

Pendleton councilors plow through snow removal discussion

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Forecasters may not see much accumulation from sporadic snowfall this week, but the Pendleton City Council took a look at the city’s snowstorm response nonetheless.

At a workshop Tuesday, Public Works Director Bob Patterson recapped a meeting he had with the rest of the public works staff on the city’s current snow removal practices and how they could be changed.

Among the council’s discussion is whether the city should start using a plow when it snows.

Patterson said the city

currently responds to significant snowfall with two trucks that drop gravel on the road to provide traction for drivers.

The city does own a plow, Patterson said, but it’s 25 years old and only received 20 hours of use.

Patterson showed the council statistics from the National Weather Services’ Pendleton station that showed that, with a few exceptions, most winters have only a few days where it snows more than two inches, the accumulation that spurs most plows into action.

While it may be a popular sentiment with some citizens, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Brown told the council that more people complained

the few times the city plowed the roads than when they don’t. Brown said residents complain during plows because the plow pushes snow onto their cars parked on the street, trapping the vehicles.

“Everybody thinks they want a plow until it happens,” he said.

One workaround to this problem would be to prohibit on-street parking in certain areas during the cold season.

Patterson said the public works department is interested in salting manholes to prevent the “iceberg formations” that form after snowstorms. The department could expand salt use to streets, but Patterson said salt is unpopular in some places it’s used because of the

damage it causes to vehicle undercarriages.

While he deferred to the council on how the city should prioritize snow removal, he said it wasn’t a budget priority for the public works department over other concerns like street maintenance and repair.

Patterson said the council could go to ballot box to ask for snow removal funding, but members didn’t spend much time discussing the proposal.

Public works department employees said some of the problems might lie with residential driving habits, like driving with bald tires, no chains or with a two-wheel drive.

“If you’re running around with bald tires in the winter

time, maybe your priorities aren’t straight,” Councilor Paul Chalmers said.

Chalmers said he personally chose to drive a pick-up truck with a four-wheel drive, although he admitted that some might consider that a luxury.

Chalmers asked if there was any consideration for an emergency bus voucher that people could use during winter storms.

When he was president of Blue Mountain Community College, Mayor John Turner said he used to see people walk up the hill to the college instead of driving during snowstorms, so he didn’t think Pendleton was big enough to need such a program.

Councilor Neil Brown said snow removal was one of the top issues constituents talk to him about. If not a fleet of plows, Brown said the city could have a plow or two and prioritize certain streets.

Councilor Scott Fairley said the last major snowstorm in December was a missed opportunity from the city to communicate to the public how it was dealing with the snow and why. Because of the lack of communication, Fairley said the city had lost some goodwill.

The debate could all be moot if longterm forecasts hold up. Patterson said forecasters anticipate Pendleton winters will have more rain and less snow in the future.

Let ‘er Buck with Round-Up degree

PENDLETON — For an inside look at what all is involved in putting on Pendleton Round-Up, people are invited to attend a series of classes.

Round-Up University kicks off Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 6-7 p.m. at Hamley’s Slickfork Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. There is no tuition fee. The sessions run weekly through March 21. A special meal can be purchased for \$10 and there is a no-host bar available.

Topics include background information about the Round-Up, including the importance of preserving its heritage, the event’s popularity and looking to the future. In addition, there will be a graduation ceremony.

The concept behind the university is to provide everyone an opportunity to learn more about Round-Up, including its reputation in reflecting the western lifestyle, its success and recognition for peers.

For more information, call 541-276-2553 or search Facebook.



Clayton Biglow of Clements, California, holds on to American Thumper during bareback riding at the 2017 Pendleton Round-Up. The public is invited to go behind the scenes during Round-Up University. The free classes start Feb. 21 at Hamley’s Slickfork Saloon.

Eagles announce sweetheart dance

PENDLETON — The public is invited to enjoy a night out with a prime rib dinner and dancing.

The Sweethearts Dinner and Dance is Saturday from 6-9 p.m. at the Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St. The cost is \$22 per person.

For more information, call 541-278-2828.

Garden club springs into season

PENDLETON — With spring just around the corner, the Dirt Dabblers Garden Club is resuming its regular schedule.

The upcoming meeting

is Monday, Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. Hosted by Jill Heffner and Judy Witte, the gathering will include a celebration of past presidents. People interested in gardening or club activities are invited to attend.

Membership dues are \$6. Contact Sue Stefancik at slafleur53@aol.com.

Stars shine at Heppner community awards night

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

A south Morrow County transplant was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award during the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town & County Community Awards.

With a theme of “An Evening with the Stars,” the spotlight also shined on Dick and Karen Temple, Dr. Ken Wenberg, Virginia “George” Nairns, Sarah Matheny and Sophie Grant. Held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, chamber executive director Sheryll Bates said they had record attendance with more than 235 people.

Born in Missouri in 1929, Bill Gentry’s family moved between the Midwest and Oregon six times during the Great Depression before finally settling in south Morrow County.

In addition to working for Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op for 44 years, Gentry and his trusty Kubota stayed busy with many area projects. He has volunteered with the Morrow County Fairgrounds, Heppner Masonic Cemetery, Willow Creek RV Park, Heppner High School track and the old Heppner Hotel to help make way for St. Patrick’s Senior Apartments. Also, tapping into his experience as a teenage boxer and Golden Gloves participant, Gentry helped with past boxing matches held during Wee Bit O’Ireland events.

Gentry and his wife, Pat, who died four years ago, were married for 62.

“She has a heart for service and the energy to make things happen.”

— **Melissa Lindsay**, speaking about woman of the year Virginia “George” Nairns

They have four children, 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

“I believe if you ask Dad what his greatest lifetime achievement is, he would tell you it is his family,” said his daughter Jackie Ansotegui during the award presentation. “He is very proud of all of us.”

•The Temples have operated a veterinary clinic for more than 30 years. In presenting the business of the year award, Sam Bellamy shared comments from nearly two dozen people who have benefited from the couple’s passion, generosity and loving concern.

In addition to mending family pets and livestock at all hours of the day and night, the Temples help with the fair and donate time to assist with 4-H, Heppner FFA and the high school’s agriculture department. Also, they donate spay and neutering services for feral cats and help in placing homeless animals.

•A general practice physician, Wenberg was recognized as the man of the year. In presenting the award, Ann and John Murray said in addition to providing medical care for more than 30 years, Wenberg and his late wife, Bonnie, raised six children and opened their home to count-

less foster children. Also, they “adopted” families to help ensure they had joyful Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

In addition to making house calls and saving dozens of lives, the Murrays said Wenberg connects with people — laughing and crying with both patients and co-workers.

•Receiving the woman of the year award, Nairns is said to be compassionate, energetic and enthusiastic. She spends her time helping others through church activities, community groups, as a hospice volunteer and numerous fundraising walks. On top of all that, Nairns pours her heart and soul into her work at Willow Creek Terrace assisted living facility.

“She has a heart for service and the energy to make things happen,” said Melissa Lindsay.

•Colleagues and former students use such words as “driven,” “devoted” and “contagious energy” to describe Matheny, a first grade teacher at Heppner Elementary School.

“I could not think of a

more deserving teacher,” said Melissa Coiner, head teacher, as she presented Matheny with the citizen-educator award. “Mrs. Matheny has a way of making people believe in their own abilities.”

•In presenting the outstanding youth award, Marcia Kemp and Jean Collins said in addition to being a three-sport athlete, Grant is a hard-working student and community volunteer.

A member of the National Honor Society, Grant is active in student government, job shadows at Pioneer Memorial Physical Therapy and holds down a part-time job.

—

Contact Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.

Are You Pendleton's Luckiest Leprechaun?

Find The First Clue

Read The Saturday Issue Of The East Oregonian, Feb 17th

Be the fastest to follow all clues before St. Patrick's Day and you may be able to discover a 'pot of gold' at the end of the rainbow and some other riches along the way.

\$200 Cash Prize Donated By Banner Bank

Please direct questions, concerns and leprechaun sightings to Molly Turner at the Pendleton Downtown Association (541) 304-3912 • downtown.pendleton@yahoo.com

Like the 'Pendleton Downtown Association' Facebook page for hints to help you along your way.

EARTHLINK INTERNET

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Enjoy big-time internet speeds without spending big bucks!

Get Connected for as low as \$14.95/mo.	Get Connected for as low as \$49.99/mo.
HyperLink™ High-Speed Internet Connection speeds up to 75 Mbps! *Not available in all areas. **Speeds may vary. ***Speeds may vary. ****Speeds may vary. *****Speeds may vary.	Satellite Internet What you get with High-Speed Satellite Internet: *Not available in all areas. **Speeds may vary. ***Speeds may vary. ****Speeds may vary. *****Speeds may vary.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER

855-977-9436

Authorized Dealer

EarthLink

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

2/15

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 2/21 • 12:00 PM

Ghost

Black Panther (Pg 13)
7:00 9:00

Fifty Shades Freed (R)
4:50 7:20 9:50

Peter Rabbit (PG)
4:30 7:00 9:20

The 15:17 To Paris (PG13)
4:40 7:10 9:30

Winchester (PG13)
4:20 6:40 9:10

Hostiles (R)
4:00

*** Matinee Pricing**
wildhorseresort.com
541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

Friday Meals

LENT

February 16th from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
@ the St. Anthony Hospital Blue Mountain Cafe

Cedar Wrapped Salmon - \$7.50/Adults - \$7.00/Children & Seniors
Baked Potato w/ Toppings & Vegetable of the day.

Clam Chowder Bread Bowl - \$4.25
Single Cup \$1.25

Hearth Pizza Station
Filled with Lent friendly Pizzas

CHI St. Anthony Hospital
2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton, OR 97801