

PENDLETON

Bike trails expand, get a new trailhead

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton Adventure Trails Recreation area offers riders and hikers 16 miles of trails.

Pendleton's newest park is starting to resemble an official recreation area.

Near the intersection of Airport Road and Northwest 56th Street, city crews are flattening ground to provide parking for the Pendleton Adventure Trails Recreational Area trailhead that leads to the mountain bike and hiking trails below.

Originally approved by the Pendleton City Council in 2016, the trails are a far cry from when they were first open to the public last February. At the time, the trails were still being developed and the entrance was accessed through an unmarked road toward the base of Airport Hill.

Shayne Myers, a former organizer for the Echo Red2Red Cross Country Mountain Bike Race, and

other bike enthusiasts expanded the course to its current 16-mile length. At the request of the city, the park moved its trailhead to accommodate a solar array.

Up near the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, chilling winds ripped across the rolling hills northeast

of town, but Myers and his friends didn't seem to mind. In the distance, the snow-capped foothills of the Blue Mountains loomed to the east.

As they prepared their descent onto the trails, Myers said the best part of the recreational area is that it was created by locals. While other

communities try to create bike trails, Pendleton was actually able to get it done.

While the park is on city property, the maintenance responsibilities fall to organizations like Pendleton on Wheels and other stakeholders in the trail.

Christine Guenther, president of Pendleton on Wheels, said the trail wasn't overly technical, making it something the average rider or hiker could enjoy.

Myers said the trails have hosted as much as 30 people at a time before with some riders coming from as far as Portland and Walla Walla to experience the trails.

As the finishing touches are applied to adventure trails this year, Myers said he would like them to host a bike race sometime in 2019.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

STANFIELD

Council to vote on adding student representative

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Stanfield's city council is looking to give youth in the community a bigger voice.

On Tuesday the council will vote on adding a student representative to council meetings. The student would not be a voting member of the council, but would attend council meetings and be asked to give input on the issues addressed.

"They will have a voice, and basically provide a youth perspective," City Manager Blair Larsen said.

He said the ordinance, as written, would give Stanfield Secondary School students control over who would represent them as part of their yearly student government elections.

Larsen said the idea came about when the city council discussed trying to get youth more involved in the community. Larsen discussed the idea with outgoing superintendent Shelley Liscom and new superintendent Beth Burton, and both were supportive.

He said because the council's current chambers on Coe Avenue are so small, the student would probably sit with staff for now. But if the council ever moved

to a bigger space as hoped, the student would likely be seated with the council.

On Tuesday the council will also consider adjusting its meeting schedule. Currently, the council meets the first Tuesday of every month, with a meeting on the third Tuesday added if needed. The change would make the third Tuesday the mandatory meeting instead, so that departments and committees could have more time to compile their monthly reports.

Larsen said the next few months should necessitate two meetings a month anyway, as the city has lots going on. He said they are excited about a new playground coming to Bard Park, and about a trail along the Stage Gulch that is currently being designed.

The trail would run along the gulch — the narrow waterway that runs through Bard Park — about a mile from Sherman Street to Edwards Road. Larsen said the timeline for the project is uncertain but he hopes the city might finish it by the end of the summer.

The Stanfield City Council meets Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the city council chambers, 150 W. Coe Ave.

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

Two local car theft defendants arrested in Georgia

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Two of three defendants facing charges in Morrow County in October for vehicle theft and more are in a jail in Georgia.

Buddy James Buoy, 42, and Julia Rachell Kraus, 37, both of Portland, ended up in the Houston County Detention Center in Perry, Georgia, on Feb. 8 after the Houston County Sheriff's Office and the Perry Police Department arrested them for theft by receiving stolen property. Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said his office is working on a nationwide warrant to extradite the pair to face local charges. But that is going to take a while because Houston County gets to deal with them first.

"They have the hold, so we can't supersede their hold," Nelson said.

According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and court records, Buoy, Kraus and Michelle Carol McLean, also of Portland, stole five newer model vehicles from two Washington dealers on Oct. 31. Police found three of the vehicles and caught McLean first in Boardman. Buoy and Kraus were driving two other vehicles and led officers on a high-speed chase that ended in southern Morrow County after they each crashed.

The Morrow County District Attorney's Office charged each with five counts of first-degree aggravated theft, and charged Buoy and Kraus with reckless driving, attempted fleeing and multiple counts of criminal mischief and trespassing. McLean also has one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

State court records show Kraus has open cases throughout Oregon, including in Umatilla County for fleeing police, and has multiple warrants.

Buoy, Kraus and McLean signed release agreements in December to get out of the Pendleton jail. According to those agreements, they could not have contact with each other or leave Oregon. Nelson said he did not know what led Buoy and Kraus to Georgia but speculated they may be involved in a larger criminal operation.

He also said the third defendant, McLean, has been making good on her release agreement, calling into the court and staying in treatment. Her next pretrial hearing is March

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

PILOT ROCK

City hires new recorder, must improve accounting

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock has hired a new Teri for the city recorder position.

Teri Porter has worked in the role since 2011 and is retiring at the end of April. The city council recently approved hiring Teri Bacus to take the job. Mayor Virginia Carnes said Bacus is a 22-year veteran of the U.S. Navy. Bacus is married, Carnes said, and has been splitting time between Pendleton and Baker City. Her husband, Harland Bacus, is also retired from the Navy, and they are moving to Pilot Rock.

Teri Bacus brings significant skills to the position, Carnes said, but the city will miss Teri Porter, who has been a constant in the

small town's governance and management. Carnes said the city is throwing her a retirement party April 22 at the Community Center.

The city also is dealing with demands to improve its accounting procedures. A recent audit found four procedural deficiencies, and the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division gave the city an action plan to follow, which includes requirements to establish better internal controls, keep better records and properly track the lagoon upgrade fund.

The city's three-member police department reported improvements in 2017.

The city in 2016 hired Bill Caldera from the Pendleton Police Department as police chief, and he set to work to find quality officers and make the department more

responsive to citizens. Carnes said Caldera's steady leadership and having two young, hardworking officers is making a positive difference.

According to police records, the department handled 589 more calls for service in 2017 than in 2016, an increase of 45 percent.

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
2/16 - 19
Cineplex Show Times
\$5 Classic Movie • 2/21 • 12:00 PM
Ghost
Black Panther (Pg 13)
1:00* 7:00 **ED** 4:00 10:00
Early Man (PG)
12:00* 2:10* 4:30 6:40 8:50
Peter Rabbit (PG)
11:40* 2:00* 4:20 6:50 9:00
15:17 To Paris (PG13)
12:10* 2:30* 4:40 7:10 9:30
Fifty Shades Freed (R)
11:50* 2:20* 4:50 7:20 9:50
* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
2/20
Cineplex Show Times
\$5 Classic Movie • 2/21 • 12:00 PM
Ghost
Black Panther (Pg 13)
7:00 **ED** 4:00 10:00
Early Man (PG)
4:30 6:40 8:50
Peter Rabbit (PG)
4:20 6:50 9:00
15:17 To Paris (PG13)
4:40 7:10 9:30
Fifty Shades Freed (R)
4:50 7:20 9:50
* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

HEPPNER

Woman stabbed by husband

East Oregonian

A Heppner woman was stabbed Friday morning.

Her husband, Matthew David May, 42, has been charged with attempted murder and is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. His bail has been set at \$250,000.

The victim, 44-year-old Lisa Gail May, was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Heppner, where she was treated and released. According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, the incident remains under investigation.



Matthew May

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
Interested in a Medical career?
Need funds to complete your training?
Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation medical scholarship applications are now being accepted from qualified local students through February 28th.
The Foundation is again pleased to partner with Tualatin Imaging to offer additional scholarships for students who have expressed interest in pursuing a diagnostic imaging career
Please call 541-667-3419 for further information
Applications can be accessed online at www.gshealth.org/foundation/scholarships

MCKAY CREEK ESTATES
Heart Happy
Celebrations™
A program promoting healthy fulfilled lifestyles
Paint & Sip
Sunday, February 18
2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Come join us at McKay Creek Estates for our monthly Paint & Sip activity. We provide all the materials you need to paint a fun painting. There will light refreshments, including wine and beer, as well as a variety of sodas and bottled water.
Cost: \$20 for non-residents. FREE for residents.
Please call (541) 276-1987 for more information or to RSVP. Spots are limited.
Sundays Featured Project!
McKay Creek Estates
1601 Southgate Place
Pendleton, OR 97801
Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.

Pot of Gold Hidden by Leprechaun
Treasure hunt is on
By MOLLY TURNER
Special to the East Oregonian
A benevolent sprite was reportedly seen hiding a pot of gold in downtown Pendleton late last night. Pendleton Downtown Association representatives Chris Sykes, Heather Lunny and Molly Turner claim to have seen the individual "scampering" down Main Street singing about clues and a pot of gold.
"It was the strangest thing," says PDA Executive Director Molly Turner. "He told us there was a pot of gold somewhere downtown, right before he disappeared into a huge cloud of gold glitter!"
"I'm still trying to get glitter out of my hair," said Chris Sykes.
"I have no idea how he disappeared like that!" exclaimed Banner Bank Branch Manager Heather Lunny.
It appears the sprite has created a treasure hunt for adventure seekers in Pendleton, with clues hidden at various downtown businesses and public places.
According to Sykes and Turner, the sprite claimed to have placed "a healthy number" of clues (roughly 20) around downtown Pendleton. They are all between Southeast 6th and Southwest 6th streets, and between the
Umatilla River and the railroad tracks.
He also claimed to have hidden a pot of gold with \$200 inside (donated by Banner Bank) at the end of his Lucky Leprechaun treasure hunt. Pendleton's luckiest leprechaun must find it by St. Patrick's Day (March 17).
The sprite was unavailable for additional comments.
Before he disappeared, both Sykes and Turner recalled the sprite reciting a poem in a Gaelic cadence:
Follow this first poem and a clue you will hold, Rainbows usually are near pots of gold. A stone in motion never gets green, And a higher rise has never been seen. Don't wait too long, lest you start to mold...
May the luckiest leprechaun win!
Contact Molly Turner at the Pendleton Downtown Association at downtown.pendleton@yahoo.com or 541-304-3912.