

MILTON-FREEWATER

# Grant could bring clean water to trailer park

Has been without drinking water for more than six months

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Residents living in a Milton-Freewater trailer park could finally get clean drinking water.

*E. coli* bacteria has been a problem for years in the well that supplies water to Locust Mobile Village, 1501 N. Elizabeth St., on the outskirts of Milton-Freewater's north end. At least 30 people, including families with small children, live there and have been without clean drinking water for more than six months.

But Scott Fairley of Pendleton, the coordinator of the governor's

Regional Solutions team for Eastern Oregon, said relief could be coming.

"This is a new opportunity that just came up in the last week," he told the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners during its meeting Wednesday morning in Pendleton.

Fairley, speaking on the phone from La Grande, said the Oregon Health Authority found a federal grant to provide clean water to the park. The funds, though, require a public entity to act as the fiscal agent, and he asked the county to take on the role.

Commissioners voted 3-0 in favor.

Fairley also told the board the

next steps will look at the possibility of a new well or extending city services to the park. A new well, though, could run into the same contamination problems as the existing well. Fairley told the board Milton-Freewater city officials in "preliminary conversations" indicated they would consider an extension.

Commissioner George Murdock said Friday the scope of the project would determine the size of the grant, which the county would receive funds to oversee. But the deeper incentive for the county's involvement, he said, were the county residents in dire need to clean water.

"If we have a solution to help them, so be it," Murdock said.

Locust Mobile Village owner Nancy Shaw called the grant "an answer to a prayer."

Shaw said she has made repairs to the park's plumbing and water tank and is catching up well testing the state requires. But a large test to check for radioactive materials will have to wait, she said, until she has the \$1,700 to cover its cost.

Until she completes all the tests and they come back negative, she said, the park remains under a boil water alert.

Still, she said she felt positive the grant would deliver the help she has been seeking for years.

Commissioner Larry Givens in other county news Wednesday announced the public works depart-

ment qualified for \$2.8 million in federal funds to pave part of Mill Creek Road, Milton-Freewater. Public works director Tom Fellows said the Federal Lands Access Program provides the funds and requires a 10.72 percent local match, but the money would allow for reconstruction and paving on 2.6 miles of the road.

"We do get — in this particular instance — we're getting a lot of bang for the buck," he said.

Givens also announced the public works received a \$12,500 state parks grant and almost \$16,000 from the Wildhorse Foundation.

Contact Phil Wright at [pwright@eastoregonian.com](mailto:pwright@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0833.

PENDLETON

# Giving Tree spreads holiday spirit

East Oregonian

With the holiday season in full swing, people are invited to help in spreading Christmas joy to area children and youths in need.

In its 16th year, the Giving Tree provides an opportunity for people to brighten the holiday season for kids facing an uncertain Christmas. The ages, sizes and needs of youths are on gift tags on the Giving Tree, which is set up at Hamley's Western Store, 30 S.E. Court St., Pendleton.

Local citizens, businesses and service clubs can pluck tags from the tree and shop for items on the list. For those with limited time to shop, monetary donations will be accepted to purchase gifts.

Tags on the tree are connected to children and youths in the community, whose names were provided by the Pendleton School District, Umatilla County Youth Services and Oregon Department of Human Services.

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, the Giving Tree has served hundreds of families each year since 2000.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Tags wait to be taken from a past Giving Tree. The 2016 tree is now set up at Hamley's Western Store in Pendleton. People are invited to remove a tag and shop for children and youths in need.

The new, unwrapped items need to be returned to Hamley's by Sunday, Dec. 11. In appreciation of donations made, participants will receive a special Hamley discount.

The gifts will be wrapped and distributed to the recipients by the agencies involved.

For more information, call Melvaee Carter at 541-278-5447 or Hamley's at 541-278-1100.

For other area giving trees, submit information, including the location of the tree, date items must be returned, if gifts should

be wrapped and contact information to: [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com) or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

BRIEFLY

## Lybrand released on bail, but money may pay \$62,000 child support debt

PENDLETON — Prosecutors in the drug case of a Pendleton business owner aim to apply his bail money to his child support debt.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show Judge Lynn Hampton denied Jason Lybrand's request to get out of the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on his own recognizance following his arrest on Oct. 11. On Oct. 24, a relative posted \$15,000 bail to free him.

Bail money remains in the custody of state courts pending the outcome of a case. The district attorney's office on Monday filed a motion asking the court to apply Lybrand's bail money to his back child support. Lybrand, according to the state's documents, owes \$62,772 in support for his two children, as well as \$660 for the month of November.

Hampton on Tuesday ordered the court to keep the money until the motion "is resolved."

The local anti-drug trafficking police team arrested Lybrand following an investigation. He faces seven drug-related charges in all, including felonies for possession and delivery of methamphetamine. He pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Lybrand owns and operates a tattoo and adult shop at 132 S. Main St. in downtown Pendleton. His next court hearing is Dec. 13.



Lybrand

## HSD to hold meeting on school bond

HERMISTON — Having discussed at it at the school board level, the Hermiston School District is now ready to discuss the details of a \$104 million bond proposal.

The district will hold a community meeting about its facilities and the bond at Hermiston High School on Monday at 5 p.m. Child care will be provided.

Under the current proposal, the bond would include a Hermiston High School expansion, a new parking lot at Sandstone Middle School, and new elementary schools at Rocky Heights, Highland Hills and the district's Theater Lane property.

An October public opinion survey commissioned by the district showed that 48 percent of registered voters were against the bond while 46 percent were for it.

## Shop local and win in Boardman

BOARDMAN — A \$200 gift certificate from Boardman Select Market is the grand prize for the Boardman Chamber of Commerce's shop local campaign.

Shoppers in Boardman are encouraged to gather receipts for purchases made Nov. 1 through Dec. 16 for a chance to win prizes through Shop & Win in Boardman. Each valid receipt will receive one entry in the drawing.

Valued at more than \$100, the second prize — an AR-15 tool kit from Predator's Den — would make a great gift for the hunter on your Christmas list. A \$75 shopping spree at Boardman Hardware is the third place prize. Additional prizes include gift certificates from local businesses.

People can have their receipts validated between now and 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 at the chamber, located at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman.

For more information, call 541-481-3014.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to [news@eastoregonian.com](mailto:news@eastoregonian.com)

PENDLETON

# High school to hold career day talks and tours

East Oregonian

Pendleton School District students will get a glimpse of the careers they could pursue after high school, not only from the people they could be working for, but at the workplaces they could be employed at.

Pendleton High School will host a career day Thursday, the first under the School to Careers program, an effort jointly supported by the district, Blue Mountain Community College and the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners.

Panel discussions and workplace tours will be organized around the six career clusters recognized by the Oregon Department

"Our hope is that this event helps students envision themselves in one of these career fields and as a vital member of our region's future workforce."

— Christina van der Kamp, Schools to Career coordinator

of Education — Human Resources; Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource Systems; Industrial and Engineering Systems; Business and Management; Health Sciences; and Arts, Information and Communication.

In the morning, students from Pendleton High School, Nixyaawii Community School and Hawthorne Alternative High School will hear from professionals that work for the city of Pend-

leton, Umatilla County, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, St. Anthony Hospital, Northeast Oregon Water Association and other business and government agencies.

Students will then load onto buses and go on workplace tours of some of Pendleton's top employers including Newly Weds Foods, the Umatilla County Courthouse, the Columbia Basin Agriculture Research

Center, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, and Interpath Laboratories.

"We are excited to be able to offer tours as part of this year's event. Students will be able to connect what they've heard from the speakers in the morning to actual work sites and job opportunities in the community," Schools to Career coordinator Christina van der Kamp said. "Our hope is that this event helps students to envision themselves in one of these career fields and as a vital member of our region's future workforce."

For more information contact van der Kamp at 541-969-6748 or [christina.vanderkamp@pendleton.k12.or.us](mailto:christina.vanderkamp@pendleton.k12.or.us).

## COUNCIL: Will also name new public bus system

Continued from 1A

The Hermiston School District takes over the fairgrounds on Dec. 31. The district plans to demolish the structures on the property to prepare for future development, but has agreed to hold off for a few months in order to give events like college rodeo and the Hermiston Horse Sale Extravaganza a place to hold their event in Hermiston until

the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center's rodeo arena is complete.

According to a memo from city manager Byron Smith, the move would result in a "minimal" fiscal impact for the city but would be a "good partnership" to help keep the events in Hermiston.

Also on the city council's agenda is the naming of the new public bus system that will open Jan. 2. The results

of an online survey show that 51 percent of voters preferred the HART (short for Hermiston Area Regional Transit) with the Watermelon Express coming in second at 21 percent of the vote.

The city council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at city hall, 180 N.E. Second Street.

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To our valued patients,

It is with a heavy heart to inform you of the passing of Dr. Ritchie Hibbert. At this time the office will remain open. Dr. Hibbert always made sure that our patients would be taken care of and we would like to thank you for your continued support as we make this transition.

With the huge support of the dental community our office will continue to see patients with dentists stepping in to cover our current and future appointments during this time as we transition into a new practice.

We, as an office, look forward to still seeing each of you for your dental needs.

Sincerely,  
The Hibbert Family  
Heather, Sarah, Carley and Jennifer

Happy Holidays

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