

PENDLETON

Former police station sold to Pioneer

Clearview sets sights on fire station once department moves out

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Southwest Court Avenue was a hot topic of discussion at the Pendleton City Council meeting Tuesday.

One organization bought a piece of Court property from the city, another was interested in acquiring a different municipal property on the street, and a third group was interested in the future development of the area.

The company that bought the Southwest Court property is well versed in how to close a real estate deal.

After briefly meeting behind closed doors to discuss the deal, the council unanimously agreed to sell the old Pendleton police station at 109 S.W. Court Ave. to Pioneer Title & Escrow.

City Attorney Nancy Kerns said the property was originally listed at \$200,000 before the city lowered its asking price to \$180,000. After a few rounds of negotiations, the city agreed to sell the property for \$150,000.

In an interview after the meeting, Pioneer Title owner Rod Parker said he planned to move his business' offices from their current location at 126 S.E. Court Ave. to the old police station.

Parker said the building was attractive to Pioneer Title because it included off-street parking and basement storage. He hopes to complete the move by Round-Up.

The Pendleton Police Department vacated the old station in 2010, which led the city to lease it to Umatilla County for alcohol and drug treatment before it too moved to a different facility.

The vacant building has been on the market since 2015, and although the city briefly agreed to lease it to a youth outreach organization, it backed out of the deal when multiple buyers showed interest.

As for Pioneer Title's current building, Parker intends to sell

See STATIONS/8A

Urgent care house call



Paramedic Jessica Marcum, center, listens to Ellen Minardi, right, while visiting on Tuesday at Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hermiston. Also photographed is community health worker Nazario Rivera.

Community paramedics prevent return visits to hospital

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Getting urgent health care doesn't always mean a trip to the hospital.

For those just getting back home and trying to recover, there's a simpler way. The Community Paramedic program helps patients with in-home procedures, and aims to reduce return visits to the emergency room.

Jessica Marcum of the Umatilla County Fire Department runs the community paramedic program, in conjunction with Good Shepherd Medical Center's community health program. She said the program gets referrals from the hospital, the fire department, and from local doctors.

"If they're concerned with someone falling, or haven't seen their patient in a while, they may be too busy to get to them that day," Marcum said. The program, free to patients, started in June of 2017, and is available to hospital patients throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties.

People recently released from the hospital can call any time they have a health concern. Paramedics will conduct home visits and perform simple tests, such as urinalysis, complete blood count and blood pressure checks. They will make sure a patient is taking

the right medicines.

"Forty percent or more of people on Medicare are not taking their medication correctly," Marcum said.

They assess the safety of a patient's home, and advise them on potential hazards such as slippery rugs or the need for hand rails.

Visits can be as frequent as patients see fit.

"It's kind of on a case-by-case basis," Marcum said. "Some people we'll see only once, and others we check in weekly for a month or so."

"They offered to come to my house and check on me, just to ensure I was doing OK and allay my fears if I had any," said Karin Gehlen, a Umatilla resident who had several hospital visits throughout the winter.

Gehlen said she doesn't use the service too often, but someone from the program will call and check on her from time to time.

Each patient will be seen by a paramedic and a community health worker from the hospital's ConneXions program.

They've been working with Ellen Minardi, a Hermiston resident who had been hospitalized for several bad falls, for close to a year.

Community paramedics will usually visit the patient at their home, but will also make visits to assisted living or care facilities, if that's where a patient is staying.

"We generally try to figure out what to do to get them back home," Marcum said.

Minardi is currently at Regency Hermiston. At a visit to Regency on Tuesday, Marcum and community health worker Nazario Rivera checked in with Minardi, asking her questions about how recovery is going, and how she's adjusted to living in an assisted facility.

Minardi said she's found the program useful, but had to get used to the idea of someone helping her with basic tasks.

"When I broke my pelvis, I was laying there actually thinking, how am I going to manage this situation?" she said. "It took a bit of talking for me to consider."

But she said now she's glad she accepted the help.

"They make it easier at times when it's going pretty bad in life," she said.

The ConneXions worker will put the patient in touch with community resources they might need.

"The main thing is primary care providers," said Rivera. "We help fill out housing applications. Food can be an issue, so we connect people with food banks, WIC, or DHS."

They may also help patients assess whether they need to move to an assisted care facility, or whether they need in-home care.

The community paramedics will also help refer patients to other services.

Virginia Salter, a patient who is being treated for myelodysplastic anemia, a condition that can progress to leukemia, has used the program once.

See CARE/8A

UMATILLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION

Candidates debate county policies, not its performance

Five vie for seats in May election

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

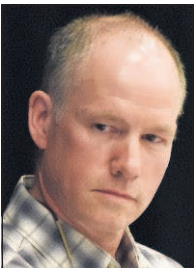
In the race for the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, issues have taken a back seat to the operation of county government itself.

The five candidates generally agree the county is on stable fiscal ground and the major concerns are economic development, housing or the need for more mental health and addiction services. Their differences tend to be in how

Position 1



George Murdock



Tom Bailor



Rick Pullen

Position 2



John Shafer



Larry Givens

they see the roles of commissioner.

George Murdock of Pendleton is seeking his second full four-year term this primary. Tom Bailor and Rick Pullen, also of Pend-

leton, aim to stop that. The pair have thrown some shots at Murdock, but more often they question what the board of county commissioners as a whole while not attacking each other.

Larry Givens of Umatilla is after a fourth term. Athena Mayor John Shafer, 911 supervisor for the county sheriff's office, is looking to unseat Givens and is not holding back on what he sees

Forum tonight

The candidates will speak at 6:30 tonight at the Pendleton High School auditorium.

as the incumbent's weakness of serving on multiple boards and lobbying groups. That experience happens to be what Givens touts to show he's working for the people of the county.

Position 1

Bailor is making a third go at county commissioner, and

See DEBATE/8A



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