

PENDLETON

Local construction firm to lead fire station project

East Oregonian

After choosing a Portland firm to design the city's new fire station, the Pendleton City Council selected the company a block away from city hall to handle construction.

At a workshop Tuesday, the council unanimously agreed to let staff enter into negotiations with McCormack Construction Co. of Pendleton to lead construction on the new station, the centerpiece of a \$10 million bond.

This is the first time the city is working under the "construction manager/general contractor" model of development, a process

where a contractor is hired during the design process rather than after. Instead of seeking the lowest bidder like other municipal construction projects, each bidder is mainly evaluated on their qualifications and experience. City staff said this process would save money by limiting the number of change orders during the project due to the cooperation between the design and construction firms.

According to a city staff report, the five businesses that sent proposals to the city were McCormack; Chervenell Construction of Kennewick; Gerding Builders of Corvallis; Kirby Nagelhout Construc-



Contributed image

This contributed image shows an aerial view of the proposed concept for the new Pendleton fire station.

tion, a Bend company with a Pendleton office; and Wright Brothers, The Building Company of Eagle, Idaho.

A selection team comprised of city staff and representatives from Portland design firm Mackenzie met four times between Oct. 25 and Nov. 7 to discuss and evaluate each company, but struggled to make a final decision between Kirby Nagelhout and McCormack after the pair rose to the top.

Ultimately, the team chose McCormack because its 3.5 percent construction manager fee was 0.1 percent lower than Kirby Nagelhout's. Its \$20,000 monthly estimate for managing and performing the project was lower than Kirby Nagelhout's \$38,000 per month estimate.

"We know that the money can be utilized elsewhere with the fire station and we intend to do that," said Public Works Director Bob Patterson.

Joseph Hull, McCormack's director of business development/operations, told the council that his company was "deeply honored" to build a fire station for "our beloved hometown."

The new station will replace the fire department's aging facility at 911 S.W. Court Ave. To be located at the old St. Anthony Hospital parking lot site on Southeast Court, the station is set to start construction in 2018 and see completion in 2019.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Minor injury in Highway 11 rollover

This crash Wednesday afternoon off Highway 11 about five miles north of Pendleton left one occupant with a minor injury, but she did not need an ambulance. A witness said the northbound Ford crossed the single yellow line into oncoming traffic, then the driver jerked the car back into the southbound lane, hit the shoulder and rolled in the field.

BRIEFLY



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Two vehicles were in a head-on collision at Southeast Fourth and Newport on Wednesday afternoon, redirecting traffic at Main Street and Southeast Newport for a short while.

Afternoon wreck shuts down traffic

HERMISTON — Two vehicles were involved in an accident at Southeast Fourth Street and Newport Avenue on Wednesday afternoon, causing a brief hiccup in traffic flow and blocking the section of Fourth Street between Main and Newport streets around 3:30 p.m.

One vehicle, a small pickup truck, was traveling south on Fourth Street and hit the other vehicle, a sedan, head-on. The sedan was in the wrong lane.

No information on injuries was immediately available.

Gail Nelson to take on county economic development and tourism

Gail Nelson is leaving the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce to become economic development and tourism coordinator for Umatilla County.

Nelson has been the chamber's executive director since 2011. Umatilla County Human Resources Director Jennifer Blake announced Wednesday that Nelson accepted the new position with the county.

Nelson said she does some economic development and tourism work in her role with the chamber, so the county job should be a fine fit.

"On some levels I think it can be similar," she said. "And it is a new challenge, too. I'm always looking to try something and challenge myself."

The county's hiring committee interviewed three candidates last week. Nelson won't start until Feb. 1. She said that is by design. This is a busy time of year for the Pendleton chamber, and she said that waiting until the second month of 2018 provides time for the board to search for and hire a new chamber director.

Nelson will work with Commissioner Bill Elfering, who heads up economic development for the county. Elfering said Nelson has the skills and abilities to "land her feet on the ground running." He said Nelson already is familiar with key economic needs for the area, such as workforce housing.



Nelson

Small Business Saturday asks shoppers to buy local

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is on the calendar once again for local businesses.

The national movement, which encourages people to shop at local small businesses for the holidays, trickled into Umatilla County a few years ago as downtown businesses in several cities began offering special deals on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce

director Debbie Pedro said she hasn't compiled a list of Hermiston businesses having sales that day, but if people check businesses' Facebook pages or just hit the stores on Saturday they should find plenty of shopping opportunities at places like Lucky Endz Gifts.

"I think a lot of our local businesses are participating in Small Business Saturday," Pedro said. "I know a lot of our downtown merchants are."

Pendleton Chamber of Commerce is currently asking local business owners to submit information

about their Small Business Saturday participation. The chamber plans to compile the list and put it on their website so that shoppers can know before they leave the house which stores will have sales.

Pedro said she received gift bags, posters and signs that chamber members will be able to pick up from the chamber offices to let customers know they are participating.

She said lots of chamber members are also jumping into the Black Friday frenzy by offering sales on the day after Thanksgiving.

"It's really exciting to

see some of the businesses ramping up for that," she said.

Pedro said whenever people choose to do their shopping for Christmas presents, buying local is always a way to support friends and neighbors.

"When you support your local businesses, you're supporting jobs, and you're supporting the opportunity to have great products available right here in the community," she said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

State spent \$260K for eclipse military backup

By CHRIS LEHMAN
Oregon Public Broadcasting

This summer's total eclipse of the sun in Oregon came with a price tag.

On Tuesday, the Oregon Military Department requested an extra \$260,724 for its current budget to pay for the costs of managing crowds during the Aug. 21 event.

The agency's deputy director, Dave Stuckey, told members of the Oregon Legislature's Ways and Means Committee that the bulk of money paid Oregon National Guard soldiers called into active duty.

"We activated 155 soldiers and Air Guard personnel," he said. The costs also included the use of military equipment. "Forty-eight Humvees, two Blackhawk helicopters, two Lakota helicopters," Stuckey said. "We wanted to be able to respond and help just in case."

In the months leading up to the eclipse, emergency management officials warned that huge crowds coming to Oregon would clog highways and stretch first responders to their limits. They said smaller communities in the path of the eclipse could face gas shortages, limited cellphone

reception and medical facilities stretched to their limits.

A worst-case scenario, officials warned, would be a sudden wildfire that would force tens of thousands of people to flee on rural, two-lane highways.

But those worse-case scenarios did not happen. Aside from a few traffic jams, the eclipse largely came and went uneventfully.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management is hoping to apply lessons

learned during eclipse preparations to better prepare for natural disasters that could occur in the state's future, such as a major earthquake or tsunami.

Lawmakers on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety gave a preliminary approval to the funding request from the Oregon Military Department. The final consideration of the request will come during the 2018 legislative session.

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The East Oregonian will not publish on
Thanksgiving Day
due to the postal holiday.

Look for your Holiday Edition on Wednesday, Nov. 22

- Home for the Holidays special section
- A guide to the upcoming Farm Fair
- Wednesday and Thursday comics, features, puzzles and TV listings
- **BLACK FRIDAY INSERTS:**
Big 5 Sporting Goods
Big Lots
Bi-Mart
D&B Supply
Harbor Freight Tools
Home Depot
Rite Aid
Sears
U.S. Cellular
Walgreens
Walmart