

UMATILLA: Taking applications for open positions

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about that, it wasn't reflected in their 5-0 vote.

On Tuesday the council was missing David Lougee, who resigned in April citing "personal and health reasons." Council president Mary Dedrick also stepped down at the end of the meeting.

Dedrick said the top thing that people always tell her the city needs is downtown revitalization, but she had seen "a lot of things I really had to think about."

"I find it hard to represent the community with so many

questions going unanswered and things taking so long," she said. "I just felt the thing the community elected me to do was out of my control. It wasn't getting done."

She said after a lot of thought she felt it was best to resign and focus on helping revitalize Umatilla through other channels.

The city is taking applications for both open positions, and will hold public interviews and fill both seats during their June 6 meeting.

During staff reports, city manager Russ Pelleberg said graduate students from Portland State University continue to

work on a downtown revitalization plan for the city, and held a "very successful" mixer to get to know local business owners, and were also making efforts to reach out to the city's Latino community.

He gave an update on the Downtown Discovery project he and councilor Mark Ribich have undertaken, and said they have met with several downtown business owners so far and received completed surveys from others. The project is focused on what downtown stakeholders' plans are for their businesses and properties, and how the city can help.

HAWTHORNE: Moved to the tech and trade center in January

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students would only know of the alternative program inside PHS.

Greenough also expressed concern of how a move out of the tech and trade center would be perceived by the public, especially after it's only been a few months since Hawthorne moved in.

The recent history of the alternative school, a program meant to help credit deficient students, includes several site relocations. The Hawthorne name is a vestige from the time when the alternative program was housed in the former Hawthorne Elementary School building, which closed as a K-5 school in 2002.

A few years after the Pendleton School District gained control of the alternative program in 2011, the district decided to renovate the 455 S.W. 13th St. into the Pend-

leton Early Learning Center, requiring Hawthorne move across the street to the old district offices in 2014.

Hawthorne moved to the tech and trade center in January, sharing space with the culinary program and other career technical education programs.

When the Pendleton School District used a part of a \$55 million bond to renovate West Hills Intermediate School into the tech and trades center, board chair Debbie McBee said most of the funding was meant to go toward improving the district's CTE offerings.

Moving the alternative program to Pendleton High School will also affect the latter's statistics — Yoshioka estimated that PHS would see a 5 to 10 percent drop in its graduation rate.

Hawthorne has long struggled to keep up with state graduate rates, although Greenough said the 14 students who are

graduating this year represent a "huge number" in the school with an enrollment of 45.

Despite the progress, Greenough said attendance remains an issue for the school. When asked the top reason the district should make the move, Yoshioka said it would better integrate Hawthorne students into the main high school situation and offer a truer reflection of Pendleton's academic performance.

"My feeling is that a Pendleton School District student is a Pendleton School District student regardless of the institution they're attending," he said. "All of those kids at the alt school are all at one time a Pendleton High School student. Whether they have separate IDs or separate report card or not, they are our responsibility."

The board is currently scheduled to vote on the reconfigured alt school program at a meeting Monday.

SMITH: Lost to Merkley in 2008 Senate race

Continued from 1A

Feb. 17 listed CNN and NBC, along with *The New York Times*, as "fake news media" that constitute the enemy. Later, a revised tweet added ABC and CBS.

Smith also quoted Leslie Moonves, the CBS chairman, as saying Trump has been good for television despite Trump's attacks. Trump's new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission is expected to pursue more deregulation.

In his current role, Smith said he has come to appreciate the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and the press contained in the First Amendment.

Despite technological challenges posed by the proliferation of new platforms and information sources, Smith said, "broadcast journalism becomes more important as our friends in the newspaper business continue to struggle in the digital age."

Unlike his early years out of the Senate, Smith said, "I am never asked any more: Do I miss it? I am asked only one question: Are you glad you are not there?" as the audience laughed.

As leader of an influential interest group on Capitol Hill who must deal with people from both parties, Smith was cautious about his observations of the current Washington, D.C., scene. For the first time since Smith was still a senator, there is a Republican in the White House and GOP majorities in Congress.

"You can distill it down to its essence: This was a 'change' election, and the demand for change was greater than the risk of electing Donald Trump," he said.

But he said Trump, like all presidents, face institutional constraints such as Congress and the courts — and economic and international developments that presidents have little control over.

"They run as though they are running for king," said Smith, whose father was an assistant agriculture secretary under President Dwight Eisenhower in the

1950s.

"They promise things they do not have the power to do. While presidents change, our constitutional architecture does not. So the presidency is an office that is always designed to disappoint."

"Our fathers blessed us with a government that was designed to be inefficient — and by the way, they are succeeding at it."

Smith also said partisan gridlock in Congress has worsened since he was in the Senate from 1996 through 2008.

In February 2006, a National Journal analysis placed Smith dead center in ideology among senators. Today, by most measures, the most conservative Democrat is still to the left of the most liberal Republican.

Smith said Congress now acts only in a national emergency, when both political parties feel pressured to do so, "or when the essentials have to be done to avert a government shutdown — but the big issues seem incapable of resolution."

Smith won the open Senate seat vacated by Republican Mark Hatfield in 1996.

He won re-election in 2002 but lost a close race in 2008 to Democrat Jeff Merkley, who still holds the seat.

"I certainly miss the people, I miss all of you, and I miss the importance of the issues that were before us," he said. "But I don't miss much of the dysfunction that was beginning to grip the city."

He became president of the broadcasters' group in 2009.

Smith was introduced by his former state director, Kerry Tymchuk, now executive director of the Oregon Historical Society.

Smith, who turns 65 later in May, stopped in Pendleton the previous day to visit Smith Frozen Foods, which remains a family company in nearby Weston.

He and his wife, Sharon, will soon observe their 43rd wedding anniversary. They have six grandchildren split among two daughters and a foster child they raised.

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