

HERMISTON

# City looks at pedestrian improvements

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

Hermiston has taken steps to improve pedestrian safety in the last few years, but more are needed.

The city has been looking at adding pedestrian crosswalks to a few streets that have proved problematic in the past, but the work will be contingent on a signal project that has now been delayed several months.

According to Oregon law any intersection, whether marked or unmarked, is a pedestrian crossing and drivers are required to stop. But in some heavy-traffic areas, drivers don't always do so.

"The Butte Park soccer fields are a real challenge, especially during soccer season," said Mark Morgan, Hermiston assistant city manager, of a heavily-traveled area near West Elm Avenue and Seventh Street. "The parking area gets crazy."

He added that Umatilla Electric Cooperative has been nice about letting people park at their facility, but they've expressed concern about the safety of those people crossing the road to get to the fields.

"UEC said they're fine with people parking there, but they wanted to see if there's a way to put in better crossing," Morgan said.

With a new signal costing

\$60,000, Morgan said the city began looking at alternatives.

There is currently a flashing crosswalk further down Elm Avenue, where people can cross to get to the hospital. But there is a nearby signal project in the works that would improve crossing at the intersection at Elm and 11th, both for pedestrians and vehicles turning on those roads.

"With the signal project at Elm and 11th, that would make the current hospital crossing superfluous," Morgan said. "So our thought process was, once we get that signal project done, then we can look at relocating the signal for pedestrians to the UEC area."

Morgan said the city hopes to repurpose the equipment from the old intersection and move it to the Butte Park area.

But that project will have to wait several months, as city officials will now have to push back the signal projects at Elm and 11th, and at Orchard and 11th.

"Those projects received no bids," Morgan said.

He said they will put the projects up for bid again in fall, but the projects will likely be pushed back at least six months, and along with it, the pedestrian work at Seventh Street and Elm Avenue.

There are a few other prominent problem areas near schools that the city is aware

of—but doesn't yet have the funds to fix.

One is the crossing at South First Street and Highland Avenue, in front of Hermiston High School.

"That's a challenge," Morgan said. "Short of making that a closed campus, there's not much we can do affordably."

He said the \$8.2 billion transportation package that's now going through the state legislature would offer some support if it passes.

"One of the top priorities would be to signalize First and Highland," he said. "Or at least a pedestrian stop sign to round up the kids. So we're very hopeful the transportation package comes through."

Another challenging area is at North First Place near West Standard Avenue. That area, Morgan said, has no real crosswalks, and children walking to school at Rocky Heights Elementary have to walk across railroad tracks. Similar problems exist on 10th Street between Diagonal Road and Elm Avenue, where students are trying to walk to Sandstone Middle School.

"There's no pedestrian facilities there," he said. "That's one we've known about for a long time."

Morgan said a solution to that problem might include widening 10th Street, but cost is an obstacle there too.

Chief Jason Edmiston echoed Morgan's concerns

about specific problem areas near schools.

"The safety of students to and from school is paramount," he said.

He also noted that there are specific rules drivers have to follow with regard to pedestrians. Any public intersection, whether it is marked or not, is a crosswalk, and drivers must stop for someone crossing. Mid-block crosswalks only exist if they are marked with white painted lines. If any part of a pedestrian's body, or a part of a person's wheelchair or cane, is in the crosswalk, they are crossing the road and drivers must stop.

Driver-pedestrian collisions are a problem throughout the state, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. From 2009 to 2013, an average of 798 pedestrians were injured and 52 were killed in motor vehicle crashes annually. A quarter of those pedestrians were struck while in a crosswalk, and the majority of those crashes were the result of the driver's failure to yield to a pedestrian.

The fines for violating driver-pedestrian rules are steep, too. If a driver fails to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, they may be fined more than \$250.

For more tips on driving laws related to pedestrians, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS>.

OBITUARIES

## Edwina Mary Vivian Sheeships George

Omak, Washington  
November 9, 1933 — June 15, 2017

Edwina "Midge" George passed away on June 15, 2017, in Omak, Wash. She was 83.

Edwina was born in Pendleton, Oregon, on November 9, 1933. Edwina was the daughter of Edward Sheeships and Betsy Cowapoo. She was raised in Mission, Oregon, just north of St. Andrews Church on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Edwina attended St. Joseph's School, Chemawa Indian School and Pendleton High School. While she attended Chemawa Indian School, she met Hank George, who later became her husband.

Their courtship was interrupted during the Korean War, where Hank served in the U.S. Army. In 1953, Hank returned to the states and in a civil ceremony in Toppenish, Wash., married his girlfriend, Edwina Sheeships. A few years later, after his service in the U.S. Army, they were formally married in a Catholic Church wedding ceremony at St. Mary's Mission. They settled in Omak, where they raised their nine children and numerous foster children.

Edwina is a member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Edwina was a full time loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. While small in stature, she was no doubt the matriarch of the family. Edwina was very passionate, loving and caring person to all who knew her and she was a friend to all who knew her.

Edwina and her husband

Hank had a passion for the outdoors and loved to watch their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in all their activities, and celebrate in their success or offer word of encouragement. In her younger days Edwina was an avid jitterbug dancer and later an avid bingo player. Edwina's stories of her youthful adventures were truly amazing, rich and full of laughter, and it was an experience we all treasured.

Edwina was preceded in death by her husband, her mother and father, her sister

Gladys "Macy" Saluskin and many childhood friends. Edwina is survived by her sons Gary (Kelly) of Pendleton, Henry 'Bobby' and Steve of Omak; daughters Elaine (Ken) Clark, Jeanne Miller, Brenda (Albert) Clark, Kim (Raymond) Gunn, Deanna (Tim) Sargent, and Wanda of Omak; grandchildren Jeremy, Jamie, Adrienne; Bryan, Sarah, Ashley; Joseph, Mari; Bradley; Henry, Rex, Brianne; Hank, Christopher; Stephanie, Tiffine; Jordan, Jade, Timmy, Faith; Quincy, Dillon, Megan; great grandchildren Layla, Zyrel, Kelton, Edwina, Rayen, Naloni, Kayla, Lawrence, Dominic, Chelsea, Saffire, Saylor, Jesse, James, Edward, Ivan, Baby Joe; Aiyanna, Madison and Little Brian.

We will dearly miss her loving touch, her gentle yet reassuring guidance and her quiet vocal support for our sons, daughters, grandkids achievements; and more importantly her love of her husband, their children and their grandchildren's children.



George

# Fire district to start community paramedic program

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Fire District #1 has gone through a lot of big changes in the past year. It will see a few more signs of growth in the next few months, with the addition of its community paramedic program and the construction of a training tower at its Westland Road station.

Community paramedic programs have shown up across the country in the last few years, said UCFD #1 Chief Scott Stanton.

"As Medicare and Medicaid costs soar, and chronic diseases continue to be problematic, we're looking at how do we better serve our people? How do we prevent ground-level falls, the over-use of ambulances?"

The program, which Stanton said will begin in July, will have paramedics partner up with community health workers to visit the homes of people they've been referred to by the hospital. They hope it will be a win-win situation: reduce the re-admission rate for people just released from the hospital, prevent those with chronic illnesses from doing things that might lead to unnecessary hospital visits

and decrease trips to the emergency room and use of the ambulances where they can be prevented.

"Someone with a knee replacement, someone with abdominal surgery," Stanton said. "The community paramedic will check their vitals, talk to the patient and make sure they understand what they need to do after surgery."

Julie Gregory, the director of education services at Good Shepherd Medical Center, worked closely with Stanton to get the program running.

She said the paramedics will conduct several tasks: a health assessment, a home assessment, and a look at the person's medications.

"Maybe they don't have the right foods and that's why they get readmitted for high blood pressure," Gregory said. "Or, do they understand what (medicines) they're supposed to be taking? Medication compliance is a big issue."

While the idea of a community paramedic program is not new, Gregory said there are some unique components to this one.

"We'll be able to do some lab work in the field," she said. "Analysis, chemistry panel, a 12-lead EKG. We'll

be able to report those findings back to their primary care doctor."

The other unique component, she said, is that paramedics will go out with a health worker from the hospital's ConneXions program, which connects people with community health resources.

Stanton said the program is currently funded by a grant of about \$78,000.

"I think it's going to be a huge program," Stanton said.

"We feel we'll be able to show a decrease in readmission to the hospital and decrease in high ER attendance," Gregory said. "We feel that ultimately, the program will show savings."

Gregory said if all goes well, they eventually hope to expand the program to all of Umatilla County.

The fire district will break ground on its new training tower on June 29, at Station 3 at 7876 Westland Road. The tower is a result of the bond passed for Blue Mountain Community College two years ago. The district started a fire science program at BMCC three years ago.

"The training tower goes hand-in-hand with that," Stanton said. He said the four-story tower will allow

for all types of training, from rappelling to working with different types of combustibles.

"We'll have the opportunity to do live fire training, spots where we can change the layout for search and rescue scenarios," Stanton said. "All this stuff, we can do in one place."

Stanton said previously, much of the department's training was spread out, and they used locations around Hermiston as they were available — but they simply weren't able to do some things.

"As far as four-story trainings, hose evolution, we didn't get to do that," he said. "This will add stuff we didn't get to work on before."

The ability to do all their training in one spot will benefit this fire district and those from surrounding areas, whom Stanton said can use the facility as well.

Stanton said BMCC is contributing about \$348,000 to the project, and UCFD, a little over \$400,000.

The work will be done by Mike Becker Construction from La Grande, and Stanton said he estimates the tower will be completed in September.

MEETINGS

**MONDAY, JUNE 19**  
**UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY HEAD START**, 11:30 a.m., Head Start office, 110 N.E. Fourth St., Hermiston. (Kerry Tassie 541-564-6878)

**ECHO SCHOOL DISTRICT**, 6 p.m., Echo Community School, 600 Gerone St., Echo. A budget meeting will be followed by the regular board meeting. (541-376-8436)

**HELIIX CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Helix City Hall, 119 Columbia St., Helix. (541-457-2521)

**PENDLETON YOUTH COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Intermountain ESD office, 2001 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-6711)

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20**  
**ATHENA CEMETERY DISTRICT**, 5:30 p.m., Athena City Hall, 215 S. Third St., Athena. (541-566-3862)

**IRRIGON CITY COUNCIL**, 6 p.m., Irrigon City Hall, 500 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

**PENDLETON DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-1811)

**MORROW COUNTY FAIR BOARD**, 6 p.m., SAGE Center,

101 Olson Road, Boardman. (Ann Jones 541-676-9474)

**UMATILLA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**, 6 p.m., USDA Service Center conference room, 1 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. (Kyle Waggoner 541-278-8049 ext. 138)

**PILOT ROCK CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock City Hall council chambers, 143 W. Main St., Pilot Rock. (541-443-2811)

**STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Stanfield City Hall council chambers, 160 S. Main St., Stanfield. (541-449-3831)

**PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall council chambers, 501 S.W. Em-

igrant Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0201)

**STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Stanfield City Hall council chambers, 160 S. Main St., Stanfield. (541-449-3831)

**EAST UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT**, 7 p.m., district office, 431 E. Main St., Athena. (541-566-3813)

**OREGON TRAIL LIBRARY DISTRICT**, 7 p.m., Oregon Trail Library District office, 200 S. Main St., Boardman. (541-481-3365)

**PILOT ROCK CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock City Hall council chambers, 143 W. Main St., Pilot Rock. (541-443-2811)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**  
**MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, 9 a.m., SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. (541-676-9061)

**BOARDMAN PLANNING COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Boardman City Hall, 200 City Center Circle, Boardman. (541-481-9252)

# OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services. Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at [www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform](http://www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform), by email to [obits@eastoregonian.com](mailto:obits@eastoregonian.com), by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

LOTTERY

**Thursday, June 15**  
**Lucky Lines**  
4-8-9-16-19-22-27-30  
Estimated jackpot: \$29,000  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 2-9-9-0  
4 p.m.: 8-8-1-8  
7 p.m.: 5-2-7-0  
10 p.m.: 7-4-1-7

**Friday, June 16**  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 0-0-4-4

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**OPENINGS FOR OPERATORS OF NEW RETAIL LIQUOR LOCATIONS**

OLCC is recruiting applicants for new retail liquor locations. The open recruitment process is a market-driven effort to improve customer convenience by expanding retail liquor locations with a measured, but consistent amount of growth.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is accepting applications and aiming to add new retail liquor locations in the following counties:

<b>Baker County</b>	<b>Grant County</b>	<b>Sherman County</b>	<b>Wasco County</b>
<b>Crook County</b>	<b>Hood River County</b>	<b>Umatilla County</b>	<b>Wheeler County</b>
<b>Deschutes County</b>	<b>Jefferson County</b>	<b>Union County</b>	
<b>Gilliam County</b>	<b>Morrow County</b>	<b>Wallowa County</b>	

Applicants are evaluated on background, knowledge and work experience in:

- Retail business management
- Inventory/cash management
- Retail sales and operation
- Customer service/public relations in a retail environment
- Financial ability to open and operate a retail liquor location

A detailed business plan will be required as part of the application process.

For additional information on open recruitment for new retail liquor locations and application information, visit: [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/LIQUORSTORES/Pages/liquorsalesoutlets\\_openrecruitment.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/LIQUORSTORES/Pages/liquorsalesoutlets_openrecruitment.aspx)

Questions can be directed to [OLCC.RetailServices@oregon.gov](mailto:OLCC.RetailServices@oregon.gov) or call 503-872-5020 (toll-free 1-800-426-2004, Dept # 62). Provide your name, email address and phone number. Applications can also be picked up at 9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222.

An application with a business plan must be received at OLCC's main office in Portland at the above address, by 5:00 PM, Monday, July 31st, 2017. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted. Additional open recruitments for these areas and others in the state may occur in the future.