HERMISTON

Consul general talks U.S.-Mexico relations at Cinco de Mayo

East Oregonian

Francisco Maass Peña looked rather at home striding in Hermiston's Cinco de Mayo parade. It was all in a day's

Sunday marks 10 months since Peña stepped into the post of Mexico's consul general for Oregon. Saturday he donned the sash noting he was the parade's grand marshal. Jose Garcia, chair of Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee, and Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Hermiston city councilor, walked beside Peña as he led the parade the few blocks to Butte Park.

Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann, Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan and county commissioners Bill Elfering and George Murdock were key local luminaries who also participated in the celebration, which helped kick off the two-day celebration at Butte Park.

Hermiston Hispanic Advisory Committee member Mark Gomolski sent an invitation a few months ago asking Peña to come. Peña, gracious and diplomatic, said accepting provided him the opportunity to build more bridges with the local community.

The consul general handles vital services for around 400,000 Mexicans, from providing official documents, including passports, birth certificates and identification, to offering legal advice. The consulate's headquarters are in Portland, but the service area spans most of Oregon and three counties in southwest Washington (Oregon's most eastern counties fall under the Consulate of Mexico in Boise).

"As you can imagine, there's a lot of work," Peña said.

He talked up the office's "mobile consulate," which he said takes services right to migrant labor camps and rural parts of the state. And he said he is working toward increasing tourism between Oregon and Mexico.

Before taking on consul general, Peña worked for three years as Mexico's undersecretary of tourism. Plenty of people know about tourist hot spots like Cabo San Lucas and Cancun, he said, but Mexico has much more to offer. Likewise, he said, Mexican tourists would enjoy Oregon's natural beauty.

hospital

PENDLETON — A

man was struck by a Ford

According to Lt. Charles

Byram with the Pendleton

police, witnesses said

the man stepped into the

road. An ambulance took

the victim to St. Anthony

Hospital, Pendleton, but

neither he or the driver

were immediately identi-

Traffic was blocked on

Pendleton and Oregon

State Police responded, and

Teachers honored

HERMISTON — At

Monday's school board

meeting, the Hermiston

School District declared

Appreciation Week. The

parents and community

jobs.

work.

board encouraged students,

members to thank teachers

for their dedication to their

"Each of us can look

back in our lives to see the

influence of teachers who

shaped and molded us,'

District has about 314

including classroom

teachers, specialists,

licensed staff members,

said superintendent Fred

Maiocco. "Please take time

to recognize their incredible

The Hermiston School

May 8 through 12 as Teacher

the case remains open.

this week in

Hermiston

the road for about an hour.

sedan and taken to the

near Oxford Suites.



Francisco Maass Peña, Mexico's consul general for Oregon, speaks to a crowd gathered Saturday for the Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration at Butte Park.

But connectivity between Oregon and Mexico is a hurdle. Portland International Airport has one direct flight to Guadalajara. Peña said he wants to help find a way to have direct flights from Portland to Mexico City. The metropolis of 20 million is a hub, he said, for access to the rest of Mexico.

Peña took the main stage at Butte Park and delivered a short dedication in Spanish. After the events, he addressed the effects of the anti-immigrant climate in the U.S. on the consulate's work. He said there may be a culture of preparation emerging.

"I think this is an excellent moment for people to have their Mexican papers in order," he said, and to seek the consulate for help with "immigration diagnostics.'

'I'm sure there are a lot of people with real possibilities for immigration, but they don't know it," Peña said, and the consulate can help them explore those options.

Garcia of the advisory committee said the consulate's services are invaluable to the area's Hispanic population. The office really serves as a "consultant" to the Mexican community, he said, even working with families in distress when loved ones face deportation.

Garcia also said Peña's participation in the local Cinco de Mayo event acts as a sign of reassurance at a time of rising anti-immigration sentiment and actions.

Peña also said whatever difference the governments of Mexico and the U.S. have, the two countries remain allies with deep economic bonds. The Office of the United States Trade Representative estimated the nation's goods and services trade with Mexico totaled \$579.7 billion in 2016. "At the end," Peña said, "the links

between Mexico and the United States are so, so, so, so strong.'

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@ eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

includes ham, yams, baked

potato, vegetable and a

special cake provided by

Sun Terrace Hermiston. A

special invitation is extended

to residents in local assisted

living facilities. Thursday's

located at the old Umatilla

Starting Tuesday, May

16, meals will be held at the

Our Lady of Angels Catholic

Church parish hall, 565 W.

Hermiston Ave. The meals

are served each Tuesday and

The cost is \$4 for adults

and Meals on Wheels. It's free

for kids 10 and under. There

meal is at the current

Hermiston Senior Cen

435 W. Orchard Ave.,

County Fairgrounds.

Thursday at noon.

HERMISTON

Shooter in August confrontation sentenced to almost six years

East Oregonian

Eduardo Rodriguez Barriga, 26, was sentenced Monday to prison time and restitution fees to his victim, Daniel Carranza

Rodriguez was charged with in the second degree, and two counts of unlawful use of a firearm after an

August 24, 2016

Lemus.

incident. He has Rodriguez been sentenced

to 70 months in prison and three years postprison supervision, and is ordered to have no contact with the victim. Rodriguez will also have to pay \$1,407.20 to Lemus, and \$600 to the court — \$200 for each count.

In his hearing, Rodriguez admitted to firing a gun, the bullet from which hit Lemus in the leg. But he said he fired in self-defense, thinking he was in danger of being shot.

Rodriguez and Lemus, who had been childhood friends, had argued over a

woman that morning and had previously arguments but had not been on speaking terms for several years.

The morning of the incident, Rodriguez said girlfriend received a call from Lemus, after which Rodriguez told him not to

call her. The two then ended up at Butte Park, with their cars parked next to each other. Rodriguez said he thought Lemus was rolling down his window, and thought he had a gun, so he picked up a gun he had on the floor of his vehicle and fired without aiming.

Further investigations revealed that Lemus did not have a gun.

PENDLETON

Downtown association hires executive director

East Oregonian

In the span of about eight months, Molly Turner of the Pendleton Downtown Association has gone from intern to director.

According to a Saturday press release, the association has named Turner

its first executive director. University

Oregon graduate, association brought Turner to Pendleton as an intern from AmeriCorps Resource Assistance for Rural

Environments program in September, serving as the nonprofit's program manager.

"I am absolutely blown away by Pendleton," Turner said in a statement. "This area is gorgeous and I see a huge potential. I am eager to continue the work we have started and truly see an impact downtown."

Fred Bradbury, a downtown business owner and the president of the association, heaped praise on the nonprofit's only employee.

'Molly has been instrumental in creating new promotion events in the

raising, and assisting the Board and PDA Members as we move forward on a wide array of design and economic projects," he said. The association's oper-

Downtown Core, grant fund

ations are primarily funded through the Pendleton

Development Commission, a city governing board that oversees the urban renewal district.

Although Turner signed three-year contract, commission agreed to pay \$55,000 Turner's

and other operational costs for only one year while encouraging the association to find an alternative source of funding.

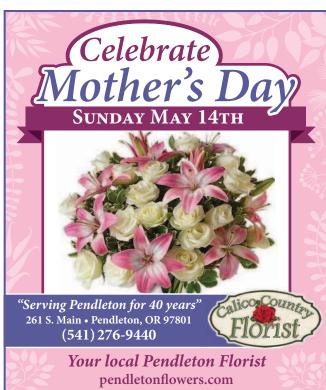
In an interview Monday, Turner said the association working identifying other sources of

funding. Turner will begin her new contract Aug. 1.

The Pendleton Downtown Association is a member of the Oregon Main Street program and a member organization dedicated to supporting the downtown area.

Submit information to: 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.





BRIEFLY

Pedestrian struck, taken to Pendleton hospital Monday afternoon on Southwest Court Avenue

Pendleton police Monday afternoon investigate a vehicle versus pedestrian collision at Southwest Court Avenue near Oxford Suites.

Barbara Ceniga to discuss Pioneer **Relief Nursery**

PENDLETON — Barbara Ceniga, executive director of Pioneer Relief Nursery, will share about the organization's mission at the upcoming Roundup Republican Women meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend the no-host luncheon gathering. The meeting is Thursday at 11:45 a.m. at the Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. The cost is \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members.

The relief nursery is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It provides families with support to help in creating safe and healthy environments to raise children.

Those planning to attend are asked to confirm by Wednesday morning. To RSVP, for more information or to submit questions for Ceniga, contact Marcia Stewart at rounduprepublicanwomen@ hushmail.com or 541-276-1206



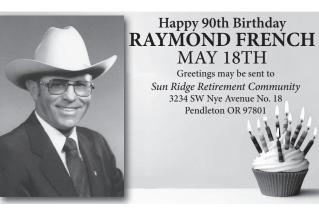
SUN CONTROL Sunesta 🧤

Senior center to change meal venue

HERMISTON — The last day for meals in the current Hermiston Senior Center is Thursday, which features a special Mother's Day meal.

The menu for Thursday







253 W. Hermiston Ave.