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HERMISTON City may sell land to Ranch & Home

Public hearing at council meeting Monday night

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The Hermiston City Council will hold a public hearing Monday on the question of whether to sell a small piece of land to Ranch & Home founder George Dress as he seeks to build a store in Hermiston.

The business plans to build a 100,000-square-foot retail location on 6.55 acres off South Highway 395 between Hermiston Foods and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The city owns 1.71 adjacent acres, which surround a municipal water well. In order to have room for the store's preferred plans, Dress has requested to purchase 0.43 acres of the city's property for \$6,565.

According to a memo to the city council by city staff, the section of land is "undeveloped with any city structures, is not needed for future water system development, and lies outside the existing fenced boundary of the city's lot." Once declared surplus and sold, it would be added to the city's tax rolls.

Ranch & Home, which has locations in Kennewick, Pasco and Milton-Freewater, sells sporting goods, hunting and fishing equipment, clothing, livestock and pet items and home and garden items.

On Monday the city council will also consider a request to waive utility fees on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds from Dec. 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

See **COUNCIL/3A**



Visit Elite Guns & Bows in Pendleton for a free hat **GROUP THERAPY**

A pipeline runs through it

Gas, petroleum lines cut across tribal land

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

The explosion shook the ground beneath the Umatilla Indian Reservation and unleashed a massive fireball that roared up to 500 feet into the air.

On Jan. 2, 1999, a natural gas pipeline ruptured about a mile south of Cayuse at the base of the Blue Mountains, triggering the blast that left behind a large crater and sent shrapnel flying hundreds of feet.

"It sounded like a jet engine had crashed," remembers Chuck Sams, now the communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Fortunately, no one was hurt and no homes damaged in the accident, but for tribal officials it underscored the potential danger of fossil fuel pipelines criss-crossing the landscape where American Indians live, hunt and retain cultural resources.

Now as protesters clash with police over the Dakota Access Pipeline on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota, Sams said the CTUIR knows firsthand that some utilities simply are not capable of protecting tribal resources and treaty rights.

"For the Standing Rock Reservation, that's what they're trying to do," Sams said.

There are actually two underground pipelines that run underneath the Umatilla Indian Reservation—neither of which were originally negotiated by the CTUIR. The Northwest Pipeline, owned and operated by the Williams Companies, is what blew up on the reservation nearly 18 years ago. The entire line spans 4,000 miles over six western states, with the capacity to carry 3.9 million dekatherms of Rocky Mountain natural gas per



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Markers denote the path of the Tesoro Logistics pipeline at the point where it crosses underneath the Umatilla River south of Cayuse.



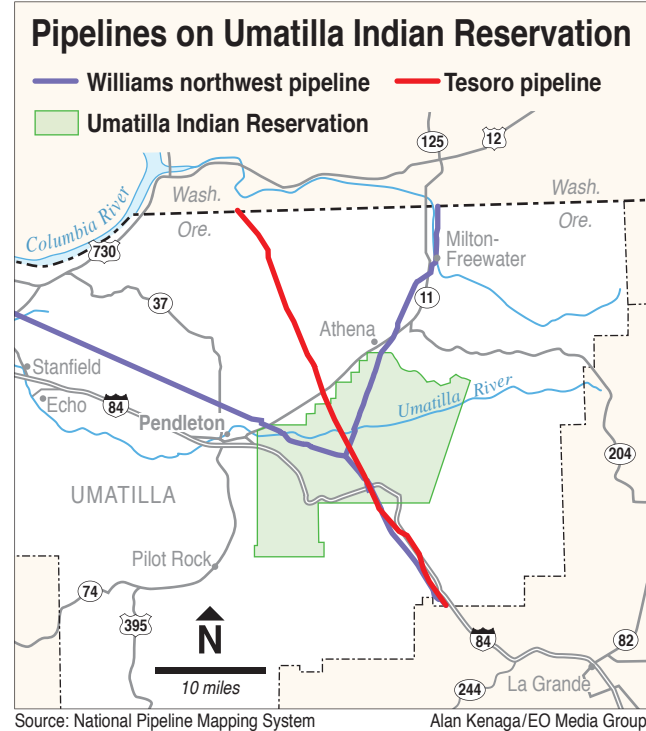
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Jan. 4, 1999, front page coverage of the natural gas pipeline explosion on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in the East Oregonian.

"Right or wrong, good or bad, we want to build systems to manage (pipelines) and ultimately draw a benefit off of that."

— **Dave Tovey**, executive director for the CTUIR

day. The other line is owned by Tesoro Corporation, an independent refiner and marketer of petroleum products based in San Antonio. Its Northwest Products System pipeline stretches 760 miles from Salt Lake City to Spokane, Washington. It transports gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. Both lines converge on the reservation east of Pendleton, and were essentially inherited by the tribes. The right-of-way for each was settled in the 1950s by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. At



the time the CTUIR government was not developed to the point where it could provide much technical or legal analysis.

It wasn't until President Gerald Ford signed the Indian Self-Determination and

Education Assistance Act of 1975 that tribes, including the CTUIR, assumed greater control over their own welfare. The legislation also authorized the government to

See **PIPELINE/14A**

PENDLETON

UAS range manager has eye on the sky



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Darryl Abling is the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems range manager at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport.

Abling brings 29 years of aerospace experience to job

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

While drones might not have entered Pendleton's consciousness until a few years ago, they've been on Darryl Abling's radar for much longer.

Abling, the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range manager, came to Eastern Oregon after a 29-year career at Northrop Grumman, a company that has been working with drones since 2000.

Abling had worked on the stealth bomber by that time, an airplane he described as "super secret, black world stuff." He

eventually worked his way up even farther, becoming the flight test lead for the aerospace giant and military contractor.

During that time, Abling oversaw tests of full-sized, unmanned versions of a helicopter and stealth bomber at Naval Air Station Point Mugu on the Southern California coast.

Although he's a Philadelphia native, Abling decided against a move back to the Northeast and retired when Northrop Grumman moved testing operations to Maryland.

Northrop Grumman still indirectly helped him get the job in Pendleton when an old colleague, who now works at the University of Alaska campus that administers the test ranges in

See **UAS/14A**



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