

EAST OREGONIAN

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A life of suffrage

Pendleton woman made sure to cast final ballot before death at age 102

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Alice Fossatti died Sunday at age 102, but not before casting an absentee ballot from her hospital bed. Born before women had the right to vote, the artist

and retired teacher voted in every election since coming of age. In 2013, she attached a campaign sign to her walker and lobbied her fellow residents at the Juniper House to support the Pendleton School District bond measure. Recently,

when anyone came bedside at St. Anthony Hospital, she reminded them to vote. She wore a "Hillary" button on her hospital gown. "She wasn't a fond supporter of the Donald," said Fossatti's daughter, Donna Collins, with a smile.

Party affiliation, though, wasn't as important as simply exercising the hard-won right to vote. "She believed everyone has to vote — it's their responsibility," Collins

See FOSSATTI/10A



Contributed photo



EO file photo

LEFT: Alice Fossatti, at age 20, attended Pacific University. **RIGHT:** Fossatti hugs one of her signature ceramic angels two years ago on her 100th birthday. The retired teacher enjoyed creating art until she died on Sunday.

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston City Councilor Doug Primmer, center, points to conceptual map of festival street during a rollout party Monday in Hermiston. Primmer was discussing options for a bus stop near city hall.

Festival by design

City reveals plans, options for downtown festival street

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Design work is now underway for a project that will transform a section of downtown Hermiston.

The city revealed its \$1.25 million festival street project on Monday with a public open house.

"We're really excited to see what this is going to do for downtown," City Manager

Byron Smith said.

The project's first phase will cover NE Second Street between Gladys Avenue and Main Street, creating a pedestrian-friendly, curbside street in front of city hall that can be blocked off during events such as an art show or beer festival. Possible design elements include trees, fountains, hanging flower baskets, brick work, ornamental lamp posts, decorative benches and other functional art.

The second phase will extend that project north to the planned senior center on Ridgeway Avenue, and the third phase would center around an arch on Second Street in front of the Hermiston Conference Center welcoming traffic into downtown.

City planner Clint Spencer said construction on the first phase will start sometime during the summer of 2017, and if all goes well with funding

and design the other two phases could also be built next year. Funding for the project comes from property tax revenue gathered by the Hermiston Urban Renewal Area.

During Monday's open house, visitors were asked to study a series of photos depicting festival streets in other cities and place a sticker on elements they particularly liked.

See FESTIVAL/8A

PENDLETON

Boutique clear for takeoff

DOT awards airline with \$2.2 million EAS subsidy

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

When commercial air service will restart in Pendleton remains unknown. But when it does, Boutique Air has exclusive rights.

The U.S. Department of Transportation issued an order Sept. 27 awarding Boutique a \$2,273,823 Essential Air Service subsidy from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2018, pending Pendleton's waiver petition.

Although Boutique had the green light to begin operation more than a week ago, a Boutique employee who declined to give her name said the airline hasn't determined when it will start flying into Pendleton's Eastern Oregon Regional Airport.

Pendleton Airport Manager Steve Chrisman said the goal is to have Boutique start service somewhere between Nov. 1 and Dec. 1.

For its part, the DOT isn't putting an imperative on Boutique to start immediately.

"The Department recognizes that it is highly unlikely that Boutique will begin service as soon as October 1, however, this will provide Boutique with the ability to begin replacement service as soon as possible, before December 31, 2016," the order states.

Boutique's early entry into Pendleton was made possible by the demise of previous EAS provider SeaPort Airlines, which abruptly ceased operation Sept. 21.

By that time, the city had already recommended Boutique to take over as a provider,

See AIRLINE/8A

"This will provide Boutique with the ability to begin replacement service as soon as possible."

— U.S. Department of Transportation, in an order issued Sept. 27

Prisons cast wide net to fill growing staff needs

Hundreds attend job fair at BMCC

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

The Oregon Department of Corrections has a workforce problem, and Saturday in Pendleton was an effort to address that.

Hundreds of people attended a corrections job fair at Blue Mountain

Community College. They are looking for work at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, and Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla. The first group of 35 applicants went through the doors at 7:30 a.m. The event ended at 9 p.m. The stream of would-be corrections

employees remained a constant.

Steve Cox is the workforce planning manager for state corrections. He said public safety nationwide has a critical need for new blood.

"Just in the state of Oregon, we have a need of over 500 police officers," he said.

And the DOC is in that same boat. Half of the department's employees can

retire in the next five years, he said, and 32 percent can retire right now. Corrections officers in Oregon, like police officers and firefighters, can retire at age 50 with full benefits.

Replacing those retirees is a challenge, Cox said. Oregon's unemployment rate is hovering around 5 percent, and applicants can shop around for the public safety job they want. Some

agencies, including the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, offer hiring bonuses of several thousand dollars, Cox said, while others are willing to start new employees at the third or fourth step on the pay scale.

The corrections department doesn't have those options, he said, so the job fairs are a way to compete.

See CORRECTION/10A

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