

BRIEFLY

New carpet will close library for two weeks

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Public Library will be closed for two weeks in May while the city installs new carpet.

The library will be closed from May 6 to May 19, according to a post on the library's Facebook page.

Due dates that fall within those two weeks will be extended to May 22. Although the library prefers books to be returned before or after the closure, it will still accept books at the outside return drop, which will be emptied daily.

The Pendleton City Council is set to approve a \$49,994 bid from Soft-Step Interiors to provide the new carpeting, the last new carpet having been installed in 1996.

According to a report from facilities manager Glenn Graham, the new carpet will solve the safety hazard problems caused by curling and bulging in the carpet. The new carpet is composed of 24 inches by 24 inches commercial carpet squares that will allow for easy replacement of damaged sections by maintenance staff.

Umatilla County budget under review this week

PENDLETON — Umatilla County's budget gets the once-over this week. The county's budget committee holds public meetings to review and discuss the budget starting Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in room 130 at the county courthouse, 416 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton.

County Commissioner George Murdock, who oversees the county budget process, said in a written statement the county cut total employees from 317 to 307 to help cover a \$1.7 million shortfall and produce a balanced budget.

The committee will consider an overall budget proposal of about \$74 million with almost \$28.5 million for discretionary general fund spending. Murdock said the county lost half a million dollars from the general fund to cover retired employees, and next year's budget faces a similar hit.

While the committee can make changes to the county budget, Murdock said the plan the group sees this week matches revenue and expenditures.

The budget committee plans to meet through Thursday afternoon but could adjourn earlier or go into Friday, depending on how swift the review is.

City announces budget meetings

PENDLETON — The city of Pendleton will release its 2017-2018 budget proposal this week and begin

formally discussing it next week.

The city notice announced that the proposal can be viewed in person at city hall or online at the city website beginning Wednesday.

The budget committee will start meeting to deliberate the budget and accept public comment on April 27 at 6 p.m. If necessary, the committee will also meet on May 2, May 4 and May 5 at 7 a.m.

The committee will also discuss the budget proposal for the Pendleton Development Commission, the governing body that oversees the urban renewal district.

The budget document will be publicly available Friday and will be discussed May 4 at 7 a.m.

All budget meetings will be held at the Vert Little Theater in the Pendleton City Hall complex, which can be accessed from Southwest Fourth Street.

The budget committee is composed of the mayor and the members of the Pendleton City Council in addition to nine community members.

Although the committee will discuss the budgets and make a recommendation to the city council, the council has final approval over the budget.

The new fiscal year starts July 1.

WW.Friends meet for food, fellowship

PENDLETON — All area widows and widowers are invited to a Tostada Feed.

WW.Friends will meet Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at 511 N.W. Despain Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission charge.

The group meets each month for friendship and to share positive experiences. It's not a grief support group.

For more information, call 541-276-4708 or 541-969-2450.

UMATILLA

Memories of fallen airman Austin Bieren shared at service

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Sergeant Austin Bieren was honored Saturday at a memorial service at Umatilla High School, the school where he graduated seven years ago.

Bieren, 25, an airman for the U.S. Air Force, died March 28 in Syria, in a non-combat related incident of natural causes. He was there as part of Operation Inherent Resolve against the terrorist group ISIS.

According to Rose Gudex, a public affairs officer with the Petersen Air Force Base where Bieren was stationed, Bieren collapsed while exercising, and was given immediate medical care but died before he could be medically evacuated.

Saturday's service was packed with Bieren's family and friends, some of whom got up at the end of the service to share memories about him.

Tracy Finck, Bieren's mother, recalled her close relationship with her son.

"Austin and I talked all the time," she said. "If he was down, I'd send him quotes. I just wanted to make sure he was happy."

Finck read out a list of the medals and honors her son received during his service, and spoke about how proud he was to serve in the military.

"He was an amazing young man," she said. "He always put his best foot forward. I can't be prouder of who he was or who he became."

Mike Mosher, Bieren's high school football coach, spoke about his former



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Two servicemen, carrying a flag and the ashes of Sgt. Austin Bieren, lead Bieren's family into the Umatilla High School gym for his memorial service Saturday.

"He said he wanted to be part of something greater than himself, something elite. That's who he was."

— Mike Mosher, Bieren's high school football coach



Bieren

student and friend's competitive nature and mischievous personality.

"As you got to know him, he opened up," Mosher said. "And once he trusted you, he'd do anything for you — but you had to earn his trust." Mosher said Bieren had considered playing college football, but recalled when he told his coach that he'd changed his mind.

"He said he wanted to be part of something greater than himself, something

elite," Mosher said. "That's who he was."

Bieren's grandmother also spoke at the service, noting that the last time she spoke to her grandson, he asked her to pray for him.

"If I live to be 100, nothing will ever make me happier than that," she said.

Other family members and friends spoke about fun times they'd had with Bieren, and most mentioned his penchant for mischief when he was younger.

One friend that grew up with Bieren recalled with a laugh the time they torched a bale of hay with fireworks — but all noted how responsible Bieren grew up to be.

"I got to see a troublemaker turn into a hero, and I couldn't ask for a better friend," she said.

Bieren's family also put together a slide show, which showcased Bieren's happy times. The slide show highlighted Bieren's love of sports, his adoration of his nephew Jaren, whom his mother called "his pride and joy," and his love for his wife, Rachel.

At the end of the ceremony, Cameron Smith, director of the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs, presented Bieren's mother, his wife, his sister Brianne and his father John with flags to honor Bieren.

EASTERN OREGON FORUM *Presents*

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BMCC), 2411 NW CARDEN, PENDLETON, OR.
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"ON WITH THE SHOW!" A HISTORY OF HAPPY CANYON (BMCC ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL WEEK)

FEATURING: BECKY FLETCHER WAGGONER, BOBBIE CONNER & EMILE HOLEMAN

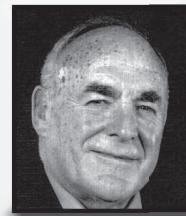
THE COST IS FREE TO MEMBERS AND STUDENTS; FOR ALL OTHERS THE COST IS \$6.00 AT THE DOOR

Becky Fletcher Waggoner of Pilot Rock, is a fourth generation Happy Canyon Show participant and Round-Up volunteer and a fifth generation resident of Umatilla County. Besides cattle ranching Becky works part-time for Mautz & O'Hanlon, LLP. Becky began volunteering in the Happy Canyon show at the age of three, coming out of the trunk. She has played several roles in the show over the years including an emigrant and for the last 17 years, she has been honored to play the part of the nurse in the Doctor Act. Becky currently serves as the Show Director for Happy Canyon in its 103rd year. Out of her love of the show and its colorful history, Becky began a quest to see Happy Canyon's story preserved and to honor a century of people who have volunteered. After many years of research, document and photo collection, Becky recently authored Happy Canyon: A History of the World's Most Unique Indian Pageant and Wild West Show. Becky and her husband, Allen, former Happy Canyon Show Director and President, have three children, Kyle, Kaleigh and Riley—all fifth generation Happy Canyon volunteers and actors. On with the show!



Bobbie Conner is the director of Tamástslikt (Tah-mahst-slickt) Cultural Institute, the 45,000 square foot tribally-owned museum on the Umatilla Reservation. The Institute has three goals: to preserve the Tribes' culture, to accurately present the Tribes' history, and, to contribute to the tribal economy. The homelands of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla have long been an intersection for trade, adventure and migration. Three historic trails traverse the Tribes' aboriginal lands — the Oregon Trail, the Lewis & Clark Trail, and the Whitman Mission route — while a fourth, the nearby Nez Perce National Trail, signals the shared histories of Cayuse and Nez Perce. This crossroads provides a great location for a new migration — tourists — who visit Tamástslikt and Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Prior to moving home, Bobbie worked 13 years for the U. S. Small Business Administration. She began her federal career as a Presidential Management Intern. Before that she provided technical assistance to federal Indian education programs in the Northwest for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. She currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation and the American Association of Museums and on the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the American Indian. Bobbie served as Vice President of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Board of Directors and as a leader of its Circle of Tribal Advisors. Bobbie is Cayuse, Umatilla and Nez Perce and a member of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. She is a graduate of Pendleton High School, the University of Oregon, and Willamette University's Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

Emile Holeman was born, raised, and lived his entire life in Pendleton, Oregon, with the exception of his college years at the University of Oregon in the late 1940's and early 50's. As a young boy, Emile was in the Happy Canyon Show, playing the son of an Indian Chief who was shot and fell into the waterfall, and one of the Chinese laundry men, who also fell into the water! Emile spent 8 years in the 1960's on the Happy Canyon board as the Ticket Director. He was Happy Canyon President in 1970-71 when Pendleton District Attorney Joe Smith called for a gambling ban at Happy Canyon. The ban lasted one year, during which time the Happy Canyon board took the issue before the Oregon legislature who ruled "social gambling" at Happy Canyon allowable by law. Emile owned Doug and Emile's Texaco for 33 years in Pendleton, and served 4 terms as Umatilla County Commissioner from 1991 to 2006. He was married for 60 years to Betty Lou Holeman, who loved Native American history, and they had four children. Emile is the oldest living past Happy Canyon President.



For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.

The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College, InterMountain Education Service District; the East Oregonian; American Association of University Women; and Harriet Isom; a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College's annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to www.bluecc.edu.

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