



EAST OREGONIAN

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2018

142nd Year, No. 221 WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD \$1.50

PENDLETON New lab means forensic testing is here to stay

Oregon State Police building \$1.25 million facility with extra services

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The fight to keep the Oregon State Police crime lab in Pendleton is over.

Fortis Constriction Inc. of Portland began foundation work of the new lab at 612 Airport Road, directly south of the local state police command. The city of Pendleton on Aug. 31 issued Fortis a building permit for the foundation work of the 9,515-square-foot facility with a total value shy of \$1.25 million.

Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division operates labs in Bend, Central Point, Pendleton, Portland and Springfield, but the Pendleton lab has been on the state budget chopping block for years. The facilities at 405 S.E. Eighth St. are cramped, cannot handle all types of forensic work and have a gnat infestation.

State police in 2014 reported it was seeking a fully functional lab in Pendleton for the 2017-19 biennium. The conceptual plan for the new lab includes work space for physical evidence, fingerprint analysis and chemical work. The plan also calls for scientist offices and a vehicle bay. Pendleton permit technician Julie Chase emphasized those plans could change at this early stage.

State Sen. Bill Hansell of Athena helped lead the fight in the Legislature to keep the lab in Pendleton. State

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Joe Lewis of Spokane rides Canyon Moon Dancer while rehearsing for the Happy Canyon Night Show. Both Lewis and Dancer are new cast members of the night show, replacing the roles played by Bryson Bronson and Chinook.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

‘The Show’ must move on

After more than a century of performances, Happy Canyon continues to evolve

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The Happy Canyon Night Show began as a Vaudeville-esque Wild West performance more than 100 years ago.

The production evolved since that first show on Main Street in 1914, a brainchild of Pendleton’s Roy Raley. The local lawyer and cattleman thought people needed evening entertainment after each day of rodeo action at the Pendleton Round-Up. He penned the original script.

The Wild West show soon melded with another act that, with tribal members’ help, chronicled early American Indian life and the clash of cultures when white men arrived on the scene. Over the years, directors tweaked the action, script and music and interjected moments of shock and awe.

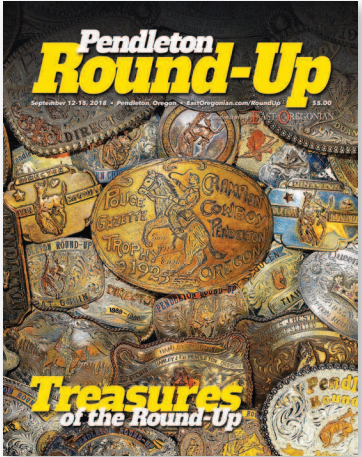


Director Becky Waggoner talks to the cast before the start of a dress rehearsal for the Happy Canyon Night Show.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Show director Becky Waggoner says this year’s production contains upgrades, additions and musical changes. Oregon’s official outdoor pageant, which starts its four-day annual run on

Wednesday, will look fresher and more streamlined, with specialty performers inserted into the action. A host of other changes are smaller, such as the blue light illuminating the swimming hole.

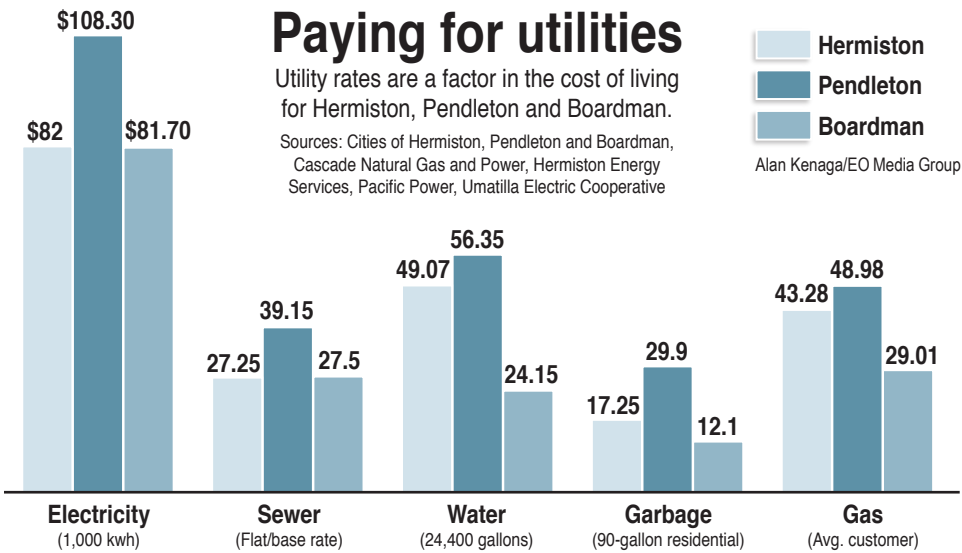


Inside
Your guide to the 2018 Pendleton Round-Up.

A paint horse named Dancer will assume the job of clomping up a steep wooden ramp to a spot where he will stand with his rider

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The price of life in Eastern Oregon



By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Increases in cost of living are easy for some budgets to absorb, but for others a few dollars here and there can make the difference between having the money to pay rent or not.

Cost of living can feel hard to control. Someone on a fixed income doesn’t get to choose the price of gas in the town they live in, or refuse an increase in water rates. One place they do have a direct voice is when new taxes land on the ballot.

James Tiede of Hermiston said he is not opposed to all taxes, but frequently comes out against proposals like the recent attempt to create a new OSU Extension Service taxing district because he believes the “people out here who run the show seem to be real tax-happy.”

When he bought his home in Hermiston in 2007 it was valued at \$150,000, he said, and as home values have risen so have his property taxes. He said he paid about \$3,300 last year in

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