

PGG selling more surplus sites

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton Grain Growers’ latest move to sell its properties includes Dave’s 12th Street Food Mart and McKennon Station in Pendleton.

PGG on Friday in a written reported the “surplus properties are being developed or marketed as the co-op’s divestment strategy progresses.” PGG’s former central office in Pendleton, Feedville Road site and McKennon Station, home to the co-op’s seed manufacturing operation and other tenants, also made the list.

PGG property manager Brian Currin said while McKennon Station is for sale, the co-op continues to manage the property.

“That seed business is still churning out some products that people in this area are using, and we’re still operating business as usual there,” he said.

Pendleton Grain Growers is also “expanding its offerings into other forms of seed, including organics, edibles and pulse crops,” according to the company’s statement.

Currin said the company has high hopes for the Feedville Road location just south of the Hermiston, which covers more than 200 acres of heavy industrial land with rail access to the Union Pacific main line and to Interstate 82 and Interstate 84.

“We believe the Feedville property will offer potential national clients the opportunity to get started in the Hermiston market because of the location and size,” Currin said.

The Feedville property also has



The Pendleton Grain Growers is reported to be selling some of their existing properties including McKennon Station in Pendleton.

tenants. Currin said the leases are site specific, and what happens to them also depends on the buyer.

That’s the same situation as Dave’s 12th Street Food Mart, which has been operating at 220 S.W. 12th St., Pendleton, for several years.

“The property at Dave’s is subject to the lease we have with them,” Currin said. “And anything outside of that would have to be negotiated at the time, if and when someone decides to invest in that property.”

Toni Walters, Dave’s owner, did not immediately return a call Friday.

Currin also said PGG is working with real estate experts and marketers

to advertise and draw interest to the properties. He said the co-op sold its former store in Milton-Freewater, which went up for auction in late 2017.

He did not reveal the buyer or price.

PGG also reported it has plans this summer to market its Island City store, where the company ran its Precision Rain Irrigation business but now has several leases. And several smaller tracts in and around Hermiston, Pendleton and Milton-Freewater are for sale or undergoing improvements before they are sold.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

STANFIELD

Burton is new superintendent, starts Tuesday

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Stanfield School District will have a new superintendent next week, several months earlier than initially expected.

Beth Burton, current Stanfield Secondary School principal, was announced as the board’s pick to lead the district at a special meeting Friday. She will assume the role Tuesday.

School Board chair Scott Morris said he had a conversation with current superintendent Shelley Liscom, who in December submitted her intent to resign at the end of the school year. He said that because Burton was from within the district, board members felt it made sense to have her start now.

“I asked (Liscom) if that would work,” Morris said.

The board voted 4-0 (board member Elizabeth Sperr was absent for the decision) to have Burton assume the superintendent’s office on Tuesday and



Lacey Sharp, left, and Beth Burton at a special school board meeting Friday. Burton will assume the Stanfield Schools superintendent role Tuesday, several months earlier than planned. Burton is currently principal of Stanfield Secondary School.

place Liscom on paid leave from Tuesday until June 15, which was previously scheduled to be her last day with the district.

Morris said Liscom asked to have the district pick up her insurance for the next two years, which would cost around \$30,000. The board unanimously voted not to extend coverage past the

end of her employment with the district.

Morris said that for now, Burton will serve as both secondary school principal and superintendent, and the elementary school principal spot will remain open. He said assistant principal Lacey Sharp has already been taking on several of the elementary principal duties.

He said the board will now begin looking at filling those roles, but the timeline for doing so is unclear.

Some, including Sharp, had questions about how the transition would work. She also asked Morris how they would communicate the news to teachers, who had not yet been officially informed of the changes. They agreed that Burton, Sharp and Morris would have a brief meeting with teachers on Monday to tell them.

Burton was the only person from the district to apply. She was selected by the board, and by a screening committee that consisted of some teachers and a few community members.

Liscom had been at the district for four years, and resigned after several months of contention with the board.

Burton has been at Stanfield Secondary School for two years, and was previously the principal of Umatilla High School. She attended elementary and middle school in Athena-Weston.

PENDLETON

Council to mull \$150K contribution for BMCC arena

East Oregonian

On Tuesday, the Pendleton City Council will be asked to join an initial group of contributors to Blue Mountain Community College’s \$10-\$12 million indoor arena project on the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

At a Jan. 30 workshop, BMCC President Cam Preus asked the council to kick in \$150,000 toward the project. Although there was a mixed reaction among the council, members agreed to put it on

the next meeting agenda.

The Port of Umatilla and Umatilla County have already contributed \$150,000 each toward the project, but the bulk of the funding is coming from a \$5 million matching grant from the state.

All three entities had previously committed those amounts to apply for a state grant for the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range, but the grant wasn’t awarded to Pendleton.

Preus said the main

purpose of the facility is to provide classroom space to the animal science program and an arena to house the BMCC rodeo team, but the city could also see a benefit through the sporting and entertainment it brings to town during the cold weather months.

If the council agrees to help fund the project, City Manager Robb Corbett said the money would be a pulled

from a community development fund that’s comprised of proceeds from a land sale to Keystone RV.

According to report from Corbett to the council, the expenditure would leave the city with \$5.5 million left in the fund, which often goes toward UAS projects.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave.

Two still in hospital after Thursday crash

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Nine of the 11 people injured in a crash Thursday afternoon near Hermiston have been released from the hospital, according to Good Shepherd Medical Center and the church where some of the victims attend.

The van was carrying members of a Lewiston youth group and crashed while traveling toward Portland on Interstate 82. The driver, Largent Reeb, 28, attempted to cross several lanes of traffic in order to merge onto Interstate 84 and lost control of the van, which slid off the north shoulder of the exit ramp and rolled.

Reeb was cited by Oregon State Police for failure to drive within a lane.

According to the Oregon State Police crash report, two passengers were ejected, and five were trapped and had to be cut out of the vehicle. Nine were taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, and two were flown to Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland.

Other than Reeb, the passengers ranged from ages 14 to 20.

An employee of River

City Church in Lewiston said in a Facebook message to the EO that one of the victims was still in the ICU recovering from surgery, but said that in the interest of their members’ privacy, they could not comment further on the condition of those injured.

Nick Bejarano of Good Shepherd Hospital said that several of the youth, as well as Reeb, were brought to the emergency room with varying degrees of injuries. While they were being treated, he said, Good Shepherd staff set up a private space for families of the passengers, as well as passengers who did not have major injuries.

Reeb, who did not return a request for comment, posted on Facebook thanking Good Shepherd employees for their care.

“The staff and everyone here at Good Shepherd not only were so amazing at their jobs, they set up a whole conference room with food and drinks for all the families and other youth not injured and took such good care of our group medically but also beyond that,” Reeb wrote.

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

BRIEFLY

Gourmet burger restaurant coming to Pendleton

PENDLETON — The restaurant will specialize in hamburgers, but the co-owner of OMG Burger & Brew is adamant that her new Pendleton business isn’t an average burger joint.

With hopes to open in March, OMG will take the place of Pendleton Coffee Bean & Bistro at 241 S. Main Street.

Whether its grass-fed beef, free-range chicken, or fresh vegetables for their veggie burgers, Burt said OMG will focus on quality ingredients in its 15 varieties of burgers, which will be accompanied by a selection of local beers.

“We’re going to do a healthier version of ye old hamburger,” she said.

The dining area will be operated by Burt while the kitchen is managed by her husband Rodney. Although this is their first foray into owning a restaurant, the couple both have experience in the food service industry: Kimberly worked for 15 years at Sundown Grill & Bar-B-Q while Rodney was a food manager at Oxford Suites.

Burt said she intended to preserve some aspects of the old Pendleton Coffee Bean, like some of its

decor, the bar and the fire pit. Ahead of its targeted opening in March, Burt said building up the kitchen will be their main area of focus.

Town hall meeting features senior planning

IRRIGON — All area veterans and seniors are invited to attend a Town Hall meeting, which includes representatives from Legal Aid Services of Oregon.

The free gathering will feature information about wills, trusts, estate planning, bankruptcy and referrals to attorneys who can assist with specific needs. The meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 10 a.m. at the Irrigon branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, 490 N.E. Main St. To arrange for transportation, call 1-844-676-5667.

For more information or to RSVP, call Morrow County Veterans Services at 541-922-6420.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

Stacking the Odds Against Colorectal Cancer

Tuesday, February 6th | 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.
Good Shepherd Medical Center | Conference Center 2

Join us as the Tri-Cities Cancer Center, in partnership with Good Shepherd Medical Center, gives a presentation about the prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer, including steps you can take.

2nd Leading Cancer Killer

Prevention

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined. Colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. Learn how.

Risk Factors

Take Action

Who is at greatest risk and why? Learn about the steps you can take to prevent colorectal cancer or find it early. Early detection provides the best opportunity for life saving treatment.

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- Meal and Complimentary Beer
- Chance to Win
 - 1 of 5 \$100 in Auction Bucks Certificates
 - \$500 Cash Drawing
 - Heads/Tails Game with a chance to win \$500

Wednesday • February 21st

\$35 Per Person

DINNER: 5:30-7pm • AUCTION: 6:30pm
Pendleton Convention Center
Limited to first 500 tickets sold

Tickets available at Big John’s Pizza, Dean’s Pendleton Athletic, Dave’s Food Mart or board members. Must be 21 & over to attend.

Dean’s Pendleton Athletic • Wheatland Insurance • Andrew Bower MD • Eastern Or Orthopaedic Surgery & Fracture Clinic • Kelly Lumber Supply • Kruse Construction • McLaughlin Landscaping • Papa Murphy’s Pizza • Thews Sheet Metal • D.A. Davidson & Co.