

## In quick meeting, commissioners approve sheriff's office requests

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is getting new protective vests and tactical medical supplies.

The purchases were among the slew of agenda items the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners considered Wednesday morning in a mere 22 minutes during its first public meeting of the year. Commissioner Bill Elfering, the new chair of the board, said, "That's kind of a record for 13 items."

The board approved the sheriff's office request to buy nine new body armor vests for \$7,740. The sheriff's office in a memo to the board stated it has to replace the vests every five years.

The medical supplies total \$5,607.57 and include 80 cold compresses for \$100, 10 combat application tourniquets for \$300 and six first-aid kits with combat gauze for \$989. Grants from local hospitals covered the cost, but county expenses of \$5,000 or more require board approval.

The board also gave approval for the Public Works Department to buy a 2019 Ford F-350 pickup from a Portland dealership for \$40,541. Public Works

Director Tom Fellows said the vehicle replaces an older pickup.

The board also renewed its \$7,500 contract with U.S. Department of Agriculture for aerial control of predators. Elfering and Commissioner George Murdock said that was the same price as last year, which the county negotiated down from \$10,000.

The meeting was the first for rookie Commissioner John Shafer, who reiterated he was looking forward to serving the residents of the county.

And before the board ticked off business items, it took a moment to recognize Terri Lee Shelley, appraiser in the Assessment and Taxation Department, as the employee of the quarter. The honor comes with a parking spot near the courthouse and 8 hours of paid leave.

Shelley will need to take that soon — she is retiring at the end of March.

Shelley wiped away a tear while accepting her certificate of excellence and said she did not really want to leave her co-workers.

"We have the greatest staff right now that I've ever seen," she said. Her boss, county appraiser Paul Chalmers, agreed.

## Umatilla hires public works director

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

The city of Umatilla has a new public works director. Scott Coleman stepped into the role on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Coleman, a resident of Prosser, Washington, has spent most of his career working in irrigation technology and construction, and has worked for irrigation districts in Washington. He most recently worked for the Sunnyside irrigation district for 18 years. He said he began looking to diversify his career and work in the public sector.

"I knew Dave Stockdale from when he was the

city manager in Prosser," said Coleman, referring to the new city manager of Umatilla.

Coleman said he hopes his background in irrigation will help him deal with the city's water needs.

"Irrigation districts (in Washington) feed a lot of cities," he said. "I'm real familiar with repairing roads, infrastructure that goes into delivering water to city lots. My irrigation career started on the engineering side."

He said while Umatilla's infrastructure is aging, the facilities are good.

"Everyone's trying to do more with less," he said. "I think I have a good background in that."



Contributed photo  
Scott Coleman is the new director of public works for the city of Umatilla.

## COMING EVENTS

### FRIDAY, JAN. 11

**STORY AND CRAFT TIME**, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411)

**VFW BINGO**, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

### SATURDAY, JAN. 12

**SMART DRIVER CLASS**, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. Learn strategies for safe driving, adjustments for age-related driving issues, the latest rules of the road and more. Cost is \$15 for AARP members (bring card) or \$20 for non-members. Lunch is on your own. Registration required. (541-861-0024)

**FREE FOR ALL**, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

**YARN CLUB**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

**HIP & HANDMADE**, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

**COUNTRY HOEDOWN**, 1-4 p.m., Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Live music, dancing and singing. Admission \$2, refreshments available for purchase. (541-938-3311)

**DANCING WITH THE HERMISTON STARS**, 7 p.m., Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. Watch locals perform with professional ballroom dancers as they raise money for their favorite charities. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, students \$10, available at eventbrite.com.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 13

**SPECIAL NEEDS OPEN GYM**

12:30-1 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Free for special needs children and families. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

**HYMN SING**, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Victory Baptist Church, 193 E. Main St., Hermiston. Enjoy singing the old hymns with old and new friends. Free. (Chris Finley 541-571-2516)

### MONDAY, JAN. 14

**WALKING FOR WELLNESS**, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Get some exercise even when the weather is bad. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470)

**PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)

**ART STUDIO**, 4-5:30 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

**TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL**, 4 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. All teens welcome. Snacks will be provided. (541-567-2882)

### TUESDAY, JAN. 15

**WALKING FOR WELLNESS**, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Get some exercise even when the weather is bad. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. (541-449-1254)

**TRIPLE P DISCUSSION GROUP**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Pendleton Public

Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Gain information in dealing with problem behaviors exhibited by children ages 0-12, including disobedience (Jan. 8), fighting and aggression (Jan. 15), bedtime routines (Jan. 22) and hassle-free shopping with children (Jan. 29). Free, registration not required. Attend one or all. (541-966-0380)

**BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

**PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)

**HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12 p.m., Harkenrider Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service available by donation. (541-567-3582)

**THIRD TUESDAY CLIMATE CONVERSATION**, 12 p.m., Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Holiday party. Share your thoughts on the previous year's discussions and guest speakers. Food and beverages available for purchase. Everyone welcome.

**SKILLS FOR LIFE**, 3 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Gym activities at

3 p.m., life skills at 4 p.m. for middle and high school students. Registration requested. (Suzanne Moore 541-276-3987)

**BARBARA LUND-JONES RETIREMENT PARTY**, 4-6 p.m., Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. Drop in and wish Barbara the best in retirement. UCHS board members will speak beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by the opportunity for well-wishes from the public. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be available. Free. (541-276-0012)

**CRAFTERNOONS**, 4:15 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Drop in for a group or individual craft project. All ages. (541-966-0380)

**PENDLETON EAGLES TACOS AND BINGO**, 6 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Regular packet \$10, special packet \$5. Proceeds donated to local charities. Public welcome. (541-278-2828)

**INSIDE OUTSIDE THE LINES ADULT COLORING**, 6-7:30 p.m., Irrigon Public Library, 490 N.E. Main St., Irrigon. Materials provided. Bring snacks to share. (541-922-0138)

**PENDLETON KNITTING GROUP**, 6 p.m., Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380)

**STORY AND CRAFT TIME**, 6:30 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. For elementary school-age children. (541-938-8247)

## Bridge work will cause detours on South First Street in Hermiston

East Oregonian

A section of South First Street in Hermiston will be closed during February and March as the city replaces a bridge over the canal near Southeast Crestline Drive.

The small bridge, which runs over the Maxwell Canal, is located on South First Street (Hinkle Road) south of Highland Avenue and north of Gettman and Feedville roads. According to a news release from the city, "the existing canal crossing is approaching the end of its useful life, and will be replaced with a much wider box culvert in order to accommodate continued growth along this key north-south corridor."

Work is expected to run from early February through the end of March, and the city will release a

list of closure dates after they are finalized with the contractor.

Drivers who frequently used the road to get to locations, such as the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, will have to plan alternate routes.

"The fact that this bridge closure is going to cause some major challenges for people to navigate around really highlights how important this road section is now, and how it will continue to grow in importance in the future," assistant city manager Mark Morgan said in a statement. "Due to the canal and railroad crossings in this area, there simply aren't any easy detours, which is why as our community continues to grow to the south, we need to work hard to develop additional street routes through this area."

## Wildhorse to cater Governor's Gala

Attendees at the Governor's Gala will get a taste of Eastern Oregon on Jan. 18.

An inaugural event in Portland, which includes cuisine from seven regions across the state, the gala selected Wildhorse Resort and Casino to represent Eastern Oregon.

"(Wildhorse Executive Chef Jeff) Sommer and his crew will deliver about (1,200) hors d'oeuvres to the Governor's guests," a Wildhorse press release states. "The culinary team then quickly resets to prepare and serve dinner to

450 additional guests at the resort's Rivers Event Center."

Wildhorse staff will prepare three hors d'oeuvres with locally sourced food — a Hill Meat bacon and bleu cheese appetizer, braised lamb shoulder in Pendleton Whisky sauce with lamb raised in Upper Dry Creek Ranch in Weston, and huckleberry cheesecake.

## Houfmuse arrested on probation violation

HERMISTON — A Hermiston man is back in

jail about five months after murder charges against him were dropped.

Tyree Houfmuse, 36, was arrested on a probation violation on Wednesday and booked in the Umatilla County Jail.

Houfmuse had spent most of 2018 in county jail, between hearings in a case where he was charged with the murder of James Cragun.

A judge dropped those charges in August and sentenced him to 25 months for unlawful possession of a weapon, but because of time already served, Houfmuse's sentence ended up being only a few months.

## IN BRIEF



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