

The American Dream



Rocky Heights Elementary School third-graders dressed as figures from American history sing a group number during their Friday morning performance of "The American Dream," a musical play charting the history of the United States.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

\$85.9 million budget up for council approval

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton City Council will consider adopting an \$85.9 million budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year after it received minimal changes in the budget committee process.

The budget includes a \$17.5 million general fund, which pays for services like police, fire, and parks. The police department will be buying new vehicles and equipment this year, including body cameras.

Other highlights include the airport fund more than doubling to \$12.1 million to accommodate a runway paving project, and an increased

\$1.2 million road maintenance budget, which was achieved through some cuts to the general fund.

At the same meeting, the council is slated to approve a \$6.6 million bid from Central Washington Asphalt and Precision Approach Engineering to design and build the airport runway.

Most of the project budget will be covered by the Federal Aviation Administration while the city will provide a \$177,586 match using passenger facility charges collected on Boutique Air flights.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave.

Commission mulls more changes for upper story grant program

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Charles Denight said it would be inaccurate to say that the Pendleton Development Commission's Upper Story Grant program slowed down after the commission instituted a cap in February because the grant program was never busy to begin with.

Denight, the commission's associate director, said the commission is continuing to tinker with the rules of the grant to spur more business while remaining equitable.

Grants and loans are the primary way the commission distributes

money for projects in the urban renewal district.

In the past few years, the commission has focused much of its energy on trying to convince downtown building owners to develop their vacant or underdeveloped second stories.

The commission set a \$200,000 cap for grants earlier this year, but with the exception of local developer Al Plute, interest remains quiet.

Denight said the commission didn't just want to explore the benefits of a cap versus no cap, but also rethink the formula for determining how much the commission grants to applicants.

At a commission meet-

ing Tuesday, Steve Campbell, a banker and a member of the commission's advisory committee, proposed a potential method that would factor in how lenders consider development loan applicants.

He presented a scenario where a developer was trying to obtain a loan for a \$1.7 million, 12-unit apartment complex.

After factoring in income with a 5% vacancy rate, net operating income after things like operating costs, taxes, and insurance are subtracted, and a debt coverage ratio, Campbell calculated that it would take \$856,612 in equity to obtain a \$888,544 loan from the bank.

Assuming that the commission and the building owner split the equity costs equally, the commission would grant the owner \$428,306 for the project.

Denight said the commission is also discussing hiring a representative for building owners who otherwise don't have any experience in real estate development, which could remove another barrier toward upper story developments.

Denight said he's been tasked with coming up with a recommendation for the upper story grant program.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for June 18.

Oregon employers struggle to fill jobs

East Oregonian

While some Hermiston residents are finding themselves newly unemployed, the good news is there are jobs available in Oregon.

According to the state employment office, private employers in Oregon had 58,000 job vacancies at any given time during 2018.

Employers reported about 29% of those jobs saw zero or too few applicants to fill, and about 57% of the jobs were identified as "difficult to fill" due to factors such as the job's hours or qualifications.

According to the employment department's report, the largest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies were personal care aids, followed by truck drivers. By indus-

try, the largest vacancies were in health care and construction. According to the agency, companies "reported challenges filling essentially all job vacancies for forest and conservation workers, plumbers, construction supervisors, printing press operators, and intercity and transit bus drivers."

Less than half of the vacancies reported in 2018 required an education beyond a high school diploma. Forty-three percent of the positions paid less than \$15 an hour. In Eastern Oregon the average wage for job vacancies was \$14.81 an hour.

The report was put together through a survey of 13,800 private employers in Oregon.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Hermiston School District shuffles administrators

HERMISTON — Rocky Heights Elementary School principal Jerad Farley will fill the role of Sunset Elementary School principal next year after Christie Petersen announced her resignation, citing a move to Hillsboro for personal reasons.

Farley will bring with him current RHES dean of students Becky Bacon, who will swap places with current Sunset dean of students Anthony Voelker.

Armand Larive Middle School assistant principal and former Rocky Heights teacher Stefani Wyant will be promoted to Rocky Heights principal.

The vacant assistant principal position at Armand Larive will be filled by Hermiston High School science teacher Juan Rodriguez.

"An administrator's vacancy usually leaves a big void, but thankfully, Hermiston School District is blessed with a strong administrative team," superintendent Tricia Mooney said in a statement. "I was able to look at the dis-

trict's leadership strengths and current needs to fill posts internally."

Staff changes will take effect on July 1.

CTUIR and partners to dedicate Wanapa Road

UMATILLA — A collaboration between several different governmental entities named Umatilla is culminating in a road dedication.

On Tuesday, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the city of Umatilla, the Port of Umatilla, and the Oregon Department of Corrections will celebrate the opening of Wanapa Road with a dedication ceremony.

Wanapa Road starts at Beach Access Road in Umatilla and extends 1 mile east, connecting three previously landlocked properties owned by the port, Tribes, and Two Rivers Correctional Institution.

Bill Tovey, the CTUIR director of community and economic development, recounted in a press release the challenges the working group dealt with after the Oregon Legislature appro-

riated \$3.5 million for the project in 2013.

"We have a list of about twenty federal, state, local, and tribal agencies and departments that we had to coordinate with at various times throughout project planning and construction," he said. "There were a couple delays but we've had great support at the local level and are really pleased with the result. Hopefully this infrastructure investment will attract new industry and new jobs to the area."

Each organization contributed something to the project and will get a benefit in return.

The CTUIR provided project management staff for the development of the road, which will now open access to the 120-acre Wanapa Industrial Site, which the Tribes are marketing for industrial uses like data centers, manufacturing, and food processing.

The road also runs along seven, 20-acre lots and larger 160-acre lots owned by the Port of Umatilla, which installed electrical vaults and utility stub-outs to serve those properties.

TRCI provided the land the road was built on, and the road will open access

to 150 acres of undeveloped land owned by the DOC. The department could use the land for prison expansion or a development opportunity.

The city will own and maintain the road, and used a land-use exception to provide sewer. The city anticipates that the industrial development could result in more jobs and an increased tax base.

The ceremony will be north of United Grain Corp.'s Umatilla office, 775 Beach Access Road, on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Foster child citizen review board seeks volunteers

PENDLETON — Just one day a month can make a difference in a foster child's life. This is the message the Citizen Review Board (CRB) hopes potential volunteers will take to heart as

they seek community members to serve as volunteers.

Each child in foster care must have their case reviewed every six months by a judge or by the Citizen Review Board, a panel of local citizens to ensure the foster child is receiving adequate care. The panel is made up of three to seven members of the community who should represent the population of their county. There are two boards in Umatilla County: Pendleton (east Umatilla County) and Hermiston (west Umatilla County/Morrow County). Volunteers are needed from each community.

Members of the CRB are given case files 10 days in advance. They then serve on a board for one day a month and review foster care cases with everyone involved in the case: Department of Human Services, Tribes (if applicable), parents, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), fos-

ter parents, and often the children themselves.

For more information, please contact John Nichols at 541.233.8142 or john.a.nichols@ojd.state.or.us.

More information is available online at <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/crb/>

"Scramble for Scholarships"

Friday, June 7th

..... 1pm Shotgun Start

GOOD SHEPHERD
COMMUNITY HEALTH
FOUNDATION

Big River Golf Course - Umatilla

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 26th annual "Scramble for Scholarships" golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and BBQ dinner, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships for local health care students.

Register at scrambleforscholarships.eventbrite.com
or by calling 541-667-3405. Entry deadline is June 5th.

Great prize holes and Hole-in-one on #1 & #9
WINS A NEW CAR sponsored by Tom Denchel Ford
and Hermiston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram!

Boardman Marina Park

Music in the Parks

FREE Summer Concert Series

Irrigon Marina Park

Enjoy a summer of free concerts alternating between Boardman & Irrigon Marina Parks!

BOARDMAN MARINA PARK	IRRIGON MARINA PARK
<p>June 10 Bram Bratá Steel Drums</p> <p>June 24 Azetatos Latino Rock</p> <p>July 8 Brady Goss "The Piano Man"</p> <p>July 22 Cruise Control Classic Rock</p> <p>August 5 Cosmo's Dream Bluegrass</p>	<p>June 17 Wasteland Kings Rock</p> <p>July 1 98% Bands Big Band/Swing</p> <p>July 15 Martin Gerschwitz Rock</p> <p>July 29 Fonozis Latino</p> <p>August 12 Cale Moon Country</p>

Music in the Parks is funded by:
Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Portland General Electric
and is sponsored by North Morrow Community Foundation

In the event of inclement weather, Boardman performances will be held at the SAGE Center and Irrigon performances will be held at the Irrigon Senior Center.

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie

Showing Wednesday at 12PM
LOGAN'S RUN

Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG13)
2D 12:40p* 3:40p* 6:50
3D 9:50p

Rocketman (R)
1:40p* 4:20p 7:00p 9:40p

Aladdin (PG)
1:00p* 3:50p* 6:40p 9:30p

John Wick: Chapter 3
Parabellum (R)
12:30p* 3:20p* 7:10p 10:00p

Avengers: Endgame (PG13)
11:40a* 3:30p* 6:10p 9:50p

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG)
Thursday, June 6th • 7:10p

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie

Showing Wednesday at 12PM
LOGAN'S RUN

Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG13)
2D 3:40p* 6:50
3D 9:50p

Rocketman (R)
4:20p 7:00p 9:40p

Aladdin (PG)
3:50p* 6:40p 9:30p

John Wick: Chapter 3
Parabellum (R)
3:20p* 7:10p 10:00p

Avengers: Endgame (PG13)
3:30p* 6:10p 9:50p

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG)
Thursday, June 6th • 7:10p

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216