value," Connolly said.

The *Tri-City Herald* reports Lamb Weston will make its first appearance as an independent company at an investor briefing in New York City in October. Lamb Weston generated \$2.9 billion in sales in 2015.

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