

LA GRANDE'S LIBERTY THEATRE RESTORATION MOVING FORWARD

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RICKY SIMON'S MMA STAR ON THE RISE

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HERMISTON WATERMELONS READY FOR SUMMER EATING

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EAST OREGONIAN

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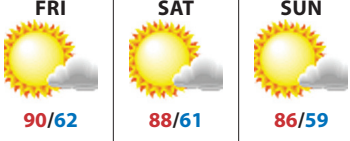
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Weekend Weather



Oregon Senate leaders sending \$3,500 invoices to Republicans for walkout

By DIRK VANDERHART
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — Oregon's legislative session is over, but Senate Republicans are about to get their hands on a whole new crop of bills.

Senate leaders said this week they are preparing to invoice 11 Republican senators for fines associated with a June walkout, after determining a plan to dock their pay wasn't legal.

According to Senate President Peter Courtney's office, invoices for \$3,500 — \$500 per day for seven of the eight days Republicans refused to show up for a floor session — had not been sent as of Wednesday.

"Individual bills will be sent to each senator who missed work," said Carol McAlice Currie, a

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PENDLETON



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Pendleton's new Fire Station One nears completion as work crews finish interior fixtures and landscape work.

NEW FIRE STATION NEARLY COMPLETE

By ANTONIO SIERRA AND PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — More than two years after voters gave the city of Pendleton the go-ahead to build a \$9 million fire station, the new facility is nearly move-in ready and under budget.

Leading a tour through the building on Tuesday, Joseph Hull, the director of business development/operations for McCormack Construction Co., said the fire station remains on track to finish by its targeted end date, which is the end of the month.

Fire Chief Paul Berardi said the furniture for the station arrives Tuesday with installation Wednesday. The city purchased most of that — desks, file cabinets, bed frames and more — through a deal with Oregon Corrections Enterprises. But fire department staff will not be working there quite yet.

"We're still going through trying to make sure the radios are operating," Berardi said, and similar concerns. He said the plan calls for staff to be in there by Aug. 1, though it looks to happen sooner.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A vintage bell made in 1885 by Henry McShane & Co. sits on a pallet ready for installation in Pendleton's new firehouse.

Hull said the remaining construction crews are mostly working on landscaping and a "punch list" of finishing touches to complete before the fire department can move in to the station.

The 1455 S.E. Court Ave. station now features many of the amenities that are either non-existent or diminished at the current facility at 911 S.W. Court Ave.: individual lodging quarters for each firefighter, a full kitchen, a gym, a communal area, workspace, offices for administrators, and meeting rooms for both per-

sonnel and the community.

"It's gonna be a night-and-day difference," Hull said.

Additionally, the new station has a room for the Pendleton Police Department should it need a space on the east side of town.

Hull said he has worked on other fire stations as a member of large construction firms in Portland and Seattle, but Pendleton's fire station is the best one he's seen.

Pendleton facilities manager

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STEM camp embraces at-risk children

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — In the middle of summer, Sandstone Middle School is the last place many kids would want to be. The exception stands for the 48 kids participating in Skyhawks STEM Sports Camp this week, who had just learned they were getting free ice cream on Wednesday.

"In our program, sports is the hook. But there is confidence building and character building, those are components that we really drive by," said Tim Sullivan, who owns Skyhawks in the Tri-Cities, a sports academy for children ages 4-12 of all skill levels.

Sullivan said the camp incorporates components of science, technology, engineering and math.

Kids dissected soccer balls to learn more about how they're made before shooting goals. Most recently, they tested basketballs to see how high they bounce on different surfaces.

"No matter what grade they're in, when they return back to school, if they're doing anything with STEM, they're going to have an automatic connection," Sullivan said.

The weeklong camp is open for children ages 6 to 12 who receive services from Made to Thrive, a nonprofit organization that provides funding, transportation, equipment and mentoring for at-risk and foster youth to participate in extracurricular activities.

The camp was brought to Oregon with the help of Community and Shelter Assistance of Oregon, which received a NeighborWorks grant. The grant was able to fund about half of the spots for the camp, and Skyhawks took care of the rest.

"We thought children with the most need were already located by Made to Thrive," said Monica Cervantes of the Oregon Child Development Coalition, who is part of CASA of Oregon.

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EOU writing program is reborn — with Fishtrap's help

School has reestablished its writing track, after a one-year hiatus

By APRIL BAER
Oregon Public Broadcasting

LA GRANDE — Oregon's rural university and a storied Wallowa County writers' retreat are teaming

up to revive a degree program and cross-pollinate each other's programs.

Eastern Oregon University, based in La Grande, has reestablished its writing track, after a one-year hiatus. It signed a memorandum of understanding Wednesday at the Summer Fishtrap gathering, so that its Master of Fine Arts students can benefit from the wealth of talent that convenes at Wallowa Lake each summer

and winter.

Fishtrap executive director Shannon McNerney says her organization had wanted to reboot an academic program that provided college credit for high schoolers attending its gathering. She got to talking to an EOU English professor, Nancy Knowles, over beers at Enterprise's popular brewery Terminal Gravity — as McNerney calls it, "the official meeting spot for all

partnership initiations in Wallowa County." Their conversation ultimately resulted in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Like several Oregon writing programs, EOU's MFA is a low-residency course. It only requires students to be on campus in Eastern Oregon for a few weeks per year, as they work

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