

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A Tacoma neighborhood under development aims to stay affordable by limiting buyers to households that make \$75,000 or less.

Co-founders Bill Rehe and Michael Pressnall are planning 50 to 70 two- and three-bedroom cottages in the residential development called The Preserve, *The News Tribune* reported.

This is the first project for Rehe, a fisheries biologist,

and Pressnall, vice president of industry relations at realtor.com.

"This started with our two families, Rehe said. "I had this utopian idea about affordable, sustainable housing. I took Mike to lunch and he pulled out similar plans of his own."

The developers bought land from Tacoma Public Schools for \$427,500. They plan to preserve 22 acres of wetlands at the site and build

Rehe said they initially floated the idea with Gig Harbor but it went nowhere. They had a friend who knew about the Tacoma schools property, he said.

"Tacoma Public Schools could project no long-term school use for that site," said Dan Voelpel, executive director of communications for the school system. "So we were pleased to find a buyer who will put the prop-

The owner-occupied homes will have a homeowners association leasehold to lock down the purchase terms in an effort keep the homes affordable. The association signs a 99-year lease with the homeowner with an automatic renewal for another 99 years. This essentially locks down the

A 950-square-foot home will cost between \$230,000 and \$240,000 while a 1,250-square-foot house will be between \$250,000 and \$265,000.

"There will not be bidding between buyers for a location or home, Rehder said. "It will be first qualified, first buy for as long as we have inventory. This is just another tool to keep

Another goal the developers have is to become the first privately developed housing community in Tacoma to meet LEED-Platinum standards for energy conservation and sustainability and the first LEED-Platinum certified housing community of single-family detached homes in the city.

The official groundbreaking was Dec. 1 and construction is set to begin in January.

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education to assign the district a coach. Six districts — Hermiston, Pendleton, Umatilla, Milton-Freewater, Stanfield, and Elgin — are in Tier 2, meaning Braden gives them targeted support.

But many of those districts are already starting to see their absentee rates fall.

According to Braden, the Milton-Freewater Unified School District 2017-18 chronic absenteeism rate was 21 percent, a 1.8 percent drop from the year before. Umatilla (22.2 percent) and Hermiston (19.3 percent) saw a 1.4 percent and 0.7 percent decreases, respectively.

The Pendleton School District's 20 percent rate did represent a 1.1-point increase, but Braden expected that number to drop again this year.

Braden said these districts embraced public awareness campaigns like Every Day Matters and Choose To Be Nice, a campaign designed to make schools more inviting through positivity. But

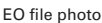
he said a lot of the work is coming by parsing through the data and figuring out which demographics and groups local districts need to target.

Gib Olinger Elementary School already regularly hosted a math night event for students, but in November, the school invited Braden and other absenteeism officials to participate.

Students played with a slide bar that showed them how missing days would affect their math and reading scores and were able to take home an absence tracker that would help them individually track their missed days.

The booth was enough of a success that Braden said he's in talks with four other districts to put on a similar event in their schools.

Gib Olinger Principal Ami Muilenburg said the school has taken steps to move away from a punitive approach to absenteeism to a positive one, like entering students with high attendance rates into drawings for prizes and special events.



A desk sits empty at Pendleton High School in this Oct. 30, 2015 file photo. Absentee rates are lower in Eastern Oregon than other places in the state, according to a new report by the state.

districts have a significant amount of migrant students who attend local schools before going back to Mexico when the harvest season ends. If those students miss more than 10 consecutive days of school, they're

Mulvihill said Braden helped create a survey that was administered to 200 migrant students about if and when they planned to

leave for the season and what resources they needed.

With better information on which students are actually migrants that cycle in and out every year, Mulvihill said McLaughlin High School in Milton-Freewater was able to offer students online courses so they could stay enrolled while they were away.

Mulvihill said Mac-Hill is the only school to take this approach so far, but she expects other districts to make similar accommodations in the future.

With local districts experiencing some success in lowering absenteeism rates, Braden anticipates the states will reclassify Tier 2 districts down into Tier 1.

Already lower than the state average, the region has set a goal of lowering its chronic absenteeism rate further to 17.8 percent.

"The point of my job is to work myself out of a job," he said.

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restaurants. The announcement Wednesday described the bowling alley as the "crowning piece" and "the impetus for the entire expansion," but reduced the number of lanes to 24, plus a bar and pool tables. The announcement made no mention of the cineplex.

"While the intent to expand has been known for some time, changes in the economy and trade have had an impact on planning," according to the resort's announcement. "Until now, blueprints were in flux as executives and architects worked on a balance between budget and construction costs."

The Confederated Tribes

of the Umatilla Indian Reservation own the resort near Pendleton. The Board of Trustees governs the tribes, while the General Council represents the tribal members, and both entities have input regarding the operation and development of the resort.

"After yearlong meetings with WRC staff and the Board of Trustees, we finally settled on a project that we can afford," Wildhorse CEO Gary George said.

Wildhorse plans to open the second hotel tower by the end of 2020 with a mix of 214 executive suites and standard rooms, along with new convention space for 1,500 seats in the main room.

The expansion includes

The 24-hour restaurant and a food court, and a larger family entertainment center will house child care facilities and an arcade with about 40 games.

The casino's new poker room will seat up to 90 players and operate daily. The plans call for space for future businesses and parking surrounding the entire site.

New construction means the leveling of the courtyard hotel — the resort's original hotel built in 1996. Wildhorse reported March 31, 2019, is the last day for guests to check out. The demolition will begin after crews empty the rooms of furniture and decor, and the Hot Rock Café will close at the same time.

That work leaves the resort short 100 rooms until the new tower opens. Staff will refer guests to hotels in Pendleton.

Wildhorse touted the long-term benefits of an increase in visitors and more

local jobs. And the expanded facilities and bowling alley will result in tournaments, larger conventions and bigger entertainment.

This will be the fifth expansion for the resort since it opened in 1994

George said the project goes to the Board of Trustees and the General Council in the next month or two for final approval.

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Since then it has played host to competitions hosted by the Blue Mountain Ski Club, served as the Nordic training center for the United States Olympic team and Norwegian jump team in the 1950s and 1960s, and provided a place for the U.S. Forest Service to hold a ski school.

Bluewood
Bluewood, a ski area outside Dayton, Wash., will also open this season. Its 2018-19 season begins Dec. 14. It will run Dec. 14-16 and then daily Dec. 20 through Jan. 1, except Christmas Day. In January it will run Wednesday through Sunday and on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. According to a news release from Bluewood, as of Wednesday there were 20

inches of snow at the base and 23 inches at the summit. The ski area is also expecting fresh snow early next week. The Bluewood ski area has added new conveyor lifts in the beginner area and a new yurt at the summit where guests can get a snack or warm drink. The Skyline Express and Easy Rider conveyor lifts are scheduled to run on opening day, while Triple Nickel is yet to be determined.

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son to arrest him. Cooney dropped off Rushfeldt and planned to tell Lombardi, but soon heard from Lt. Keith Kennedy with the Umatilla Police Department. Cooney said Kennedy heard the state police radio chatter about the ride and asked if he arrested Rushfeldt. Kennedy stated Rushfeldt was the driver that got away from trooper Mitchell Goldman during a dangerous pursuit Monday night near Umatilla. Rushfeldt took off the wrong way on Interstate 82 and almost smashed

into another trooper's police car. State police reported the chase ended when the driver crashed into a fence and bolted on foot.

All of that was news to Cooney.

"We're talking about two completely different pursuits," Cooney said. "So we finally put it together."

Cooney and senior trooper Earl Connell headed back to Rushfeldt's place. He was there, Cooney said, along with his girlfriend, Vallerie Michael Tattoed, 26, who Cooney recognized.

She was the driver that got away from Lombardi back in October.

"So I arrested him and turned right around and arrested her," the sergeant said.

The couple is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, and face probable cause charges of reckless driving, reckless endangering, unauthorized use of a vehicle and attempt to elude/flee. Rushfeldt also faces counts for hit and run for property damage and reckless endangering of another.

While Cooney did not know he was giving a criminal suspect a ride home, he credited good communication and teamwork for culminating in the two arrests.

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