

# Council debates parade fees

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council doesn't want to rain on anyone's parade, but whether they ask them to pay for it is still up in the air.

On Jan. 8, the council held a first reading for an ordinance that would add a \$1,500 fee to public parades with a few key exemptions. But instead of deliberating and voting on the proposal at its next meeting, the council threw it to a workshop for further discussion.

At the workshop Tuesday, Police Chief Stuart Roberts said he brought up the issue of parade security after reviewing meeting minutes from department staff meetings.

Roberts noticed that a recurring issue from the notes was that police officers were expressing concerns about managing parade routes, a new trend in Roberts' 16 years as chief.

Although organizers are required to submit parade permit applications 15 days before the event, Roberts said he often receives the application for approval only a few days before the target date, forcing him to scramble to arrange personnel.

Roberts said it can be a morale issue to bring in cops to work weekends, and it's also an expensive one, costing the department thou-



EO file photo  
**A large inflatable piggy bank is pulled on a float by Community Bank through the intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street during the Dress-Up Parade on Sept. 7, 2018, in Pendleton.**

sands of dollars per year.

He started talking about parade procedure with other city staff, and city administration eventually drafted an amendment to the city's parade ordinance that included a \$1,500 fee. Under the proposal, four events were exempted: Westward Ho! Parade, Dress-Up Parade, Fourth of July Parade, and Little League Parade.

These amendments sparked debate amongst the council.

Councilor Paul Chalmers believed that parades could handle the fee by passing on the cost to entrants and that no parades should get exemptions.

"I think that people have certain expectations with

their property taxes, but the fact of the matter is that government can't be all things to all people, nor should we try to be," he said. "My philosophy has always been what we're going to do, we're going to do well, and there's costs associated with that."

Councilor Dale Primmer disagreed.

"I think parades are a part of something a community does, and by putting barriers in front of it, it just doesn't feel good to me," he said.

Councilor McKennon McDonald said parades add monetary value to the city through other sources of revenue like hotel room taxes.

Not everyone at the work-

shop believed the parades could survive a fee. Mayor John Turner predicted that the Little League Parade and Fourth of July Parade would go away if they had to pay a fee because they're run by small nonprofits.

Roberts said there are already alternatives to parades that are available to organizers.

The parade ordinance wouldn't apply to funeral processions, coordinated vehicle rides, or a fixed-point public rally. And if organizers move their parade or march from the street to the sidewalk, parade laws wouldn't apply either.

City Manager Robb Corbett suggested the council pass the parade ordinance as is and then move onto a larger conversation on how to recoup public safety costs.

With the city continuing to attract more tourism events that could require police resources, Corbett suggested bringing in large event organizers to help figure out how to cover these costs.

When Turner asked the council if they would approve the ordinance with the exemptions, six councilors said they would.

But there was still enough lingering concern that the council decided to continue to discuss the issue at a future workshop rather than vote on it at a regular

# 'The Wizard of Oz' opens this weekend

East Oregonian

Hermiston residents are invited to follow the yellow brick road to Oz this weekend as Hermiston High School's theater department presents "The Wizard of Oz."

Directed by Beth Anderson, the play features the classic tale of Kansas farm girl Dorothy (played by Joy Love Breshears) and her magical journey through the land of Oz accompanied by a tinman (Brooks Bellinger), a scarecrow (William Kern), a cowardly lion (Louis Parra) and her faithful dog Toto.

Along the way she meets a large cast of Ozians, Munchkins, flying monkeys, talking trees, poppies, Winkies, the good witch Glinda (Keali'imanaole Hamilton), a wicked witch (Faith Powell) and the wizard himself (Shawn Conant).

The show opens Friday night at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium, 600 South First St. Other performances run Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. and Feb. 8-9 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors age 65 and older, and \$5 for students.

Seating is general admission, but groups of 10 or more may purchase reserved seats by e-mailing Beth Anderson at beth.anderson@hermiston.org.

# New Oregon council to examine wildfire-fighting strategies

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — Plagued by wildfires in recent years, Oregon will evaluate the effectiveness of its system to combat the blazes as fire seasons grow longer and more severe.

Gov. Kate Brown said Wednesday she's issued an executive order establishing the Oregon Wildfire Response Council. It is tasked with evaluating Oregon's current response system to large fires and making recommendations in September on the future of Oregon's wildfire response infrastructure.

"Oregon's firefighting approach leads the nation in effectiveness," the Democratic governor said in a statement. "However, wildfire dynamics are changing and it is never too soon to evaluate the approach to wildfire education, prevention, suppression, attack, and community recovery."

Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger Jr., of Grants Pass, said he's encouraged by the governor's actions.

"This is a great first step, but we need to take a serious look at how we manage our forests, including creating a long term 100-year plan to prevent these massive fires from occurring in the first place," Baertschiger said.

The Senate minority leader has said state and federal governments should reevaluate policies that restricted harvesting of natural resources. Thinning forests helps protect them from wildfires.

The Oregon Department of Forestry uses a "militia" approach to fighting wildfires, drawing employees with specialized fire skills away from regular duties across the agency to fill out fire teams when needed.

"This has proved highly efficient," forestry department spokeswoman Bobbi Doan said in an email. "However, over the past 10 years, climate conditions, increased development in and near forests, and other factors have made fire seasons longer, more severe and more complex."

Brown appointed Matt Donegan as chairman of the new wildfire response council.

According to the nonprofit World Forestry Center, based in Portland, Donegan studied forestry and worked early in his career as a forester and investment analyst at Georgia-Pacific Corporation, a pulp and paper company based in Atlanta, Georgia. He was president of the now disbanded State Board of Higher Education and was co-chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Natural Resources Commission.

## BRIEFLY

### AAUW meets Saturday at Prodigal Son

PENDLETON — Mary Davis will share about a recent experience in Southeast Asia during the upcoming American Association of University Women meeting.

The public is invited to her talk, "A Global Exchange to Indonesia: A Perspective on Women and Children in Southeast Asia." The no-host luncheon is Saturday at 11:45 a.m. at The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

AAUW works to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. AAUW's Pendleton branch expressed appreciation for the community's support during its annual grapefruit sales in November and December — more than 700 boxes were sold.

Money raised is used to provide scholarships for women who are resuming their academic studies at Blue Mountain Community College. Other projects include the STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at Sunridge Middle School, the Pendleton High School robotics club, and welding accessories and equipment at PHS and Pioneer Park.

For more information about AAUW, visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). For questions about the local branch, call Marlene Krout at 541-276-7596.

### Library friends host Valentine Bingo

ADAMS — A sweetheart of a fundraiser has been planned by the Friends of the Adams Library.

Valentine Bingo is Saturday, Feb. 9 from 4-6 p.m. at the Adams Friendship Center on Main Street. The entry fee is \$3 for ages 10 and over and free for those younger. The entrance fee includes two cards per game. Additional cards are available for 50 cents each. In addition, pizza, treats and drinks will be available for purchase.

Winners of each game will receive a valentine-themed gift. The final blackout game will feature a grand prize of a flat screen TV. If more than one person has a blackout at the same time, they will play another game until there is a single winner.

Money raised will help fund Friends of the Adams Library events and projects. For more information, call 541-566-3038 or visit [www.facebook.com/adamsoregon](http://www.facebook.com/adamsoregon).

### Fun run/walk supports youth mission trip

HERMISTON — Cupcakes will be passed out after a fun run/walk to raise money for a spring youth mission trip to Mexico.

The "Sprinkles are for Winners" 5K Fun Run/Walk is Saturday, Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. at Riverfront Park, Orchard Extension, Hermiston. The entry fee is \$5, or \$25 with a T-shirt. Cupcakes with sprinkles will be available at the finish line.

For a registration form, stop by Higher Power Fitness, 2120 N. First St., Hermiston, or search for the event on Facebook. For questions, call 541-314-2092 or 541-289-5483.

### Poster contest seeks youth artists

PORTLAND — Oregon students in first through eighth grades are invited to design a poster that represents the importance of acceptance and diversity in our neighborhoods.

Sponsored by the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, the theme of the 21st annual poster contest is "Everyone is Welcome in My Neighborhood." The top entries will receive cash awards and the chance to showcase their artwork throughout Oregon.

To qualify, posters must be horizontally oriented on an 11x17 sheet of white paper or poster board. Materials may include crayons, colored pencils,

magic markers, tempera paint, pastels or chalk. No glitter or glue. Entries must be received by March 15 at Fair Housing Council of Oregon, 1221 S.W. Yamhill St. #305, Portland, OR 97205.

For more information, visit [www.fhco.org/index.php/news/poster-competition](http://www.fhco.org/index.php/news/poster-competition). For questions, contact Eleanor Doyle at [edoyle@fhco.org](mailto:edoyle@fhco.org).

### Pilot Rock Boosters offer rockin' raffle

PILOT ROCK — The Rocket Booster Club is blasting the word about a big raffle to raise money to support programs in Pilot Rock.

Items up for grabs include a \$100 gas card, two adult day passes at Mt. Hood Meadows, a pair of youth passes for OMSI, two passes for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, a \$50 gift card at Timberline Lodge and more. The raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25.

The drawing will be held Thursday, Feb. 21. For more information, search Facebook for "Rocket Boosters."

### Bill aims to ban wildlife killing contests in Oregon

SALEM (AP) — Animal rights activists have come out in support of a bill in the Oregon Legislature that would ban killing wildlife as part of a contest.

The Humane Society of the United States cited several such contests, including the Harney County Coyote Classic, in Eastern Oregon. Five contests cited by the group involved killing coyotes, with the teams killing the most winning prizes.

Robert Wielgus, a retired professor and director of the Large Carnivore Conservation Lab at Washington State University, said such contests don't result in less livestock depredation or in increased deer population.

The Senate bill, sponsored by seven Democratic lawmakers, would make such contests illegal.

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