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PENDLETON

REVAMPING GOALS



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jim Amundson, of Amundson Construction, wets down the driveway and yard of a new home on Southwest First Street on Tuesday after pouring cement. The Pendleton City Council has hit many of its housing objectives while falling behind on infrastructure.

City council searches for better way to identify, implement council goals

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A city council discussion about revamping its goals included a relative rarity — a compliment about Hermiston.

At a recent Pendleton City Council workshop, Councilor Scott Fairley said he was a part of a workgroup of councilors who wanted to find a better way to identify and implement council goals.

Fairley said the committee studied council goals and their implementation strategies across the region and singled out two cities who made progress on their own goals especially well — John Day and Hermiston.

A small Grant County town that's been hit hard by the decline in the timber industry, Fairley said John Day set a broad goal around population growth as a way to offset the increased costs of services.

According to Fairley, Nick Green, the John Day city manager, identified the city's issues, drafted a growth plan, presented it to its city council for review and approval, and now dedicates most of his job toward implementing the plan.

Fairley said John Day has had some success with this strategy, garnering \$4.5 million in grants over the past three years and recently meeting with 20 state

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Dale Primmer, right, and his fellow Pendleton City Councilors listen to a report Tuesday night at a meeting of the Pendleton Development Commission.

City could target Byers Avenue with urban renewal money

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Over its 16-year existence, the Pendleton urban renewal district's funding has mostly gone toward restoring façades, providing small business loans, and redeveloping upper story building spaces.

At a meeting Tuesday, staff told the members of the Pendleton City Council, acting as the Pendleton Development Commission, how they could use that money for streets.

If members approve a proposal to spend \$3 million from the development commission's budget, then it would need to be restricted to the urban renewal district, which encompasses downtown Pendleton and some of the surrounding area.

Community Development Director Tim Simons said he and city staff put together a list of streets in need of repair in the district.

The list includes 10 street segments that need a 2-inch over-

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Former volunteer firefighter lived big

Janice Arsenault remembered as a dynamic and outgoing personality

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is investigating what led to the deaths of two people Saturday while boating on the Columbia River.

Divers Monday evening recovered the bodies of Janice Arsenault, 44, of Umatilla, and Trenton Williams, 20, from Idaho, in the river near Bobby's Beach, a small site along Highway 730 north about 10 miles east of Umatilla. Sheriff Terry Rowan said with the recovery complete, the focus can shift to finding out what happened.

According to the initial reports from the sheriff's office, Arsenault and Williams fell off a boat. The driver of the boat, Richard Kirkendall, 41, of Hermiston, reported the pair were riding on the dive step of the boat and he noticed they were missing when he arrived on shore. Rowan said the case presents plenty of questions, including whether alcohol or other drugs played a role, which will be a matter for Dr. Rudy Stefancik, the county medical examiner. Rowan also

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Eastern Oregon avoids glare from new solar restrictions

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Eastern Oregon might not bear the heat of the state's new rules curtailing solar projects on high-value farmland.

The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission in late May approved rules to restrict commercial solar facilities on high-value farmland statewide. The short version, according to the LCDC: "The best of the best soils would no longer be available for solar development through a simple conditional use process."

Developers have proposed 53 projects in exclusive farm use zones in central and eastern Oregon, the LCDC reported, which would occupy more than 17,000 acres. In Eastern Oregon,

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Senate Republicans threaten second walkout

GOP considering denying Senate a quorum to kill a proposed cap-and-trade program

By AUBREY WIEBER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Senate Republicans are considering staging a second walkout — potentially delaying the end of the legislative session — to block a vote on sweeping climate legislation.

House Bill 2020, which would implement a carbon pricing program, passed the House on Monday

night after a floor debate that stretched past six hours.

All Republicans and two Democrats voted against it. Republicans have always been strongly against it, saying it would hurt industry and rural Oregonians.

Senate Republicans have already shown they have an appetite to do more than just drag out a floor debate by a few hours.

On May 7, they staged a walkout to deny a quorum — the Senate must have 20 members present to conduct its work — so the Senate could not take up a business tax proposal.

The walkout lasted four

days, and they eventually came back after Gov. Kate Brown struck a deal to kill two controversial bills: one that more strictly enforced vaccine regulations and a gun control bill.

The deal also included a "reset" on HB 2020. In exchange, Senate Republicans agreed to play nice for the rest of session.

The parameters of the "reset" were never clear, and Senate Republicans don't feel Democrats held up their end of that bargain.

On Tuesday, rumors that Republicans were considering a second

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Capital Press/George Plaven, File

Supporters of cap and trade rally outside the Oregon Capitol in February. Senate Republicans are considering staging a second walkout — potentially delaying the end of the legislative session — to block a vote on sweeping climate legislation. House Bill 2020, which would implement a carbon pricing program, passed the House on Monday night after a floor debate that stretched past six hours.



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