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PENDLETON City cuts \$2M in features from fire station

On track to break ground in May
By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton projects and equipment paid for by a \$10 million fire bond remain under budget, but cuts had to be made to keep it that way. Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo told the Pendleton City Council Tuesday that the fire station needed to cut \$2 million in features to stay on target.

In an interview after the meeting, Ciraulo explained that the cuts were the result of an updated construction cost estimate.

Under a previous fire department administration, officials estimated it would take \$7.7 million in construction costs to build a new fire station. The department operated under that estimate through the bond's successful May 2017 election, but the numbers changed once design firm Mackenzie and contractor McCormack Construction took an updated look on the costs. Their estimates now say it would take \$10 million to get the project built.

The fire department and its consultants then spent time eliminating features on the fire station design to bring the project back under budget.

"We have no other pot of money," Ciraulo said.

The cuts ranged from "niceties" that would have improved the aesthetics of the facility to features that would have improved service or the safety of personnel.

The fire department was planning to install folding doors — garage doors that open horizontally rather than vertically — because they open and close faster and have a longer lifespan. But they're more expensive than a traditional garage door, so they had to go.

Also gone was the department's plan to line the entire

See FIRE/8A

CSI: BMCC



From left: Maribel Marin, Michelle Ryan and Kate Allen investigate a crime scene during a pre-test lab exercise during a forensic science class on Tuesday at BMCC in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Students get hands-on lesson in forensics

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

In one episode of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," Captain Jim Brass shouts to investigator Gil Grissom. "Hey, look what I found: a knife with blood on it." Grissom answers deadpan. "Hey, look what I found," he said. "A dead guy."

About 25 newbie crime scene investigators combed through two faux murder scenes on Tuesday on the Blue Mountain Community College campus, looking for such evidence — plus a lot more. The CSI wannabes, entering their second week of Matt DeGarmo's forensic science class at the college, found a gruesome scene on a grassy hill near the school's softball field. A bald man (all right, a dummy) lay there, with four bullet holes riddling his body. In a second scene inside the



An evidence marker and a ruler mark a footprint at a crime scene during a pre-test lab exercise for the forensic science class Tuesday at BMCC in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

forensics classroom, a woman lay sprawled on the tile floor with a knife protruding from her chest. Knocked-over chairs gave

evidence of a struggle.

This was a pre-test. The students didn't know much yet except what they'd seen on TV.

"You're going to have to put all the pieces together," DeGarmo instructed. He grinned at them. "You've seen CSI," he said. "You can figure it out."

On the hillside, five students encircled the area with yellow crime scene tape. They donned blue surgical gloves and grabbed evidence bags. They stepped gingerly, looking for clues and placing evidence markers next to shell casings.

DeGarmo, instructor and program coordinator of the school's recently rebooted criminal justice program, advised them to patiently soak in the scene, assessing all evidence large and small.

"Move slowly in concentric circles from the outside," he said. "Be extremely observant and take baby steps."

See FORENSICS/8A

Hermiston fisherman sues after boat crash



A Hermiston sport fisherman has filed a lawsuit over a boat crash near Hammond in August. Clatsop County Sheriff's Office

Video of accident released on Tuesday

By JACK HEFFERNAN
EO Media Group

A Hermiston sport fisherman has filed a lawsuit after being rammed in a harrowing boat crash on the Columbia River near Hammond in August.

Bryan Maess, a patrol sergeant with the Hermiston Police Department, is suing the alleged driver of the boat — Marlin Lee Larsen — for \$372,500 after the boat he was on was slammed while trolling for Chinook salmon during the popular Buoy 10 fishery season. The lawsuit claims Larsen caused physical and emotional injury in his negligence prior to the crash.

Maess, Chris McMahon and Roni Durham were standing in a 20-foot Weldcraft about 8:30 a.m. near Tansy Point when they noticed a 31-foot Bayliner Trophy speeding toward them. After yelling at the boat and waving their hands, the trio leapt into the river seconds before the crash. The three were eventually pulled from the water and treated at Columbia Memorial Hospital, Astoria for minor injuries. Their boat was severely damaged.

The lawsuit alleges Larsen was traveling at an excessive speed, distracted and using his cellphone, and did not have one of the two other occupants of the vessel keep watch for surrounding boat traffic.

Maess sustained injuries to the right side of his body. He continues to wear a knee brace, his ankle still

See BOAT/8A

