



Mayor John Turner swears in, from left to right, councilors Linda Neuman, Carole Innes, Jake Cambier, and McKennon McDonald at Pendleton City Council Chambers Tuesday.

Staff photo by Antonio Sierra

Pendleton Council women hit milestones

McDonald appointed council president

East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council made a little bit of history at its first meeting of 2019.

Mayor John Turner swore in councilors Jake Cambier, Carole Innes, McKennon McDonald, and Linda Neuman Tuesday.

As new councilors Innes and Neuman joined McDonald and Becky Marks on the dais, Turner noted that this was probably the first time the council had gender parity — the voting members of the council are split evenly between four men and four

women.

The series of firsts continued when it came time for the council to select a council president to replace Neil Brown, who held the position from 2015-2018.

Fresh off being sworn in for a second term, McDonald was unanimously voted council president.

In seconding her nomination, Marks said it was a “historical event” because a woman had never served as council president.

As council president, McDonald will run council meetings in Turner’s absence and also perform some ceremonial duties.

Despite all the honorifics, the council otherwise kept official business to a

minimum.

The council did vote unanimously to grant a fee waiver to Neighbor 2 Neighbor Pendleton for the non-profit to operate its Sunday breakfast program out of the Foundation Room at the Pendleton Recreation Center.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Executive Director Dwight Johnson said the breakfast program local homeless and low-income residents was based at the First United Methodist Church at 352 S.E. Second St. for five years, but the two organizations parted ways recently.

Johnson said Neighbor 2 Neighbor would need use of the room from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., which would nor-

mally cost \$9,100 to rent for the year.

The council granted Neighbor 2 Neighbor the fee waiver with an added provision to reconsider it each year. Johnson said he expected breakfast service to start in March or April.

Turner also honored outgoing councilors Brown and Chuck LeValle, who was defeated by Innes in the May election.

LeValle was appointed to fill an empty Ward 1 seat in March following the death of John Brenne, who served on the council for 40 years.

LeValle joked to the audience that he was involved in two records: the shortest-tenured city councilor following the longest.

New substation, transmission line in UEC’s plans

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Umatilla Electric Cooperative will see a surge in operations in 2019.

UEC spokesman Steve Meyers said the company has several projects scheduled, including multiple transmission lines and substation improvements for industrial and residential customers, and on tribal and agricultural land.

Two major projects that are in the works are a new

transmission line and a new substation in Morrow County.

Crews have already broken ground on the Oregon Trail substation, which will serve irrigation and farming activity in the county. The substation will be located near Homestead Road, south of Boardman. The estimated project cost for the substation is \$6.6 million.

In Umatilla County, the company will add a second transformer at the Hermiston East Substation, which was completed just over a

year ago and sits at Northeast 10th and Elm streets. Because of anticipated housing and infrastructure projects, the load on the substation is greater than initially predicted. No cost or timeline has been set for the project yet.

The company will also add a second transmission line from Bonneville Power Administration’s McNary substation to the Hermiston Butte substation. The 115-kilovolt line will run five miles. It is currently in the final stages of planning

and permitting, but Meyers said no start or end date has yet been scheduled for construction. He said the estimated cost for that project is \$6.9 million, and it will serve customers in Hermiston, Umatilla and Stanfield.

He said in the past two decades residential demand for power has increased 30 percent.

Meyers said there are other construction projects in the works for UEC planned for the 2019-2020 biennium, totaling about \$65 million.

Three dead after crabbing vessel capsizes near Newport

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A commercial crabbing boat capsized in rough waters off the Oregon coast, killing the three men aboard and sending a shock wave through a seafaring community already struggling from a monthlong delay to the annual crabbing season.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the vessel, the Mary B. II, overturned about 10 p.m. Tuesday as it crossed Yaquina Bay bar in Newport, Oregon. The bar is one of the most notorious off the Oregon coast, and authorities said crews faced 12- to 14-foot waves as they tried to rescue the fishermen.

James Lacey, 48, of South Toms River, New Jersey, was pulled from the ocean by helicopter and flown to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The body of Joshua Porter, 50, of Toledo, Oregon, washed up on a beach early Wednesday.

The body of the boat’s skipper, Stephen Biernacki, 50, of Barnegat Township, New Jersey, was found on the hull of the boat after it, too, washed up on a jetty.

The tragedy was nothing new for Newport, a working fishing port about 130 miles southwest of Portland on Oregon’s central coast. The small town hosts a granite memorial at Yaquina Bay etched with more than 100 names of local fishermen lost at sea over the past century and shared tragedies are woven into the fabric of the community.



U.S. Coast Guard via AP

U.S. Coast Guard boat crew responds to three fishermen, Jan. 8, in the water after the commercial fishing vessel Mary B II capsized while crossing Yaquina Bay Bar off the coast of Newport, Ore. Authorities say three men were killed when their fishing boat capsized in rough waters off the Oregon coast.

“It happens frequently enough that we actually have funds that help families during this time. We fundraise all year long, and we try to help them as much as we can,” said Taunette Dixon, president of the non-profit Newport Fishermen’s Wives, which supports families who have lost a breadwinner to the waves.

But those in the industry said the loss hit particularly hard this year, when crabbers were rushing to sea to try to catch up after the annual Oregon Dungeness crab season was delayed more than a month. The season usually begins Dec. 1, but this year it only began last week because the crabs were too small and didn’t have enough meat to harvest.

Then, a series of bad storms in the first week of the season prevented many

crabbers from recovering their pots on Jan. 4, the first day they could do so, said Tim Novotny, spokesman for Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission.

“When they did get out, some of them had to stay out a little longer because of the weather. The difficulty is once you’re out at sea, they can handle a lot of conditions. But the trouble is trying to get back across those bars,” Novotny said.

A bar is an area near the coast where a river — in this case the Yaquina River — meets the sea. The force of the river water colliding with the ocean can create hazardous currents and swells, particularly during a storm. The Yaquina Bay bar is considered one of the more dangerous ones along the Oregon coast. On Wednesday, reports showed waves 16 feet tall there.

It’s so treacherous that the dangers of crossing it with a fully loaded crab boat were the premise of a spin-off of the “The Deadliest Catch,” a reality TV show about commercial fishermen that aired on the Discovery channel.

“The fishermen and their families know all too well, unfortunately, that that danger is real. They accept the challenge because they love what they do,” Novotny said. “It’s part of who they are and what they do.”

The appeal also lies in the money that the succulent Dungeness crabs can bring.

Live Oregon Dungeness crabs are currently selling for anywhere between \$5.99 a pound and \$11.99 a pound, depending on location, and they are a staple of the holidays for many on the West Coast. The crabs are also fished in California and Washington.

Crabbing permits are capped at 424 vessels spread over six major ports running the length of the Oregon coast, from Astoria in the north to Brookings near the California border. Three-quarters of the harvest is brought in in the first eight weeks of the season, which usually runs from December to August.

The 10-year average haul for Dungeness crab in Oregon is 16 million pounds, but last year crabbers brought in 23 million pounds. That haul was worth more than \$74 million at the docks and pumped \$150 million into the state and local economy, Novotny said.

First Draft welcomes Whitman College teacher

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Kisha Lewellyn Schlegel, a creative writing teacher at Whitman College in Walla Walla, will headline this month’s First Draft Writers’ Series.

The free event is Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. After Schlegel’s presentation, there will be an open mic for local writers to read from their work.

Schlegel’s first book of essays, “Fear Icons,” won the inaugural Gournay Prize from Mad Creek Books. Also, it was recently announced that it’s on the long list chosen by editors for The Believer Book Awards. The short lists and winners will be announced in The Believer’s April/May issue. And, the winners will be honored during the April 25 opening night ceremony of the 2019 Believer Festival in Las Vegas.

The collection features answers to the question, “Who are we to each other when we’re afraid?” From Donald Trump and the Virgin Mary to Darth Vader

and the Dalai Lama, Schlegel explores what it means to be human, a woman, an artist and a parent. She also explores the similarities between fear and faith — highlighting the ways faith takes shape.

Schlegel has published essays in the Tin House blog, The Kenyon Review and Conjunction.

In addition, she is a recipient of the Richard J. Margolis Award, an Iowa Arts Grant, a Washington State Grant for Artist Projects and a writing residency at the



Schlegel

Bloedel Reserve.

Schlegel is a graduate of the University of Montana’s Environmental Writing Institute and the non-fiction writing program at the University of Iowa.

Showcasing notable Pacific Northwest authors, First Draft Writers’ Series meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information about the writers’ series, call 541-278-9201 or visit www.pendletonarts.org.

For more about Schlegel go to www.kishalewellynschlegel.com. Also, she encourages people to view some of her student’s work at www.infiniteessay.tumblr.com.

BRIEFLY

Altrusa seeks young citizen nominations

HERMISTON — Altrusa International of Hermiston is looking for a young person to recognize as the Outstanding Young Citizen at the Hermiston Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet.

The nominee should be under 21 years old and have performed outstanding community service. He or she should demonstrate commitment, personal responsibility, positive attitude, leadership and a caring attitude toward others.

For a nomination form, contact a member of Altrusa or email hermistonaltrusa@gmail.com. The nomination form is due by Friday, Feb. 1.

The recipient will be recognized during the event, which is Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

Don’t forget to register Fido

ECHO — The city of Echo is reminding its residents that they must obtain 2019 dog licenses by Thursday, Feb. 28.

The current license fees are \$5 per year for spayed or neutered dogs or \$15 for unaltered dogs. Also, proof of a current rabies shot is required.

Any license issued after March 1 — except new dogs obtained after that date — will be assessed a \$10 per month penalty. New dogs must be licensed within two weeks of obtaining them and puppies must be licensed within two weeks of turning six months old.

Also, the city announced that Country Animal Hospital will be on hand for the annual Rabies Shot Clinic Saturday, Jan. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Masonic Lodge, 20 S. Dupont St. The cost is \$20. No credit or debit cards are accepted.

For more information, call 541-376-8411 or visit www.echo-oregon.com.

Get ready for a Paws-tastic Party night

PENDLETON — A doggone good time is promised during an event to benefit the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter.

Barley and Burt’s PAWS-tastic Party is Saturday, Jan. 19 from noon to 9 p.m. at Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery, 511 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Adoptable animals will be on site from noon to 4 p.m., weather permitting. In addition, 10 percent from all sales will be donated to PAWS.

For more information, call 541-276-0070 or 541-276-0181.

THIS IS A THANK YOU TO ALL who have donated monetarily, physically through your volunteerism, and through donations of food and other products to the **Pilot Rock Food Pantry**. You have all blessed us this year and other years. Because of your monthly donations, remembrance of loved ones and from your pocketbooks, we have fed families that might have otherwise gone hungry.

There are more people and organizations than is possible to list, but here are a few. Please forgive me if the list is not complete. Pilot Rock Thanksgiving Community Dinner held as our major fundraiser, Mayor Virginia Carnes, Sheila Buckley, Pilot Rock City Hall, Pilot Rock Market - Mr. and Mrs. Rick Aster, Bud Rich Farms, Pilot Rock Elementary School, Pilot Rock High School, Riverpoint Farms in Hermiston, Rocky Ridge Quilters, Janelle Hampton family, Steve and Janet Haddock, Dennis and Nita Sampson, St. Helen’s Catholic Church, Mrs. Adolph Weinke, Shawna Kirk, Laureate Beta Delta Sorority, John and Kay Thorne, Laurie Thorne, Katherine Palmer, Janet Phy, Life Church of Pilot Rock, Josie Muth, Safeway, Walmart, Bi-Mart, Gaze Outlet, and the many unnamed that gave from their hearts and wish to remain anonymous.

From our clients we serve, and all volunteers, God Bless you all.

Sincerely, *Sherry Black*,
Directory of Pilot Rock Food Pantry,
and 27 fellow volunteers