

One week left to register to vote

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Oregonians have one week left to make sure they have a voice in the November election.

The deadline to register to vote or change your address with the state is Oct. 18. The state will begin mailing out ballots the next day.

Citizens can check to see if they are already registered to vote, make changes to their registration or register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.gov. They can also fill out a paper form at libraries, post offices and county elections offices.

More than 230,000 Oregonians who have never filled out a registration form are still registered to vote under Oregon's new Motor Voter law, which automatically registers eligible

citizens to vote when they receive a driver's license or other form of identification from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Secretary of State has also registered voters who visited the DMV in 2015 and 2014. As of Sept. 13, the state announced 232,181 new voters had been added to the rolls through the program, with a goal of 250,000 by Election Day.

Voters automatically signed up through the DMV are mailed a card notifying them of their registration as a nonaffiliated voter and giving them the opportunity to choose a political party or opt out of the program.

Once ballots are mailed out between Oct. 19-25, voters have until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8 to return their ballots. Ballots that

are placed in the mail must be received — not just postmarked — by Nov. 8 and must have proper postage.

For Umatilla County residents who wish to drop off their ballots in person, this year's election will be easier than ever with the addition of five new drop sites: Umatilla City Hall, Stanfield City Hall, Pilot Rock City Hall, Athena City Hall and Echo City Hall.

They join the drop-boxes at the rear parking lot of the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton, Hermiston City Hall, Milton-Freewater City Hall and Nixyaawii Governance Center. The outdoor boxes are available 24 hours a day until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

PENDLETON

School board approves agreement on BMCC pool

District will pay \$1,827 to use facilities, no more than \$6,660 for necessary repairs

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton School Board approved an agreement so high school swimmers could dive into action at the Blue Mountain Community College pool. But the swim team has to wait until Nov. 1, when the memorandum of understanding with the college takes effect and repairs to the pool are complete.

Under the terms, the district agrees to pay \$1,827 for the swim team to use the college pool and facilities November through February and "agrees to contribute no more than \$6,660 for

necessary repairs to the pool for the health and safety of swim team members."

The pool needs \$50,000 in repairs to its air circulation system to keep operating for two years, according to the report BMCC President Cam Preus delivered Oct. 4 to the college board. BMCC paid half of that, and the Pendleton Swim Association, and Pendleton and Hermiston school districts agreed to cover the other half.

Superintendent Andy Kovach told the board Monday night the college presented the deal to the district and he did not know where the \$6,660 figure came from. Business

manager Michelle Jones said she could find out more about that if the board wanted to hold off on a vote. Board member Dave Krumbain said the team usually needs that pool by Oct. 1.

Board member Steve Umbarger moved to approve the agreement with the caveat that Kovach and Jones could lower the \$6,660 figure if they saw fit. Krumbain seconded, and the memorandum passed.

The college board of education also will have to agree. And the Pendleton Swim Association and BMCC have a separate memorandum of understanding in which the swim association would pay \$4,200 for use of the pool and no more than \$6,660 for repairs.

FESTIVAL: Design elements will likely be used to tie in other areas of downtown

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Some of the most popular elements were an interactive fountain with jets of water shooting up from the ground, a wrought-iron arch over the road, decorative lamp posts and trees.

Spencer said design elements chosen by the public will likely be used to tie other areas of downtown into the festival area over time.

"Lighting, benches, trash cans, things like that will absolutely carry on to other locations in the city," he said.

Residents at the open house were also asked to rate nine potential uses for the street. In the past the road has been blocked off for large events such as the Cinco de Mayo celebration, but Spencer said once the more attractive and pedestrian-friendly festival street was built the city would also be open to closing the gate for smaller gatherings too.

"The more small events we have, they have less impact on the businesses, but we also draw more foot traffic downtown," he said.

Judy Gormley, who owns Neighborhood Books & Gifts on Main Street with her husband, said that she likes the idea of a festival street, but wishes it was going to be on Main Street instead of in front of city hall. She said when the city uses Second Street for events, the foot traffic tends to stick close to city hall and not move down Main Street.

"If there's some way,



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Tami Rebman, who sits on the Hermiston planning commission, places a red dot on an image of Redmond that she likes during a roll-out party for the festival street concept on Monday in Hermiston. Participants were asked to show what kind they likes by placing red dots on photos of other towns that have also created a festival street in their towns.

signs or whatever, that would draw foot traffic to the whole area, that would be good," she said.

Design for the project will be done by GreenWorks, a landscaping architecture company out of Portland, in conjunction with a five-person citizen committee and city staff.



Mike Faha of GreenWorks said his firm has worked in Eastern Oregon multiple times, including upgrades to downtown Pendleton and the area around the Round-Up Grounds ahead of their 100th anniversary.

He said the company has been reading several different planning studies the city of Hermiston has completed, including its brand new public art plan, and will incorporate those ideas into planning of the festival street.

"I think those are great studies to build off of," he said. "I think this project will be a catalyst for some of those other plans."

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

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AIRLINE: Waiting for outcome of Pendleton's petition to DOT

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but Boutique's two-year contract wasn't set to begin until Jan. 1.

When Boutique does begin flying into Eastern Oregon, the airline has agreed to provide 21 round-trip flights per week between Pendleton and Portland, with an option to substitute one of the round-trips for a flight to Seattle or Boise.

The DOT approves the one-flight swap but added that the subsidy will only cover flights to Seattle and Boutique would have to pay for trips to Boise at its own expense.

While its time in Pendleton is over, the city is still feeling the aftereffects of SeaPort's tenure.

A lack of boardings compared to SeaPort's \$1.8 million subsidy caused the DOT to declare that Pendleton had exceeded the mandated \$200 per passenger subsidy cap, putting the city

in danger of permanently losing the EAS subsidy.

City officials filed a waiver petition that explains the extenuating circumstances surrounding SeaPort's poor performance with the hopes that the federal government will grant the city another chance at improving boardings.

Although it's already considering hiring local employees and leasing space at the airport, Chrisman said Boutique is waiting for the outcome of the petition before it commits to starting service.

While the city waits for the DOT to hand down its ruling on the petition, the department has ordered Boutique to maintain air service until a decision is made.

Chrisman is confident the city's waiver will be approved and hopes the DOT issues it within the next 30 days.

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

Good Shepherd fundraising event targets sports enthusiasts

East Oregonian

Professional sports jerseys and hoodies are featured in a fundraising event by the Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary.

The sale is Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the pharmacy lobby

at the hospital, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Money raised for the event will be used to purchase medical equipment and scholarships for those pursuing a career in the medical field.

For more information, contact juner1942@gmail.com.

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