

FEES: Increase would go into effect in March

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provide money for projects in the capital improvement plan. At that time, councilors said they preferred a plan that charged heavy users more, which would incentivize conservation and lessen the burden on light users such as senior citizens on a fixed income.

The proposal the council will consider Monday would raise the water bill for a user of 20,000 gallons from \$44.48 to \$52.50 a month. A sewer user of 5,000 gallons per month would see their bill go from \$27.25 a month to \$50. However, Morgan said in looking at his own family’s water usage over the last year — for two adults and a young child in a single-family home with a yard — they only use about 14,000 gallons a month in water and 2,200 in sewer, which would mean an 87 cent increase in their water bill and \$14 more a month for sewer.

The proposed rate increase would go into effect in March 2019, and users’ sewer rates for the next year would be based on usage for this December, January and February. Customers can track their water usage down to the minute using their online account.

“That gives people the ability to look at conservation measures this win-

ter,” Morgan said.

On Monday, the council will also vote on a construction manager/general contractor for a project to improve the RV park and build new fair offices at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. The city received three responses to its request for proposals — Kirby Nagelhout of Pendleton, Knerr Construction of Hermiston and CA Rowles Engineering/Kortay Northwest of Bend — and staff are recommending selection of Knerr Construction.

Also on Monday’s council agenda is a joint facility use agreement between the city and Hermiston School District. The agreement would formalize many shared uses already in practice, such as school district use of the city’s aquatic center for swim team practice and the city’s use of soccer fields at Rocky Heights Elementary School.

The regular city council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at city hall, 180 NE Second St. It will be preceded by a work session on housing and the Hermiston Public Library’s strategic plan at 6 p.m. The full agenda packet can be found online at hermiston.or.us/meetings.

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: ‘Beautiful Games: American Indian Sport & Art’ runs until Oct. 13

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Debate for Oregon’s Future what they would do to solve the issues of underrepresentation of tribal history across the state. Gov. Kate Brown said the state is following Pendleton’s example and noted the Walk to Language program teaching Umatilla to kindergartners at the Pendleton Early Learning Center has been successful.

Pendleton schools curriculum director Matt Yoshioka said Walk to Language began in 2016 and remains vibrant. Fourth- and sixth-graders have long been learning components on American Indian history, he said, and Senate Bill 13 from the 2017 Legislature requires a statewide curriculum for teaching the American Indian experience.

Sixth-grade teacher John Summerfield said he covers a swath of American Indian history and culture, from how long people have lived on this land to the Treaty of 1855. He said his classes discuss tribal fishing, hunting and gathering rights and tribal sovereignty.

Summerfield came to Pendleton’s Sunridge Middle School 11 years ago from the North Clackamas School District, which had few American Indian students. Some 20-25 percent of the students at Sunridge are Indian. While plenty of local tribal students know about the history of the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla tribes, he said, some do not have a general knowledge of their history. He also said he sees locals who don’t understand tribal rights and sovereignty.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Instructor Marjorie Wahleneka, third from right, teaches a Native American beading class in the gift shop Friday at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute in Mission.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
A display case with memorabilia from the exploits of CTUIR tribal members Shoni and Jade Schimmel is on display in the “Beautiful Games: American Indian Sport & Art” exhibit at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute in Mission.

Certain points in the curriculum can be eye-opening to any student, Summerfield said, such as when they see the tribal lands once covered roughly 10,000 square

miles, but the Treaty of 1855 condensed that to a reservation encompassing 271 square miles.

“It does get a reaction out of them,” Summerfield said, and the teachings help raise student awareness of this place and its people.

Conner also pointed out the governor’s proclamation shines a light on the contributions American Indians have made, from chocolate to corn to models of democracies. And the tribes, like their contributions, are not going away. That’s even part of the message at Tamástslikt.

“We’ve been here longer than anyone else,” Conner said. “We’re still expressing our culture through art, dance, music, dressing in regalia — the way of life, the lifestyle. And we’ll continue to evolve and adapt. That’s how we manage to survive.”

The exhibit “Beautiful Games: American Indian Sport & Art” runs until Oct. 13 at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute.

MEASURE 105: Last immigration issue to reach the ballot faltered

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The daughter of an undocumented mother, Torres-Medrano remembers trips to the grocery store were canceled and driving would cease if her family suspected U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was in town.

“We were told not to go outside if there were rumors that ICE was around,” she said.

Torres-Medrano said she was disappointed when Rowan signed onto the letter, not for herself, but for her family that would be affected by Measure 105.

Sanctuary status

Oregon’s “sanctuary state” law may prevent police from engaging in immigration enforcement, but it has several exceptions.

Law enforcement can still “exchange information” with ICE or another federal immigration enforcement agency to verify an individual’s immigration status if they’re arrested for a criminal offense or request criminal investigation information.

Local law enforcement can also still arrest people with criminal violations of federal immigration law and execute warrants related to immigration crimes issued by federal courts.

The “sanctuary state” law arose from a 1977 incident where police officers approached four Latino men who were eating at a restaurant in Independence.

The officers began interrogating the men about their legal status, and grabbed Delmiro Trevino, a U.S. citizen, by the arm before realizing he was a longtime resident.

The encounter led to a lawsuit and 10 years later, a “sanctuary state” law that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Measure 105 would repeal the law, potentially allowing local law enforcement agencies across the state to reengage in immi-



EO file photo
Sheriff Terry Rowan, rear left, explains his stance on Measure 105 during a Hispanic Advisory Committee meeting at Hermiston City Hall on Sept. 17.

gration enforcement.

A ‘show me your papers’ state

Now a Umatilla city councilor, Torres-Medrano joined Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel and Andrea Williams on a Thursday conference call with the *East Oregonian* editorial board to oppose Measure 105.

Williams is the executive director of CAUSA, a Salem-based Latino immigrant advocacy organization, and the founder of Oregonians United Against Racial Profiling, an anti-105 group.

She said a repeal of the “sanctuary state” law would revert Oregon to the days when police could profile Latinos if they thought they were in the country illegally, a “show me your papers” state instead of a sanctuary.

The group referenced several studies that show that immigrants actually commit crimes at lower rates compared to the native-born population.

The group also talked about the potential “chilling effect” it could have on undocumented victims and

witnesses to crimes. That’s the reason Dan Primus, Umatilla County’s district attorney, said he could not support Measure 105.

In a Friday interview, Primus said the “sanctuary state” law doesn’t prevent ICE from doing operations in Oregon, nor does it prevent local law enforcement from arresting and prosecuting an undocumented immigrant who committed a crime.

While it doesn’t prevent those actions, Primus believes it could prevent undocumented residents who have been criminal targets or have knowledge of crimes from reporting them.

Hummel predicted a patchwork effect, not just from county to county, but between municipal police departments and sheriff’s offices.

A county sheriff might prize closer collaboration with ICE, while a city police department retains similar procedures to the “sanctuary state” law. But Hummel said immigrants are unlikely to differentiate between agencies and will just refrain from dealing with police in general in a

post-Measure 105 Oregon.

“My fear is that if this measure passes, they’ll be less likely to come forward,” Hummel said. “And it would be foolish for them to come forward.”

‘Above the law’

Stop Oregon Sanctuaries, the group supporting Measure 105, can distill its message into a few sentences on its website’s home page.

“Illegal aliens can and do harm the American citizens to whom Oregon owes its foremost responsibility,” the website states. “For this reason, enforcement of U.S. immigration law is central to the duties of Oregon’s police departments and sheriff’s offices.”

The group is supported by an organization called Oregonians for Immigration Reform, an anti-immigration organization that’s classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Jim Ludwick, a spokesman for the Stop Oregon Sanctuaries campaign, said the group is targeting illegal immigration in the measure, but it also wants reduced legal immigra-

tion because it would benefit the state “environmentally, socially, fiscally and politically.”

Ludwick said he’s seen no evidence of racial profiling and he pushed back against the “chilling effect” espoused by some district attorneys.

“That’s a flat out lie,” he said.

Ludwick said victims and witnesses could apply for “U visas,” a program from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that allows undocumented immigrants that have “suffered substantial physical or mental abuse” or have information about criminal activity to stay in the country, provided they collaborate with prosecutors.

According to immigration services, the visa lasts four years and can be extended in limited circumstances.

Even with the “U visas,” Ludwick said a population that’s afraid to report a crime shouldn’t be in the country.

Ludwick referenced multiple Oregon cases where a “criminal alien” that could have been deported before they committed their crimes, and the millions of dollars the state spent prosecuting and incarcerating an undocumented immigrant could be avoided with deportation.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said he doesn’t know enough about Measure 105 to support or oppose it, but he feels like Salem has gotten more stringent in their interpretation of the “sanctuary state” law in recent years.

Nelson said more collaboration with federal immigration authority could be helpful, especially when defense attorneys tell him that prosecuting their clients isn’t worth it because they’ll be deported regardless.

The money race

While the fate of Measure 105 won’t be determined until Nov. 6, the

anti-Measure 105 side is definitively winning the money race.

Oregonians United has raised more than \$1.1 million and has \$893,453 left to spend before Election Day. In comparison, the Repeal Oregon Sanctuary Laws Committee has raised just \$40,544 and only has \$8,643 left.

While the issue was bipartisan in the 1980s, the measure’s proponents and opposition have been sorted under predictable camps.

Several Democratic legislators have endorsed and donated to Oregonians United, while sizable contributions have come from the American Civil Liberties Union and AFL-CIO.

On the pro side, the petition to get Measure 105 on the ballot was sponsored by three Republican state lawmakers — Sal Esquivel of Medford and Mike Nearman of Independence, and Greg Barreto of Cove, who represents Pendleton in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Barreto didn’t respond to multiple requests for comment.

While Oregon’s blue tint would seem to suggest that Measure 105 would be headed to a defeat, the last immigration issue to reach the ballot faltered by a significant margin. Measure 88, a measure that would have allowed undocumented immigrants to obtain driver’s licenses, failed by a nearly 2-to-1 margin in 2014 and only won one county across the state.

Ludwick said the Oregonians for Immigration Reform led the opposition effort on Measure 88 and expected similar success in 2018.

Williams said the two measures were very different, but Oregonians United is hoping its message on racial profiling and public safety will resonate with voters.

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