

EOTEC 'wall of honor' approved

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The wall recognizing donors and contributors to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center will be 40 feet long and 6 feet tall, the board decided Friday.

"It's a huge recognition of our community and how they stepped up," fundraising committee member Nate Rivera told the board.

The design he presented required 30 feet to fit all of the plaques, but board members agreed they needed to add an extra 10 feet to keep space available for donors to future phases of the project.

The wall will be located outdoors and plaques will be manufactured by the same company that did the donor wall at Hermiston's Kennison Field. Rivera said the event center, barns and rodeo arena will also include a plaque listing contractors and subcontractors who worked on them.

The wall design Rivera presented listed members of the EOTEC board, city council and county commission from when construction of the event center began, but board members said former board members like Chet Prior and Dennis Doherty also deserved recognition. They also doubled-checked with Rivera that there was recognition for people like Rep. Greg Smith, who helped



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Cement work around the rodeo arena at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center continued Friday.

bring millions of dollars of state funds to the project, and George Anderson, who provided pro bono legal work and wrote the very first donation check EOTEC cashed.

During Friday's meeting contractors Carl Hendon of Hendon Construction and John Eckhardt of Knerr Construction said work continues to move along on the project. Board member Dan Dorran said he has fun spotting new things that have gone in every time he visits the site.

Hermiston finance director

Amy Palmer reported that 51 events have been held at EOTEC from the beginning of the fiscal year through the end of March, generating \$43,800 in event revenue, and events planned through the rest of the year should bring that total to \$69,400. Event expenses have come in at \$9,300 so far, she said, "so there's a fair amount of profit there."

During a city council meeting Monday, answering a previous request from city councilors, Palmer said the city has contributed about \$2 million so far to EOTEC in

the form of in-kind expenses, starting with a donation of land valued at \$1 million and including infrastructure and staff time.

The EOTEC board approved a \$5,000 grant to the Umatilla County Fair on Friday for marketing purposes, using Tourism Promotion Assessment funds gathered from the hoteliers. Vijay Patel, who represents the hoteliers on the board, suggested that the board ask hoteliers to provide an estimate after the 2017 fair of how many rooms were filled as a direct result of the event.

EOTEC: Road name change would hinder neighboring businesses

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be an "absolute nightmare" for his business.

"I'm 100 percent against it," he said.

He said Gary Culp Machine and his secondary business Gear Tec, which manufactures and sells tool kits nationally, would be hurt when mail from customers and suppliers was lost in the confusion. There would also be a cost for updating everything from legal paperwork to advertising.

During a public hearing before the county commission on Wednesday, Culp recommended that the city instead change Airport Way to Municipal Airport Way, and commissioner Bill Elfering said that was one option the county could bring to the city before making a final decision.

Others testified they would go through similar expense and inconvenience, and presented the commission with a petition with 34 signatures, representing 17 addresses on Airport Way. The language of the petition also stated that there is "no system of checks and balances" on EOTEC since the project's partners are the city and county and they are the ones making decisions about things like renaming Airport Road.

Chris Waive, a resident of Airport Road who estimated he lives about half a mile from EOTEC, said the clearest example of the city and county's conflict of interest on EOTEC is with noise complaints.

He said the pounding bass from weddings, quinceañeras and other parties held at EOTEC on a regular basis can be heard from inside his home. The noise used to go as late as 2 a.m., he claimed, as people technically stopped their events at midnight but played music during "cleanup." After frequent complaints, the noise usually stops at midnight now, Waive said, but it still disrupts neighbors' way of life.

"The neighbors don't feel midnight is a reasonable time," he said. "We don't go to bed at midnight. We have to sit there and listen to the bass going boom boom boom while trying to sleep."

When Waive complained about the noise, however, he was told by the city that since his residence was outside the city limits the city's noise ordinance did not apply to his complaints. He was then told by the county that since EOTEC is inside the city limits the county had no authority to enforce its noise ordinance on events at EOTEC.

He also said that neighbors end up acting as "hall monitors for EOTEC" as party-goers sometimes park along Airport Road or on private property after events, "getting high or getting busy" in their

vehicles.

Richard Misener, another neighbor, echoed complaints about the noise level during events and said he was frustrated by the lack of recourse.

"They think they're exempt from their own city ordinance," he said.

Smith acknowledged that neighbors were in a legal "no-man's land" the way the city and county's noise ordinances were written, but said the city had tried to be responsive.

"We have been trying to be conscious of that concern and make sure things get shut down at midnight," Smith said.

He said recently after a neighbor called dispatch to complain about the noise, a Hermiston police officer headed to EOTEC to see if he needed to tell event-goers to quiet down. He said, however, that the officer reported that he could "barely hear" the noise while standing in the parking lot.

Smith said Rotary Club is donating trees to the project and as those trees grow they should help provide a natural buffer for noise.

Planting trees was one of the suggestions made by neighbors, but another suggestion — that events shut down at 10 p.m. — Smith said would be more difficult.

"People don't want their event to end at 10 and so they would go somewhere else," he said.

Another complaint from neighbors has been a lack of communication. Mariah Murray said her family came home one day to see their fence and trees along the fenceline gone. She said someone at the county told the family that they had re-surveyed the property and found that the fence was actually on EOTEC property. Later, she said, they discovered more trees had been removed to make way for new power lines running to EOTEC.

"We do not have a problem with change," she wrote in an email. "It is inevitable. We are willing to coexist. But there has to be communication and they can not just waltz in and take what they want."

Smith acknowledged that there had been a "miscommunication" with the Murrays and also that the fence could have been restored more quickly than it was.

He said that the city, county and EOTEC board understand that living next to an event center instead of an empty field is a hard adjustment for neighbors. They are striving to improve their communication with neighbors, he said, which is why they went door to door and invited them to a meeting in March to air all of their concerns. He said the board is working to find solutions for concerns voiced at the meeting.

Budget proposal promises investment, new revenue from UAS, marijuana

East Oregonian

Following years of cutting back Pendleton city government, local officials are ready to reinvest in the city.

City manager Robb Corbett said the city's budgets are trending up, and the recently released 2017-2018 budget proposal continues that trend. It would boost the total budget to \$74.6 million from \$61.5 million budgeted for the current fiscal year.

Most of the increase is tied to the \$10 million fire bond on the ballot. If that measure doesn't pass May 16, the city will remove it from the proposal before the council adopts the budget June 6. But there are new expenditures in there, too.

Thanks in part to new fees and rate hikes, the city plans to spend \$1.8 million on road repairs and \$7 million for water utility improvements and replacement.

City facilities like the Vert, the Parks and Recreation office and the Pend-

2017-2018 Budget Proposal Summary

- Total Budget: \$74.6 million (21% increase)**
- Discretionary Budget: \$16.8 million (4% increase)**
- Highlights:**
 - **\$1.8 million in road repairs**
 - **An estimated doubling of UAS range revenue**
 - **\$628,000 in airport improvements**
 - **\$25,000 in estimated marijuana revenue**
 - **\$130,000 in police department repairs and vehicle acquisition**
 - **\$242,825 for parks and recreation department improvements, including new parks office roof**
 - **\$240,000 for city hall complex improvements**
 - **\$650,000 for a fire engine and a rescue vehicle**
 - **More than five additional part-time/reserve fire fighters**
 - **More than \$7 million for water utility improvements and repairs**
 - **\$58,100 for Pendleton Convention Center improvements**

leton Convention Center will also receive money for improvements.

For many of these projects, Corbett said the city has been able to use carry-over cash from the previous fiscal year to make headway in the city's significant facilities backlog.

The city is also expecting revenue from two new

industries, although the level of cautiousness varies when it comes to predicting the windfall.

As the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range attracts more business, the city is expecting airport revenues it derives from charges to services to nearly double from \$497,500 to \$974,550.

Two councilors to resign as new mayor picked

East Oregonian

Umatilla will gain a mayor but lose two city councilors on Tuesday.

The city council will hold interviews and choose between candidates Daren Dufloth and Lyle Smith during their regular city council meeting. Included in the meeting's agenda packet,

however, are resignation letters from council president Mary Dedrick and councilor David Lougee.

Smith is a former city councilor and a planning commission member who has lived in Umatilla for 15 years. Dufloth is a former city councilor and local business owner who has lived in the community for 19 years.

Both men are candidates to fill the remaining term of David Trott, who resigned in March.

Dedrick has been running council meetings in Trott's absence, but submitted a letter of resignation on April 13, effective at the adjournment of Tuesday's meeting.

"For personal reasons, I

feel that it is best for my well-being not (to) be involved with the city council anymore," she wrote.

Lougee submitted his letter of resignation on April 15, effective immediately, citing "on-going health and personal concerns."

The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday at city hall, 700 Sixth Street.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES OF PENDLETON, LLC

Dr. Stephanie Evans

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135 SE First Street, Pendleton

8 - 6 pm Mon - Thur

8 - 5 pm on Fri

Psychological Services of Pendleton LLC welcomes Dr. Stephanie Evans, Psy.D. Licensed Psychologist to our clinical staff. Dr. Evans completed her doctorate at the Washington School of Professional Psychology in 2014, her Psychology Internship at Monroe Correctional Complex in Washington State, and her Psychology Residency at Psychological Services of Pendleton LLC. Dr. Evans provides diagnosis and evidence-based treatments for both adult and adolescent issues, including anxiety, depression, relational challenges, and trauma. She is comfortable working with clients from a variety of cultural backgrounds, including members of the LGBTQ community. Her scope of practice includes evaluating competency, psychiatric diagnoses, behavior problems, and personality. She joins Drs. Terry Templeman, Connie Umphred, and Natalie Kollross at Psychological Services of Pendleton LLC.

5th Annual

Golf Classic

May 13, 2017

PENDLETON COUNTRY CLUB

Register: Brochures available at Pendleton Country Club 541-443-4653 & D.A. Davison & Co.

- Four person Scramble
- Check-in time: 12:30pm
- Shotgun start: 2:00pm
- Entry fee: \$95 per player (includes green fees, cart & dinner)

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All proceeds go to the **Kick'n Cancer New Beginnings "Spirit Program"**

SPECIAL AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE:

Wood pellet grill; 40 qt. camo cooler; Pendleton Woolen Mills Blanket from Tamastlikt Cultural Institute; Rounds of golf at Walla Walla Country Club, Apple Tree and Wine Valley Golf Club.