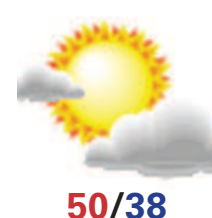


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MAN HIT BY CAR, FALLS INTO ICY RIVER, SURVIVES
NORTHWEST/2A

GROUPS PREPARE FREE MEALS
REGION/3A



EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016

141st Year, No. 27

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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UMATILLA



James Brown pushes his granddaughter, Zabrina Taylor, 3, on a swing as her sister, Zariah Taylor, 3, and mother, Jessica Huie, play in the merry-go-round at Nugent Park on Tuesday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

BMCC planning animal science facility

County, port donate \$150K to project

By **GEORGE PAVEN**
East Oregonian

With three new bond projects already under construction, Blue Mountain Community College is planning another building complex to broaden its animal science and equine programs.

Voters approved a \$23 million capital construction bond for BMCC in May 2015 that included the Facility for Agricultural Resource Management, or FARM, in Pendleton, as well as the Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center in Hermiston and Workforce Training Center in Boardman.

Now the college is seeking \$10 million for FARM Phase II, which would expand classes for animal science, equine and veterinary students. The complex would also provide an arena for the BMCC rodeo team and community livestock events.

BMCC has requested \$5 million for the project through the state of Oregon's community college capital construction program, and would cover the rest through matching dollars. Umatilla County commissioners pledged \$150,000 toward the project at its meeting Nov. 2. On Tuesday, the Port of Umatilla followed suit with a \$150,000 contribution of its own.

Both the port and the county had previously committed that money to the Round-Up City Development Corporation for another matching grant to help pay for a radar system at the Pendleton UAS Range. That grant application, however, was unsuccessful, leaving the funds available for reallocation.

Camille Preus, BMCC president, met Tuesday with the port in Umatilla and made her pitch to the commission. She said the FARM Phase II facility would command a regional, if not statewide focus, and attract more prospective students to the school.

"We would not be pursuing the program if we did not feel there would be a high demand," Preus said.

FARM Phase II would be located in Pendleton within two miles of the BMCC campus on privately donated land, Preus said. The facility would not displace any

See **BMCC/10A**

A passion for parks

City manager pushes for livability projects

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

A new park on Umatilla's south hill and expansions of several other parks are being written into the city's future.

City manager Russ Pelleberg said he has been collaborating with other staff on a master parks plan that he feels "very optimistic" could result in some

big grants next spring.

"The time is right to throw our hat in the ring for funding," he said.

Parks are a passion of Pelleberg's. Before becoming Umatilla's public works director in 2013 and city manager in 2015, he designed several in the Tri-Cities area as senior engineer for the city of Kennewick and an associate engineer in Pasco.

He said those livability projects the cities built in the 1990s helped attract new economic development to the area in the early 2000s.

"I know that can happen here, too," he said.

Umatilla has eight parks, some as small as a set of tennis courts. Pelleberg said it is significantly below the recommended number of park acres per capita and many

of the parks and their amenities are not up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

As a result, building up the city's parks has become a priority for both city staff and the city council. Plans include renovations of current parks, a major expansion of Hash Park in McNary, new soccer fields next to the current one and a new park in the south hill neighborhood.

At Hash Park, which is

See **PARKS/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The city of Umatilla is planning to expand Hash Park from three acres to possibly up to 26 acres.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Third Street soccer field currently only has one field, although the city would like to add three more to the park.

HERMISTON

Fuzzball Animal Rescue looking for foster homes

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The animals of Fuzzball Animal Rescue aren't always easy to find homes for.

The small Hermiston rescue operation, which places injured and sick stray animals into foster homes while they are nursed back to health, has rescued everything from a playful kitten with a broken leg to a geriatric Shi Tzu with a skin condition.

The Shi Tzu's name is Sweetie Pie and she is still looking for a home. Her foster mom, Joellyn

Herriman, said Sweetie Pie was found near Hat Rock in August.

"She's pretty much blind and pretty much deaf, but she's a nice girl," Herriman said.

She hopes perhaps a retired couple or someone else who doesn't mind keeping the little dog company during the day and giving her medicated baths will come forward to give her a home.

Fuzzball Animal Rescue foots the bill for veterinarian care and food for foster animals like Sweetie Pie, but the small nonprofit relies

See **FUZZBALL/10A**



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Joellyn Herriman holds Sweetie Pie, an elderly Shi Tzu she is providing foster care for while Fuzzball Animal Rescue searches for a permanent home.

