

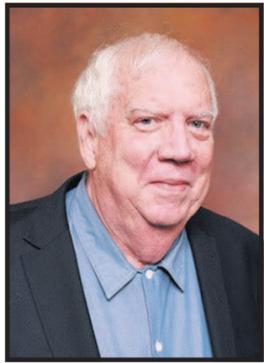
EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

142nd Year, No. 69

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



John Brenne

Longtime Pendleton councilor dies at 73

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Pendleton city councilor and senior citizen advocate John Brenne died Monday morning of cardiac arrest. He was 73.

Brenne's wife, Patricia, described his death as "a shock," but declined to make further statement.

A 40-year veteran of the city council, Brenne had already filed paperwork to run for an 11th term in the upcoming municipal election. He represented Ward 1 on the council, which covers a wide swath of central and east Pendleton that includes the downtown area, South Hill and Riverside.

A city statement on Brenne's death described him as a "fierce advocate for seniors and low-income citizens," a reputation he cultivated since he was first elected in 1978 at the age of 33.

The longtime executive director of Pendleton's Foster Grandparents program, Brenne supported creating a low-cost public transportation system for seniors. Other positions Brenne took during his campaign included increasing access for disabled citizens in public facilities, establishing a youth center and creating the Pendleton River Parkway — seven years before the first leg of the river walk was dedicated.

As news spread about his death Monday, Brenne's colleagues and contemporaries remembered the city council stalwart.

Phillip Houk served with Brenne for 23 years, first as a fellow member of the city council and then as mayor

See BRENNE/8A

HERMISTON

City to take over EOTEC



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The city of Hermiston and Umatilla County have decided to part ways in the management of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.

Council, commission vote unanimously to end partnership March 1

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston will become the sole owner of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on March 1 — if everything goes according to plan.

The city council and Umatilla County Commission each voted unanimously Monday night to negotiate a dissolution of the 2013 intergovernmental agreement that formed EOTEC as a 50/50 partnership and transfer full ownership to the city.

"This is a little scary, but this community has never backed down from a challenge," Mayor David Drotzmann said.

Under a proposal presented by Commissioner George Murdock, the city would take full ownership of and liability for EOTEC on March 1, in addition to taking on Ott Road and Airport Road that surround EOTEC. While the city would immediately be on the hook for any unanticipated costs such as a major maintenance problem,



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann lists the benefits of moving the Umatilla County Fair to the new site at EOTEC during a special joint meeting of the Hermiston City Council and the Umatilla County Commissioners on Monday in Hermiston.

the county would honor several commitments it has already made to the facility.

The county would continue paying \$75,000 toward operations

for five more years. It would also pay an additional \$85,175 in 2018 and \$75,399 in 2019 based on an

See EOTEC/8A

EOTEC proposal:

- City of Hermiston takes on full ownership of and liability for EOTEC in spring 2018
- City of Hermiston takes over the portions of Ott Road and Airport Road surrounding EOTEC
- City of Hermiston agrees to plan for storage facilities, office space and conference area for exclusive use by the Umatilla County Fair at EOTEC
- Umatilla County continues paying its annual contribution of \$75,000 through 2022
- Umatilla County pays \$105,000 of construction cost overruns
- Umatilla County pays \$595,000 toward proposed capital outlay for equipment, storage and other needed investments
- Umatilla County pays \$85,175 in 2018 and \$75,399 in 2019 to help cover initial losses predicted by VenuWorks
- Umatilla County Fair lease increases from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per year

PENDLETON

Women's march shares voice for change



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Between 350 and 400 people gathered in front of Pendleton City Hall Saturday for the Women's March in Pendleton.

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Tears streamed down the face of Lisa Ganuelas while waiting for the start of Saturday's Women's March on Pendleton.

Overwhelmed by emotion, Ganuelas said it's imperative that all people recognize that women are important and women are strong. Herself included.

The Mission woman is a proud single mom who has worked hard to raise her children. After serving for 17 years as the legislative coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, she now works construction.

"I watch this president," she said, referring to Donald Trump. "I'm ashamed."

The march coincided with the one-year anniversary of Trump's inauguration and women's marches that were held around the world last January — including one in Pendleton. About 400 people met outside the Pendleton City Hall/Library complex. After several speeches, participants marched to the courthouse steps where several others spoke. The group then continued marching around the corner up Main Street to Heritage Station Museum, where the event concluded with a group singalong.

Vickie Read, who helped organize the Pendleton march, said there were many reasons people participated in the nonpartisan event.

See MARCH/8A

