

TOLLGATE

# Spout Springs ski area to try to resolve parking lot safety concerns

Resort remains closed

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
East Oregonian

The owner of Spout Springs Ski Area at Tollgate will meet with Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Genevieve Masters to try to resolve safety concerns over sharing the resort's parking lot with snowmobiles.

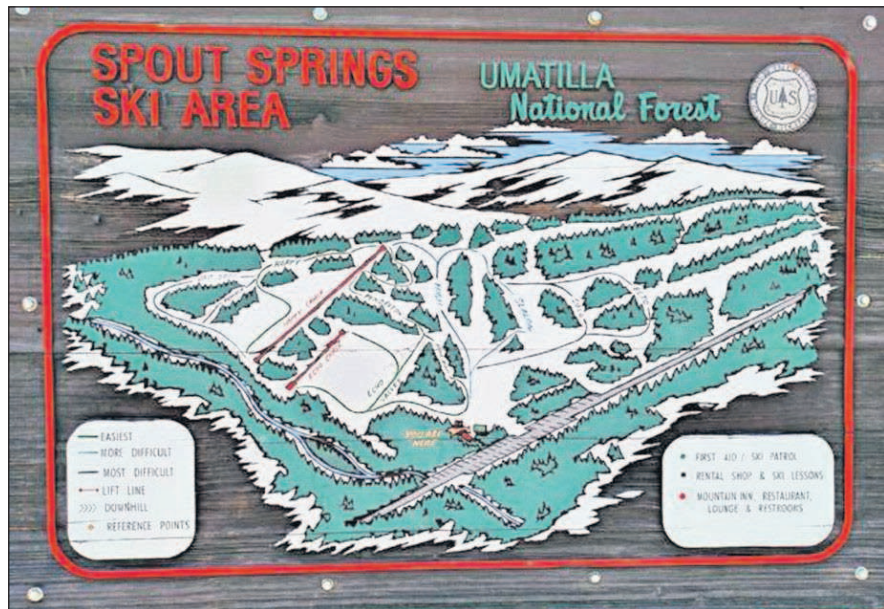
John Murray announced in December he would close Spout Springs for the 2016-17 season, claiming that snowmobiles were creating an unsafe environment for skiers and snowboarders.

Spout Springs operates under a special use permit with the forest, and the parking area — set up on both sides of Highway 204 — is designated as a Sno-Park, which pays for the Oregon Department of Transportation to do plowing and snow removal.

As a Sno-Park, Walla Walla District Ranger Mike Rassbach says multiple winter uses are allowed, including for snowmobiles to access nearby trails. Murray, however, says the parking lot has become so inundated with snowmobiles and trailers that he's concerned about one of his customers getting hurt.

According to the ski area's special use permit, there is an area for snowmobile trailers to park overnight in the north lot. Larry Randall, recreation program manager for the forest, said the parking situation at Spout Springs hasn't changed since 2004.

Randall said Murray has raised the



Contributed photo

**Spout Springs Ski Area is roughly 1,400 acres large and has been closed this season due to safety concerns over snowmobiles in the parking lot.**

issue of snowmobiles from time to time over the years.

"We sought to try to come up with different parking arrangements that would meet everyone's needs," Randall said.

There is a condition that would allow the Forest Service to revoke Murray's permit if he were to essentially abandon Spout Springs. But Randall said they intend to work with him and figure out a solution together.

"We want to see Mr. Murray successfully operate that ski area," Randall

said. "That's where our energies are being diverted."

Joani Bosworth, spokeswoman for the Umatilla National Forest, said Masters, the forest supervisor, is arranging to meet with Murray sometime in the next few weeks.

Murray, who also runs a dry dock in Portland, has been trying to sell Spout Springs for the last two seasons. The resort is listed for \$1.25 million.

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

JOHN DAY

# Emry pleads guilty to unlawful possession of machine gun

EO Media Group

Michael Ray Emry faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine after pleading guilty to possessing a machine gun illegally in John Day.

Emry, 54, pleaded guilty Monday before U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken to unlawful possession of a fully automatic .50-caliber machine gun that was not registered to him, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.



Emry

After accepting the guilty plea, Aiken scheduled Emry's sentencing hearing for April 3. Emry faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine and three years of supervised release.

According to court documents and statements made in court, on May 6, 2016, federal agents executed a search warrant on Emry's trailer at the Grant County Fairgrounds and RV Park in John Day and recovered a Browning M2 machine gun with an obliterated serial number. Emry told agents that the firearm was fully automatic and could fire between 550 and 650 rounds per minute, that he had stolen it from a man in Idaho and that he had removed the serial number prior to bringing it to Oregon.

Prosecutors said Emry was also in negotiations to sell the machine gun in Oregon to a person he had been told was a felon

and the captain of a Texas militia group, who was actually an undercover law enforcement officer. They said Emry also possessed a belt of blank .50-caliber shells for the gun and the blasting cap, which is a detonator for a bomb. They also mentioned Emry's testimony from a 2004 case in which Emry admitted to illegally making a bomb out of C-4 and a silencer for a drug dealer but cooperated as a witness to avoid prison and that he illegally made 66 machine guns for a friend.

"A man with a history of making a bomb and silencer for a drug dealer to kill witnesses, and manufacturing 66 machine guns for another person in preparation for a civil revolt — who then brings a .50 caliber machine gun to our state during a time of unrest and then negotiates to sell it to someone purporting to be a felon and the captain of a militia — poses a serious danger to the community," prosecutors said.

According to an article on The Voice of Idaho News website, Emry was the proprietor of that organization, as well as The Voice of North Idaho and The Voice of Grant County, Oregon.

The case was investigated by the FBI in close collaboration with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is being prosecuted by Nathan J. Lichvarcik, assistant United States attorney for the District of Oregon.

BRIEFLY

## M-F cop seeks deal through settlement

**MILTON-FREEWATER** — The Milton-Freewater police officer charged with assaulting a handcuffed suspect is considering settling the case.

Brian David Scott, 37, had a hearing Wednesday in Pendleton before Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer. Defense attorney Sean Riddell of Portland and Scott called in. Riddell said he submitted a mitigation and settlement letter to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office and needs more time to have a settlement conference.

District Attorney Dan Primus said the state also is inclined to go that route.

"I think this is a complicated matter and one that would be best for a settlement conference," Primus said.

Primus asked the court to set it six weeks from now. Brauer said his clerk would get back to the attorneys with possible dates.

Scott pleaded not guilty to charges of second-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon and first-degree offi-

cial misconduct. The charges stem from his Sept. 26, 2016, arrest of Jeffery Allen Fields, 46, of Milton-Freewater.

## IMAC serves Saturday breakfast

**IRRIGON** — The Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center is hosting its monthly breakfast this weekend.

For a hearty home-cooked meal, head to the fundraiser Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

The group of volunteers hope to preserve Irrigon's 1921 school building and create a regional arts center. For more information, call Peggy at 541-567-3806.

## OHSU professor to discuss health care in rural areas

**PENDLETON** — The topic of the upcoming AAUW meeting is health disparities for women living in rural areas.

Cynthia Perry, Family Nurse Practitioner Program

director and professor at the Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing, is the special speaker. The public is invited to the no-host gathering Saturday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. at The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

The American Association of University Women works to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

For more about the Pendleton affiliate, contact Kathy Chaney at [cecil296@aol.com](mailto:cecil296@aol.com) or 541-379-9997.

## Music scholarships available

**PORTLAND** — Applications for Oregon Music Hall of Fame college scholarships are available again and the application deadline is Feb. 14, 2017. The scholarships rose this year from \$1,000 each to \$2,500 each, with a total of four scholarships available for 2017.

Each applicant should be a student studying music with the talent of instrument

or voice graduating spring 2017 from an Oregon high school and continuing their collegiate/university academics as a major or minor in music at any college or university in the country.

Any questions may be emailed to [info@omhof.org](mailto:info@omhof.org), or visit [www.omhof.org](http://www.omhof.org) where an online version of the application is available. All items must be mailed together, in order to qualify, to Oregon Music Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 82173, Portland, OR 97282.

## The Arc seeks vendors for sale

**HERMISTON** — An indoor yard sale provides an opportunity for people to stay warm while shopping and support The Arc Umatilla County.

People can purchase table space for \$10 each to sell items during the event. The Indoor Yard Sale is Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call the office at 541-567-7615 or Jan Schroth at 541-567-6172.

## PENDLETON School board to review superintendent again

East Oregonian

For the third time since he started his job in July, the Pendleton School Board will meet behind closed doors with Superintendent Andy Kovach to discuss his job performance.

The board called for a special meeting Monday, which will be almost entirely held in executive session, which is closed to the general public.

Although the board is convening the executive session "to review and evaluate the employment-rated performance of the chief executive officer," an allowance prescribed in Oregon state statute, board chairwoman Debbie McBee said the meetings were to offer the first-time superintendent as much input as possible during his first year.

McBee said Monday's meeting would be a

follow-up to a closed-door meeting the board held in November to offer input on his performance.

The board also held another executive session on Jan. 17 to discuss the results of a survey where Kovach gathered input about his performance from 20 district employees he works closely with. McBee said Kovach will provide an updated version of the survey in March, which the board will discuss in executive session.

The standard year-end superintendent evaluation will most likely be held in May, McBee said, and will feature a more expansive survey with comments from staff and community members.

Previously the principal of Ontario High School, Kovach currently earns \$127,500 per year as a part of a three-year contract.



Kovach

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**FRIDAY, JAN. 27**  
**PENDLETON DELPHIAN CLUB**, 1:30 p.m., Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton.

**PENDLETON MASTERS SWIM CLUB**, 5-6 p.m., Roundup Athletic Club pool, 1415 Southgate, Pendleton. \$5 per session coaching fee; non-RAC members pay \$8 pool fee per session. (Tania Wildbill 541-310-9102)

**PENDLETON EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY KITCHEN**, 6-8 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. (541-278-2828)

**SATURDAY, JAN. 28**  
**MEN'S BREAKFAST**, 8 a.m., Bethel Assembly of God Church, 1109 Airport Road, Pendleton. (541-276-7559)

**UMATILLA COUNTY POMONA GRANGE**, 12:30 p.m., Columbia Grange Hall, 32339 Diagonal Road, Hermiston. Lunch will be followed by a meeting. (Tom or Doris 541-567-9742 or 541-567-8663)

**PENDLETON EAGLES STEAK AND LIVE MUSIC**, 6-11:30 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Dinner from 6-8 p.m., music from 8 p.m. to midnight. Members

and guests welcome. (541-278-2828)

**SUNDAY, JAN. 29**  
**PENDLETON EAGLES BREAKFAST**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Open to members and guests. (541-278-2828)

**MONDAY, JAN. 30**  
**IRRIGON MOOSE LODGE TACOS AND BINGO**, 6-9 p.m., Irrigon Moose Lodge, 220 N.E. Third St., Irrigon. Tacos from 6-9 p.m., bingo from 6:30-9 p.m. Open to members and guests. (541-922-1802)

**OREGON EAST SYMPHONY CHORALE REHEARSAL**, 7 p.m., Pendleton High School music department, 1800 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. The OES Chorale will rehearse for the March 11, 2017 concert of Ola Gjeilo's "Sunrise Mass." Call the OES office to receive a vocal score. (J.D. Kindle 541-276-0320)

**INLAND NORTHWEST MUSICIANS CHORALE REHEARSAL**, 7-9 p.m., Harris Jr. Academy gymnasium, 3121 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton. No tryouts; all welcome. No rehearsals June-July-August or Christmas-New Year. (RaNiell Dunn 541-289-4696)

**TUESDAY, JAN. 31**  
**PENDLETON TOASTMASTERS NO. 154**, 6:30 a.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton.

**TOPS CHAPTER OR** 1110, 8 a.m., Missionary Baptist Church, 125 E. Beech St., Hermiston. 8 a.m. weigh-in followed by meeting at 8:45 a.m. (Margaret Welterling 541-720-0276)

**GREENFIELD GRANGE PINOCHLE**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Green-

field Grange 579, 209 N.W. First St., Boardman. (541-481-7397)

**BIBLE STUDY**, 10 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. (Rev. Jim Pierce 541-276-2616)

**"THE LIFE MODEL: LIVING FROM THE HEART JESUS GAVE YOU" BOOK STUDY GROUP**, 1-2:30 p.m., Bowman Building, 17 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. (Pat 541-276-6671)

**TOPS CHAPTER OR** 1169, 4-5:30 p.m., Hermiston Assembly of God Church, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston. Use west side door. (Janell Bailey 541-571-5744)



Chris McClellan, Multi-Media Sales Consultant

Send resume and letter of interest to  
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## Every rock star had to start somewhere.

Youth (8-12 yrs.) beginning guitar classes start Jan. 9 and run each Monday 5:00-6:00 pm through March. We'll even provide the guitar.



PENDLETON CENTER for the ARTS

Mention this ad and pay just \$40 for all 10 sessions. More info: 541-278-9201 or [pendletonarts.org](http://pendletonarts.org)

EAST OREGONIAN



**OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

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**Banquet, Raffle & Auction Featuring An All State ELK Tag Sponsored by the Access and Habitat Program**

**February 11th • 5:00 pm**  
at the Pendleton Convention Center

**Raffle & Auction Items including a D&B Treasure Chest & M2D Properties Youth Hunt**  
To Register Call Rebecca 541-379-1074 or Terry 541-231-4384

**MONEY RAISED BY OUR BANQUET STAYS IN OREGON!**  
Columbia Basin Chapter supported the following events and many others:

- Youth Bow Hunt
- Coyote Predation Management
- OHA/ODFW Pheasant Hunt and Skeet Shoot

