

Pendleton secures grant for drone range

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Ever since the mobile command center — a hollowed-out travel trailer with modern drone control equipment — debuted a couple of years ago, it's seen consistent use from UAS companies looking to do operations in remote parts of Eastern Oregon.

Thanks to \$301,122 state grant, the command center will soon be getting a companion.

Pendleton UAS Range Manager Darryl Abling said the new mobile command center will replicate the same function as the existing trailer.

The rest of the money will be used for the mission control and innovation center,

the test range's administrative offices and a facility that offers customers equipment and space for training, operations, and manufacturing.

The grant will fund new equipment that will bolster the facility's 3D printing and metal fabricating capabilities.

Steve Chrisman, Pendleton airport manager and economic development director,

said UAS companies need the equipment for prototyping their drones.

He added that a recent client used this type of equipment to trim pounds off their vehicle.

"Every ounce counts," he said.

The UAS range has a bigger fish still on the line in the form of a pending U.S. Economic Development Admin-

istration grant application.

The grant would help fund the construction of new hangars at the Pendleton airport, which are in high demand from drone companies.

Chrisman said the city expects a decision on the application sometime within the first quarter of 2019 and is still confident in its chances.

IN BRIEF

Good Shepherd clinic adds weekend hours

Good Shepherd Medical Center is extending its Urgent Care hours, and will now be open Sundays, providing coverage seven days a week. As of now, the clinic will be open Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hours may be expanded in the future based on community needs.

The clinic can see people on a walk-in basis for issues that may not rise to the level of the emergency room, such as cold, flu, earache, urinary tract infections and joint and muscle pain.

The clinic, located at 1050 W. Elm Ave., Hermiston, is also open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The clinic's number is 541-567-2995.

Domestic Violence Services shares wish list

PENDLETON — Domestic violence and sexual abuse don't take a break during the holiday season.

Domestic Violence Services maintains a "Wish List" on its website for current needs. In addition to financial donations, a variety of household, personal hygiene and clothing is needed. Donations are tax-deductible.

A nonprofit organization, Domestic Violence Services has served Umatilla and Morrow counties for more than 40 years. In addition to shelters in Pendleton and Hermiston, it maintains a 24-hour crisis line (800-833-1161), provides safety planning, life skills classes, support groups and other advocacy activities for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. There are Domestic Violence Services offices in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, Boardman and Heppner.

Spout Springs Mountain opening no sure thing

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

This season's opening of the Spout Springs Mountain Resort remains in question.

Owner John Murray said in early December he planned on opening the resort after reaching an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to alleviate safety concerns between skiers and snowmobilers in the parking lot on the north side of Highway 204.

"There was a verbal handshake with backing in writing," Murray said.

The Forest Service on Dec. 13 announced a new plan to allow overnight parking for trucks and trailers in part of the south parking lot.

"The Forest Service modified the south parking area in response to the loss of overnight parking in the north parking area, which was changed to day-use only to alleviate safety concerns raised by the ski area," according to the announcement. "The changes to the south parking area balance the needs of the ski area with other recreationists that use this portion of the Umatilla National Forest. This alternative parking arrangement was developed with input from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Spout Springs Homeowners Association President Tim Richardson and other interested public."

Murray said he was not part of that input.

"Kind of disappointing, really," he said.

Spout Springs operates



Spout Springs Ski Area, shown here on Feb. 20, 2014, may not open this season after all.

EO file photo

under a special use permit in the Umatilla National Forest, and the parking area north of Highway 204 is a Sno-Park, which pays for the Oregon Department of Transportation to do plowing and snow removal. The Sno-Park also allows for multiple use, including snowmobiles and trailers.

Murray maintained snowmobilers and skiers are a bad mix, and the park-

ing has been the scene of a couple of fatal snowmobile collisions. He said the first he knew of the Forest Service's changes to the parking plan was Dec. 14, when the resort was taking applications for jobs.

He said he was not pleased with the changes, nor was his liability insurance carrier, which covers the ski area and related activities but it does not

cover snowmobiles and the like. Still, Murray said he is hopeful to work out something with the Forest Service and have the resort open for the first time in two years.

"We're working on it. We're working on it... We'll see how it shakes out," he said.

Murray also said he is winterizing the place just in case.

An op-ed sent by Mike Rassbach, the Walla Walla District ranger of the Umatilla National Forest, late Friday said the parking lot modifications provide "equitable and safe access for a variety of recreational uses, including alleviating the concerns raised by the Spout Springs Ski Area."

The op-ed will be published in the Wednesday East Oregonian.

Gang silence hinders shooting investigation

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton police continue to investigate the Monday night shooting of a gang member, but police Chief Stuart Roberts said arrests and prosecutions are unlikely.

"We probably know who the responsible parties are," he said, "but without a victim, you don't have a crime."

Someone Monday night on the 600 block of Southwest Goodwin Avenue shot Austin Ray Satterwhite, 20. Roberts said Satterwhite

and others claim to be members of the Cyclones, a gang the Pendleton Police Department knows.

"They've been poking holes in each other for a number of years," Roberts said, with knives and guns, but members refuse to admit they are crime victims and won't say who did what. Satterwhite is no different.

"They don't want to testify, they won't testify," Roberts said.

Satterwhite's case is the latest example of gang-re-

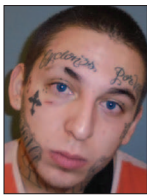
lated violence police investigate but that does not result in getting armed offenders off the streets, creating a serious concern for the safety of the public.

"It's beyond frustrating," Roberts said.

The upshot is each investigation produces more intelligence about the people involved. Roberts said that can pay off when someone has a falling out with another member or a change of heart, but there's no telling when that can happen.

Satterwhite entered the jail Oct. 20 to serve a 59-day sanction for violating parole, according to information from jail Lt. Thoren Hearn. During that span, Satterwhite also served five days for drug charges on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and he faced charges of felony assault and witness tampering. The jail released him for time served on Monday at 8 a.m.

Satterwhite was back in the jail at 11:45 that night in the wake of the shooting investigation after police arrested him on a warrant. He remains behind bars.



Satterwhite

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BUMBLEBEE (PG13)
12:50* 7:20 9:50
ED 11:20* 4:50

MARY POPPINS (PG)
1:10* 4:00 6:50 9:40

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)
1:20* 4:10 7:00 10:00

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