

MILTON-FREEWATER

# Council denies water lines for trailer park

Contaminated well water has been an issue for years

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Milton-Freewater City Council voted 5-0 to not extend city water services to the troubled Locust Mobile Village trailer park.

City manager Linda Hall said the council made the decision Monday night before "a packed house" of citizens, and the several who spoke were all against the extension.

"The gist of the comments were that it was a Band-Aid on a major wound, that the water is not the only

problem," Hall said.

Contaminated well water has been a problem for years at the park at 1501 N. Elizabeth Street. The Oregon Health Authority in May 2016 warned the park's residents to boil their water due to *E. coli*. That notice remains in effect until park owner Nancy Shaw can comply with state requirements for clean water.

Speakers at the council meeting claimed the park has safety and sanitation issues, Hall said, and the city's own electrical employees were concerned with the quality of

power service at the park.

"Which we are putting [Shaw] on notice for as we speak," she said.

Although the city limits don't extend to the park, the city provides the park's power. Hall said several electrical connections for trailers are not up to code.

"We can't — nor should we — energize those if they are not up to code," she said. "It's very unsafe."

Shaw was not at the meeting, Hall said. Shaw also did not immediately return calls Tuesday.

The Health Authority in late 2016 found a federal grant to provide clean water to the park, and the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners agreed to act as the fiscal agent. The grant would have paid for the cost of Milton-Freewater connecting its water supply to the park. But Hall said council members questioned if the grant was the best use of state or federal money and also believed it as not fair Shaw and her park would receive this benefit while others in similar situations had to resolve problems on their own.

Larry Givens, county commission board chairman, said he understood where

the city council was coming from. Extending water lines, he said, would not have dealt with other serious problems at the park. Even so, he said, providing clean water would be a "huge step" to improving quality of life at the park.

The county lacks the legal authority to do much more than make Shaw clean up trash at the park, Givens said, and Hall raised doubts the county could act as the fiscal agent for the grant. To that end, Givens said county attorney Doug Olsen is digging into the grant's language "to get the exact legal requirements" for managing the funds.

The grant, for example,

would cover the cost of a new well for the park, although Givens said getting a state permit for a commercial well on private land "would be almost impossible" due to Milton-Freewater falling into an intensive water management area. Givens also said he is taking his concerns to state lawmakers.

"We still need to look at ways to improve this situation," he said.

Hall also said the council would be willing to meet with Shaw and county and state parties to discuss problems at the park and how to improve conditions for the people living there.



Contributed photo

## Wall of snow

Oregon Department of Transportation worked to remove snow from highways in Eastern Oregon over the weekend. Here is a photo of Highway 237 (Cove Highway) in Union County.

BRIEFLY

### Agape House hosts indoor/outdoor sale

HERMISTON — A sale benefiting Agape House is planned this weekend.

The regular parking lot sale, which includes indoor shopping for clothes, is Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. It features adult attire at three items for a dollar. People can pick up the first five articles of children's clothing free of charge, with additional selections at three for \$1.

Depending on the weather, other items will be available — including bikes, books and furniture, which will be priced as marked. People can name their own price for knick-knacks.

Agape House serves individuals and families in need. For more information, call 541-567-8774.

### Library trivia event focuses on Harry Potter

HERMISTON — There's still time to brush up on Harry Potter facts for a special teen event at the Hermiston Public Library.

All youths in grades 6-12 are invited to the Teen Trivia Get Together, which is Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 4-5 p.m. at 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission fee.

For more information, call 541-567-2882 or visit [www.hermistonlibrary.us](http://www.hermistonlibrary.us).

### Funding available for Water Project Grants and Loans

Approximately \$5 million is now available through the Oregon Water Resources Department to help pay for in-stream and out-of-stream water development projects.

The Oregon Water Resources Department is accepting applications for Water Project Grants and Loans, part of the agency's Water Resources Development Program,

which provides funding for projects that result in economic, environmental or cultural benefits.

Eligible projects may include water conservation, storage, streamflow protection or water delivery systems. Businesses, nonprofits and local governments are all eligible to apply.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. April 5. For more information, contact program coordinator Jon Unger at [waterprojects@wr.d.state.or.us](mailto:waterprojects@wr.d.state.or.us) or 503-986-0869.

### Altrusa seeks nominations for youth award

HERMISTON — An outstanding young citizen will be recognized during the upcoming Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet in Hermiston.

Altrusa International of Hermiston is seeking nominations for the award. Young people under the age of 21 will be considered. Altrusa is looking for someone that demonstrates commitment, personal responsibility and a positive attitude, and who goes beyond what's expected of them to benefit others.

Nomination forms are available at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 415 S. Highway 395, or by emailing [hermiston@altrusa.com](mailto:hermiston@altrusa.com). The form and a letter detailing the person's achievements must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 20.

The awards banquet is Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be ordered at [www.hermistonchamber.com](http://www.hermistonchamber.com) or by calling 541-567-6151.

Submit 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.

HERMISTON

## Sergeant Clark promoted to captain

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Police Department has promoted Sgt. Scott Clark to captain — taking the place of Cpt. Darryl Johnson, who will retire in June after 20 years with the department.

Clark, a Hermiston native, has been with the department since June 2005, and before that worked at the Umatilla Police Department, starting in 1997.

"When I initially started in law enforcement, something like that wasn't really in my mind," Clark said of the promotion. "But it's that time in my career. I'm absolutely excited to take that next step and become part of the amazing management team here."

Clark will serve as the operations captain for the department, overseeing patrol and reserve officers.

The promotion means Clark will be second-in-command to the chief, along with administrative captain Travis Eynon. As the operations captain, he will focus more on supervising other officers and issues, rather than working the daily patrol rotation.

"My time on the road will be limited," he said, adding that he'll now spend most of his time at the office.

Police chief Jason Edmiston had previously said he hoped to fill the captain's position with a current Hermiston officer.

"I think it's a good sign when a department is healthy enough to



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Sgt. Scott Clark will assume the role of Operations Captain for the Hermiston Police Department in May.

promote from within," he said in December.

Clark said he was honored to be chosen for the job.

"I know it had to have been a tough decision," he said. "They realized we had the personnel here to fulfill (the position), so they kept the process in-house."

Clark said in his experience, there's no such thing as a regular day.

"Different challenges will pop up throughout your career, as far as where

you focus your efforts," Clark said. "You see a rash of car prowls, vehicle thefts, burglaries — and you try to find different ways of dealing with those problems."

In addition to working with the police department, Clark served as a reserve officer in the Coast Guard for 12 years, from 2004 to 2016 — including deployments to Guantanamo Bay, Kuwait and Iraq.

Clark is married and has four children.

## Pendleton to open flagship store in downtown Portland

By ANNA MARUM  
The Oregonian/Oregonlive

As Macy's vacates its iconic home in downtown Portland, a longtime Oregon retailer looks to establish a new one.

Pendleton Woolen Mills, which was incorporated in Pendleton in 1909, announced Monday that it plans to open a flagship store at the base of the new 30-story Park Avenue West tower at Southwest Ninth and Morrison.

Pendleton currently operates two stores downtown, as well as a large fabric store in Milwaukie and a shop at Portland International Airport. In addition, it operates nearly 50 stores and outlets throughout the country, and distributes its colorful woolen blankets and flannels throughout the world.

According to Pendleton spokeswoman Linda Parker,

the new Portland store is scheduled to open in mid-June. Shortly before that, Pendleton's store in the nearby Standard Insurance building will close, she said.

Its home store at Northwest Broadway and Davis will remain open, and its offices will remain next door. Pendleton President Mort Bishop said the new downtown store is part of the company's strategy to upgrade its existing locations instead of adding more.

The Park Avenue store, which will essentially replace the Fourth Avenue location, will offer a more relaxed, "industrial chic" vibe, he said.

At 3,000 square feet, the new store will be slightly smaller, and the offerings will be more curated, Bishop said.

The shop will offer men's and women's clothing, as well as home items and accessories.

Bishop acknowledged that the men's and women's lines have attracted different types of customers, and that Pendleton is working to infuse its womenswear with more of the laid-back, outdoorsy look that has made its men's apparel and home items so popular.

"We have gone through a comprehensive brand study in the last couple of years, and we're bringing the brand together with an overall aesthetic," Bishop said. "There's a more unified

brand strategy."

As for collaborations, Pendleton is keeping them coming. In past years, the brand has teamed up with Nike, Airstream, the National Parks, hotels, Star Wars and, most recently, Marvel. Now, Bishop said, Pendleton is working on a rain boot.

"We have a lot of exciting things coming," he said.

Meanwhile, the company looks to expand its distribution in Japan and Canada, despite challenges brought on by a strong dollar.

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK

**Austin Rice (Senior)**  
IRRIGON HIGH SCHOOL

Austin Rice is a dedicated student, outstanding athlete, and all-around nice guy. He is a shining example of a positive attitude that has led him to success in many areas. Austin has been a varsity letter-winner in football, basketball, and baseball all four years of high school, and currently holds a GPA of 3.7. He is considering attending either George Fox University or OIT next year where he plans to pursue studies in the healthcare field, and play baseball. Austin was selected 1st team all-state in baseball last year as a pitcher, leading the knights to the 2A state semi-finals. He has been a starter for the Knights basketball team the past two years, and was the starting quarterback this past football season.

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## BEST STAND-UP COMEDY ON IT'S WAY TO HERMISTON!

### Melonville Comedy Festival January 28, 2017 Hermiston Community Center

The 24th edition of the Melonville Comedy Festival will feature three headlining stand up comedians. These comics are in demand corporate show entertainers.

**CHASE MAYERS**  
is coming to Hermiston from Baton Rouge Louisiana for the first time. Chase is a comedy club headliner in the Gulf Coast area. He also appeared in the movie "The Butler". Chase is a Back Porch Comedian.

**GABRIEL RUTLEDGE**  
Another regular on the Bob and Tom Radio show has appeared at the 2006 Melonville Comedy Festival. He is on the comedy stage nightly all over America. Gabriel's TV credits include Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, and HBO. Two of his albums are on the Sirius Satellite radio comedy radio top ten. Rutledge finds humor in his family and everyday life. Gabriel is based in Olympia.

**DWIGHT SLADE**  
is a regular guest on the Bob and Tom Radio show. He appeared on the Tonight Show, and on Comedy Central. Dwight is a headliner on the biggest stages of standup comedy throughout the world. Slade started working in comedy clubs as a teen and at the Melonville Comedy festival in 2004. His humor covers everything from driving to pets. Dwight is based in Portland.

Tickets \$35 per person  
Doors open at 7pm, Show starts at 8:00  
Tickets available at  
Hermiston Chamber of Commerce  
Reserve Tickets at: 541-561-7488

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