

PENDLETON

First broken well back in operation

East Oregonian

Pendleton residents are still waiting for an official go-ahead to water their lawns again after the town's two largest water supply wells went out of service in the last week.

The wells at Stillman Park and Roy Raley Park failed within a few days of each other, putting the city at a shortage of about 4.6 million gallons of water per day.

The well in Stillman Park, which provides about two million gallons of water per day, stopped working due to a failure of rubber bushings.

Patterson said work on that well was completed on Friday, and the city was waiting on the results of a water quality test, which take 24 hours to come back.

He said the well should be in service again by Saturday afternoon. At this point, he said, residents should be able to go back to normal watering practices.

The cause of failure at the Roy Raley Park well was

unknown, but Patterson said crews would return to Pendleton on Monday to work on it. He said there was no current estimate for when that well would be repaired, but that a new pump would be installed.

"We won't know until we pull out and look at the condition of the column pipe," Patterson said.

On Friday, Patterson said water supply in the town was at about 5.5 million gallons per day, and thanked residents for their cooperation.

Patterson said the cost of the repairs wouldn't be fully known until the work at the Roy Raley well was done, but he estimated it would be somewhere between \$30,000

and \$50,000.

Along with residents, Pendleton parks made some adjustments to cope with the shortage. Parks Director Donnie Cook said on Wednesday that he had turned off the water on City Hall and Convention Center property that morning, and said he stopped watering Roy Raley on Thursday.

Cook said the water supply at all parks except for Roy Raley had been shut off to help with conservation efforts, and that some newly planted trees and plants on Frazer Avenue at Southwest Ninth Street continued to be watered.

BRIEFLY

Assault leads to drug arrest

BIGGS JUNCTION — Oregon State Police reported troopers investigating a Biggs Junction man for assault found a drug lab in his home.

Trevor Patrick Beers, 39, got into an argument Wednesday morning at the Pilot Travel Center near Biggs with truck driver Michael Brunette, 45, of Salem. State police reported that during the confrontation Beers struck Brunette across the face before leaving.

Witnesses identified Beers, and troopers responded to his residence outside Biggs Junction off the Biggs-Rufus Highway. State police reported troopers there saw evidence that Beers was involved in the manufacture and extraction of cannabinoids from marijuana into a concentrated form.

State police obtained a search warrant and arrested Beers inside his home without incident and booked him into the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities, The Dalles, on the following charges: unlawful manufacture of marijuana extract, two counts of felon in possession of a firearm, and harassment.

State police warned "these makeshift home labs are extremely dangerous and potentially deadly." While they can create a substance with four or five times the potency of a marijuana plant, the labs also have resulted in explosions in homes and apartments.

Morrow County man arrested for fraud, forgery

HEPPNER — A Heppner man was arrested Thursday by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office for several counts of forgery, identity theft, and fraud.

Kyler Dial, 28, was arrested for first-degree criminal mistreatment and nine counts of second degree forgery, identity theft, third-degree theft and fraud to obtain a signature. Dial was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

Senior Communications Deputy Kathryn Keely with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office said Dial was arrested by Officer Oscar Madrigal following several calls and complaints. Keely said Madrigal had been working on the case for a while, and that there were nine victims. Keely said she couldn't disclose whether the victims were individuals or businesses, but that Dial did not resist arrest.

Dial also has a case pending in the Umatilla County Circuit Court for first-degree theft and two counts of negotiating a bad check. He has pleaded not guilty on those charges, and has a hearing on Monday.

HERMISTON

Dan Dorrnan makes 20th fair his last

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN East Oregonian

Dan Dorrnan told the crowd at the Umatilla County Fair kickoff barbecue that this year would be his last on the fair board.

But he says he doesn't want to be honored for his 20 years on the Umatilla County Fair Board. In fact, he didn't even want to talk about it.

"It would take too long to talk about all of that," he said. Instead, he spent the days before his last fair as a board member doing what he's always done: putting the fair together.

Dorrnan's term on the board is set to expire, but he plans to continue serving on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board. He will also remain involved with Friends of the Fair and Rodeo, the fundraising arm supporting both organizations.

Dorrnan, a Hermiston native, said being on the fair board is not an honorary or ceremonial role. It's a hands-on, working board. "We work every day, all day long," he said.

Leading up to this year's fair at its new home, Dorrnan was busy. He showed a group of city councilors around the fairgrounds the day before it opened. He noted details that had been added this year and



Dan Dorrnan, left, talks to mutton buster Mason Mendenhall, 4, of Hermiston after his ride Friday before the start of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

said hello to vendors who were new to the Umatilla County Fair. He pointed out things that needed to be fixed.

"A couple things we've done differently," he said, driving the group by the concert stage where a new musical act will perform each night. "We've opened up the concert area a lot more. You'll be able to see clear across the grounds to the concert area."

He knew all about the food being sold at the fair, and the people selling it.

"Like Zach here, out of Arizona," he said, pointing to a young man who was working at Piggly's Barbecue. "Zach and

his dad travel the West Coast doing this. They've got a great product."

He stopped to say hello to a woman setting up a Hawaiian Teriyaki cart, also new to this year's fair.

"One thing about the fair folks," he said. "They're some of the most incredible partners we've dealt with. Everybody works together."

He added that in a partnership, it's OK to get frustrated.

"In a half-hour, I'm gonna get mad at all of them, because we're going to be so plugged up, we're not going to be able to get the rest of the folks in," he said, nodding at a vendor who

was busy plugging cords into an electrical outlet.

Dorrnan drove the councilors around the grounds with obvious pride in how the project has come together — but also with a realistic approach to the challenges ahead.

"The 'warts,'" he said, taking them to the back of the lot where several pieces of equipment from the old fairgrounds were stored. "This is where we spent our Christmas vacation, we moved everything from the old grounds."

Dorrnan was hesitant to talk about his own work in making the fair happen, noting all the people it takes to put on the event.

"It's not me," he said. "There's so many other people."

And of course, it's not goodbye to everything. He was still in the ring, dodging sheep and chasing after kids as the announcer of the Mutton Bustin' event at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo, a fan favorite.

"Some day, I'll tell the story of how I started doing that," he said.

Until then, he'll keep doing what he likes best — helping it all come together one more time.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4534

Corrections

Oscar Villegas, 27, of Milton-Freewater, could spend the rest of his life in a state hospital. The East Oregonian in the Aug. 11, 2017, story "Villegas pleads guilty but insane to murder" stated he would. That determination, however, is up to the Oregon Psychiatric Security Review Board. The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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Regional Cities and World Cities weather tables. Lists high/low temperatures and conditions for various cities like Astoria, Bend, Brookings, etc., and global cities like Beijing, Hong Kong, London, etc.

National Weather Today. Shows a map of the United States with weather systems, a national summary of showers and storms, and a table of national city weather forecasts.