

Council to discuss EOTEC dilemma

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston City Council will be looking for solutions to a puzzle at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on Monday.

The city has hired Knerr Construction to construct an RV park on the EOTEC grounds that could potentially provide year-round revenue for the facility. The city had planned to construct the RV park next to the rodeo arena, so that people living or staying at the park could access it without driving through the rest of the property. After the plan came to light, however, Farm-City Pro Rodeo board members spoke out against the move, noting the space has been used in the past for overflow parking during the rodeo.

According to a memo from City Manager Byron Smith, on Wednesday the city's planning commission altered EOTEC's parking variance to restrict development until an alternate overflow parking plan had been submitted and approved to them.

"Due to the controversy and the probable delay caused by the Planning Commission action, I am providing the council an update and seeking any input that the council might have," Smith wrote to the council.

On Monday the council will also swear in municipal court Judge Thomas Creasing and council members elected in November (Lori Davis, Roy Barron, Jackie Myers and Doug Smith), as well as elect a council president for the year and make committee assignments.

The council will consider awarding a construction bid for replacement of a South First Street bridge near Crestline Drive to Moreno & Nelson Construction Corporation. The city has purchased the new box culvert for \$129,336 and plans to award the installation contract for \$151,198, bringing the total project cost to \$280,534. Construction is expected to run through February and March and will result in a period of closure for that section of South First Street.

The council meets Monday at 7 p.m. at city hall, 180 N.E. Second St. For a full council agenda, visit hermiston.or.us/meetings.

Burglary at Happy Canyon leads police to crime stash

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

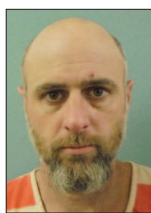
Pendleton police Thursday morning arrested a burglary suspect on Happy Canyon property. Police Chief Stuart Roberts said the case also touches on the common problem of absent landlords.

Officers at 10:41 a.m. responded to Happy Canyon, 1601 Westgate, behind the Pendleton Convention Center, when a Happy Canyon board member spotted a man he did not recognize. Officers arrived and

arrested Levi Daniel Reed, 34, a Pendleton transient.

Robert said the officers also saw items near Reed that did not belong to Happy Canyon. They investigated and found Reed was holding up in the empty Eastern Oregon Fast Freight building at 1825 Westgate, just a couple of blocks west near the Club 24 fitness spot.

"He had literally thousands of dollars worth of tools, sound boards and



Reed

other things inside the building," Roberts said.

Roberts said it was fortunate the Happy Canyon board member happened to be there at that moment and the department has been able to return most of the goods to their owners.

According to court documents, the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office on Friday brought initial charges against Reed of first-degree burglary,

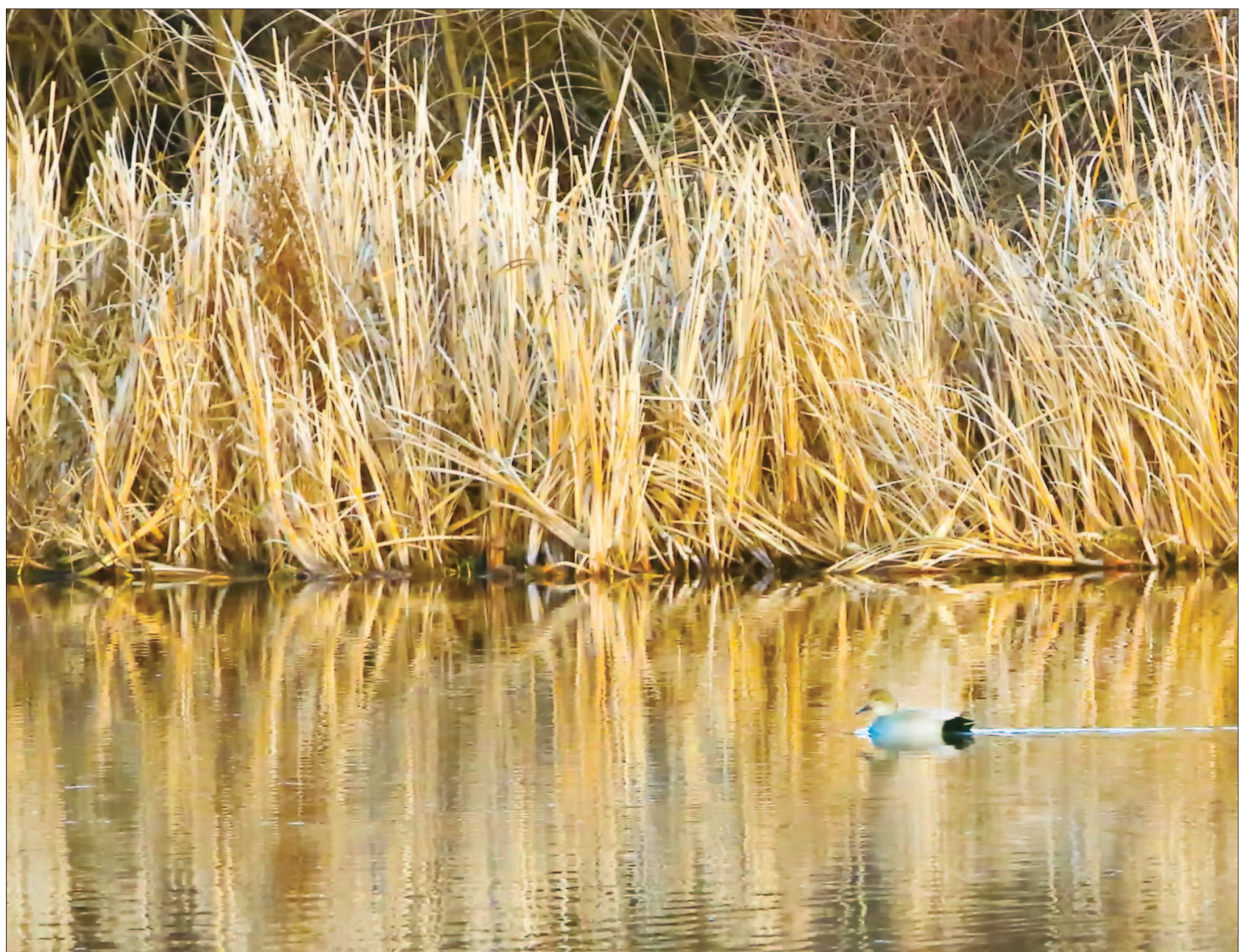
first-degree trespass, second-degree theft and second-degree criminal mischief for breaking into the property stealing food and other products and damaging property. Roberts said he anticipates Reed will face more charges. For now, Reed remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

While police are wrapping up the burglary case, the former home to the freight company brings up the absent landlord issue, a common situation in Pendleton.

Crown Enterprises Inc. of Warren, Michigan owns the Fast Freight building, and Roberts said the company does not have a manager for the property. The company this summer was responsive to cleaning up code violations at the site, he said, but the burglary investigation revealed people have been using the building for some time, leaving behind trash, graffiti and human waste.

"It's a problem building," he said. "We need to get it secured and locked down."

Sunset cruise



A duck floats in a pond Thursday near the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution at sunset.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

BMCC president search yields nine finalists

Video interviews set for next week

East Oregonian

Blue Mountain Community College's search for a new president is one step closer to fruition. The search committee composed of employees, students, Board of Education members and community residents winnowed a pool of 44 applicants to nine semifinalists.

The search committee will interview applicants by videoconference Jan. 17 and 18. The field will be trimmed to several finalists to come to BMCC for additional in-person interviews and to meet with faculty, staff and students.

Community members will have the opportunity to meet the finalists in a variety of forums sometime in mid-February. Names of the semifinalists are confidential, but will be released prior to their visits to the college.

The BMCC presidential search is being facilitated by Dr. Preston Pulliams, CEO

of Gold Hill Associates, an executive search firm that works with community colleges around the nation. The BMCC Board of Education hopes to have a new president hired by spring.

Updates on the search can be found online at <https://www.bluecc.edu/about-bmcc/presidential-search>.

BENT arrests two in Hermiston

Police arrested two people Friday morning after Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics team searched a Hermiston residence and found drugs.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts, who chairs the drug task force, said he only had limited information about the bust avail-

able as of 2 p.m. Friday.

He said police secured the home before 9:41 a.m., after obtaining a search warrant, and took two people into custody. He said he did not have the names of those arrested, but that a quarter pound of methamphetamine was discovered early in the search.

Live Music
9:00 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
Max Hay

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You are always in our thoughts & prayers

Love, Grandpa & Grandma Powell

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