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OLD PENDLETON CITY HALL

Fines looming, Quezadas hope for better weather

Enforcement of nuisance ordinance starts clock ticking

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Out of patience with the slow progress on old city hall, the Pendleton City Council

chose to prod the owners toward repairing the fire-damaged building by enforcing the nuisance ordinance.

With the prospect of a daily fine now looming, members

of the Quezada family, the owners of the fire-damaged building, were clearing debris from an alleyway behind the building late Friday morning. A July 2015 explosion

killed Eduardo Quezada, a member of the family, and heavily damaged the building's façade, windows and roof.

Pendleton's nuisance

See CITY HALL/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The framework for a new roof can be seen through the second story windows of the old city hall building on Friday in Pendleton.

UMATILLA



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

In 2018 the Oregon Department of Transportation will be giving a facelift to Highway 730, or Sixth Street, in downtown Umatilla.

'OPEN FOR BUSINESS'

Umatilla works to revitalize downtown, become a place to stop and visit

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Umatilla's top goal for this year is downtown revitalization, and staff and city councilors are enthusiastic about prompting a change.

Early in 2018 the Oregon Department of Transportation plans to give Sixth Street a facelift using bulb-outs, decorative crosswalks, new lighting

MORE INSIDE

For more on economic growth and the future of Umatilla County, check out the special section "Progress 2017" in today's paper.

and other features to encourage drivers passing through town on Highway 730 to slow down. In the meantime, however, the city is doing its own part to change downtown Umatilla's image.

"Basically what we're saying

is Umatilla is open for business," councilor Mark Ribich said.

As part of that change, the city plans to create a new "community development" department with a new department head that would focus on

economic development, code enforcement and parks and recreation.

City manager Russ Pelleberg said since he came into the city manager's position a little less than a year ago he has done some cost-saving and revenue-increasing measures that will fund the new department.

"The timing is perfect for

See UMATILLA/10A

Preserving cultural artifacts next hurdle for Depot transfer

Oregon Trail, tribal relics part of archaeological study

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Items of historical, cultural and religious significance on the former Umatilla Chemical Depot are presenting one of the last major hurdles to transferring the land back to local control.

At a Columbia Development Authority meeting Friday, director Greg Smith told the board he is working with their various partners to make sure the required archaeological study is completed and concerns about preserving significant artifacts are satisfied.

"There are two branches of the Oregon Trail that run through the depot," Smith said. "There are also some tribal artifacts that are important to be preserved."

One spur of the trail runs through the planned wildlife preserve, but the other section runs right through the industrial zone on the Umatilla County side.

Smith said many portions were destroyed long ago by the construction of an airstrip and other components of military operations at the depot, but there was a historically significant portion of the trail on a 250 by 250 foot piece of industrial land that he believed was important to carve out from the industrial zone and add an educational kiosk that the public could visit.

He said he wanted to be sensitive and not go into too much detail, but there were also items of religious significance to the tribes that would need to be protected.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian have one of the five seats on the CDA board, with the ports and county governments of both Umatilla and Morrow also represented.

"I do not see anything in there that if we work together we cannot resolve and create a win-win for everyone," he said.

Michele Lanigan from the Army's Base Realignment and Closure division said that because the archaeological study was not resolved, the Army could not give a definitive timeline for when the depot will be transferred with such a "big unknown"

"There are two branches of the Oregon Trail that run through the depot. There are also some tribal artifacts that are important to be preserved."

Greg Smith, director, Columbia Development Authority

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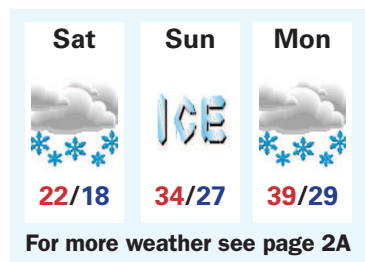
Snow and ice, hold the salt

Another wave of winter coming, but salt not in ODOT's toolbox

By GEORGE PAVEN
East Oregonian

As Eastern Oregon braces for another round of nasty winter weather, the Oregon Department of Transportation says rock salt will not be used on local highways — at least not yet.

Last month, ODOT announced a shift in policy to use salt on some roads across the state after an inch of snow wreaked havoc on Portland traffic. But Tom Strandberg, ODOT spokesman for the Eastern Oregon region,



For more weather see page 2A

said that decision was not agency-wide.

"We have a lot of work to do before we're prepared for salt on the roads," Strandberg said.

Interstate 84 has closed multiple times in recent weeks due to hazardous driving conditions, especially between Pendleton and Baker City. Snow and freezing rain are in the forecast

again this weekend, beginning Saturday morning in central Oregon and moving northeast by late afternoon.

Between 1-4 inches of snow are expected Saturday, turning into sleet and freezing rain on Sunday, according to the National Weather Service. The Columbia River Gorge is also expected to get hit by snow, ice and high winds on Saturday.

Strandberg said ODOT will work around the clock to plow and sand highways. The agency also uses magnesium chloride as a de-icer, though Strandberg admits the solution is not effective at very low temperatures.

Rock salt may be more

See SALT/10A



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