

PENDLETON

# One-time bundle grant could replace closed playgrounds

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Parks and Recreation Department is preparing a full-court press to obtain funding to replace playgrounds at several city parks.

Parks and Recreation Director Donnie Cook said a steering committee directed the department to begin applying for private grants with the intention of using those as leverage for a large state grant the city will apply for over the spring.

Cook said securing support from smaller private charities like the Pendleton Foundation Trust and the Northwest Credit Union Foundation could improve Pendleton's case to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

"When we have support from them, it looks better to the state," he said.

A large grant is needed if the city is going to try to replace at least some of the playgrounds at Kiwanis, May, Aldrich and Vincent parks, which have been closed or removed to prevent kids from playing on the old equipment.

Cook has said the playground at Sherwood Park also needs to be replaced, although it hasn't been closed yet.



In this June 6 file photo, an orange construction barrier surrounds the play structure at Vincent Park in Pendleton.

Replacing all that equipment would cost an estimated \$182,099, a bill that is prompting the department to attempt a process that's only been successful once before with a parks program.

Pendleton is going to "bundle" all of the playground projects under one grant application, a process usually reserved for other capital projects like street paving.

In order to successfully do that, Pendleton will have to propose installing similar playground equipment at every site, which would drive down the cost of doing all the projects at once. Even if the city lands the large grant from the state, children who patronize the affected parks shouldn't expect to see their playgrounds return in time for next summer.

The grant application is

due April 1 and the city won't know if they've gotten it until next September.

Because the parks department doesn't have enough money in its annual budget, the city would have to apply for smaller grants to replace the playgrounds one at a time if the state rejects its proposal.

Contact Antonio Sierra at [asierra@eastoregonian.com](mailto:asierra@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0836.

PENDLETON

# Intoxicated driver nearly crashes into cop

East Oregonian

An 85-year-old man ended up in jail after nearly crashing into an Oregon State Police trooper while he helped stranded motorists near Pendleton.

Trooper Darin Wong around 7:30 p.m. stopped on the right shoulder of westbound Interstate 84 near milepost 202, about five miles west of Pendleton, to help a motorist with three children put gas in her vehicle.

"While I was in the process of doing this," according to the report from state police, "I heard a loud crash and screeching of tires and saw a vehicle pitch sideways to avoid hitting my patrol car."

The vehicle got back onto the interstate and continued. Wong told the motorist and her children to stay put, got into his

police car and hit the siren and overhead lights.

He followed the vehicle, which sped up to 101 mph. The fleeing driver, according to the report, stayed over the center line and turned the blinkers on and off at random. The driver gave it up after about three miles. "Upon contact," state police reported, "the driver had an odor of alcohol and multiple open containers inside the vehicle."

The trooper arrested Homer Stewart of St. Helens for driving under the influence of intoxicants (alcohol) and reckless endangering. Once at the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, Stewart consented to an intoxication breath test that revealed his blood-alcohol level was .11 percent, above the .08 percent legal limit.

BRIEFLY

## Crash last week near Umatilla killed one

UMATILLA — A young woman from Tacoma, Washington, died Friday, Sept. 23, in a crash near Umatilla. Oregon State Police Sgt. Seth Cooney said alcohol was a factor.

Tamaira Griffin, 20, was driving a 2004 Chevrolet Malibu east on Interstate 82 when the car left the road near milepost 3 and rolled.

"She was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected," Cooney said. "And the vehicle rolled on her."

Umatilla County Fire District 1 sent an ambulance, which took Griffin to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston. Cooney said she died at the hospital, which notified her relatives.

The passenger, Tiffany Darenbourg, 27, of Renton, Washington, received medical treatment at the hospital, Cooney said, and was out the next day.

He also said state police have not determined what caused the crash but "alcohol was considered to be a related factor."

## Athena boy recovering from second surgery

ATHENA — Payton Throne, the 7-year-old boy run over by a car on his way to Athena Elementary School on Monday, is recovering from his second surgery since the accident.

Surgeons implanted a stent in the second-grader's brain Monday after his skull was fractured in the collision, and he underwent pelvic surgery Thursday afternoon.

His mother, Jessica Stiffler-Throne, said Thursday afternoon

Payton has been sedated most of the week and hasn't been able to speak much. She also said his injuries included fractured ribs and collarbone, bruised lungs and a large gash on his face.

There is an account set up to help cover the family's medical costs at HAPO Credit Union in Weston and a GoFundMe page managed by Doug and Amanda Murphy from Christ the King Church in Milton-Freewater. On Thursday it has raised more than \$3,800 of its goal of \$5,000.

## AAUW meeting highlights upcoming election

PENDLETON — Election issues are the topic during an upcoming general meeting of the AAUW.

Chuck Wood of the Pendleton City Council and Nancy Kerns, attorney for the city, will present information about marijuana measures. In addition, AAUW member Elizabeth Scheeler will discuss Ballot Measure 97.

Everyone is invited to the meeting, which is Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton.

AAUW's mission is to assist in bettering the lives of women and girls. For more information, contact [karenallen1965@gmail.com](mailto:karenallen1965@gmail.com) or visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

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PENDLETON

# Arts center exhibit showcases Hermiston artist

Portland2016 Biennial included Arlen Clark's work

East Oregonian

Hermiston artist Arlen Clark was surprised last year when he received a call from Michelle Grabner, asking if she could come by and see his work.

A nationally known artist, Grabner was co-curator for the Whitney Biennial in 2014, one of the most prestigious exhibits in the United States. She was traveling the state trying to identify the most interesting artists in Oregon for the Portland2016 Biennial, and Clark's work was on her radar. After a 1,800-mile trek to visit 400 artists, Grabner invited Clark to be one of 105 artists featured in Salon: Portland2016, The Studio Visits, which was featured at Disjecta Contemporary Art Center.

Following that success, Clark created a new body of work which will be on exhibit in the East Oregonian Gallery at Pendleton Center for the Arts. The public is invited to an artist's reception Thursday, Oct. 6 from 5:30-7 p.m. at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton.

Painting for the past 35 years, when Clark first became interested, he took an art class with northwest painter Sandra Campbell.

"She didn't teach us how to paint, she just told us we could paint anything we wanted, any way we wanted," Clark said. "I spent the next several years trying to figure out what I did want to paint, and how I wanted to paint it."

Like many successful artists, Clark's exploration began by making copies of paintings by the old masters. He created several paintings after Johannes Vermeer's iconic works,



An exhibit by Arlen Clark of Hermiston opens with a reception Thursday, Oct. 6 at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

"One of the things I love about Arlen's work is that while he's depicting people and places that are very personal to him, the paintings provide a dynamic backdrop that sparks the observer's imagination."

— Roberta Lavadour, executive director for Pendleton Center for the Arts

but didn't connect with the style. Shortly after, he was in Hawaii and was struck by the vibrant colors and lush foliage. He also was interested in painting portraits of his wife, Linda, from old photographs.

A deep exploration of art history and the works of the icons of modern art has given Clark's work a rich collection of associations. Viewers might recognize references to everything from Picasso and Gauguin to Australian aboriginal work.

"One of the things I love about Arlen's work is that while he's depicting people and places that are very personal to him, the paintings provide a dynamic backdrop that sparks the observer's


imagination," said Roberta Lavadour, executive director at the arts center.

The viewer's mind, Lavadour said, immediately begins to spin new stories. The people, animals and objects take on a different narrative for each person looking at Clark's work.

The exhibit runs through Saturday, Oct. 29. The arts center is open Tuesday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

For more information, call 541-278-9201 or visit [www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org).

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