

## Retaliation: UEC's Echenrode allegedly breached his fiduciary duty

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\$3.4 million for the loss of future wages, benefits and pension payments and almost \$3.8 million for emotional distress and physical harm.

Court records show the plaintiff served copies of the lawsuit to Echenrode and the two power companies, but there are no legal

responses from the defendants. Umatilla Electric Cooperative, however, provided this response from Echenrode:

"I'm proud of our work at UEC to serve our members by bringing power, progress and opportunity to the community. I approach this mission with a commitment to collaboration and supporting an inclusive and safe work-

place for all of our employees. Those missions and values guide my work and remain my focus. I believe the claims are without merit and we will respond through the appropriate legal process, but my focus remains where it should be — on carrying out our mission guided by strong values on behalf of our members and the community we serve."



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

**The Lodge has received a variety of state and local grants to aid in renovating the facade and HVAC for the building.**

## Grant: Final dollar amount undetermined

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said, was over how much money the former Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge qualified for.

According to Denight and The Lodge's grant application, co-owner Lance Leonnig was asking for 40% of the project's total cost.

With renovations including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning replacement, roof repairs, drain installation, and electrical work, Leonnig estimated the project would cost \$39,333.

But The Lodge is already getting financial assistance for some of those renovations through its share of a \$155,609 grant from Oregon Main Street.

Given the grant money it was already receiving, Denight said the committee wanted to pay the cost of the second story renovations after the Oregon Main Street grant was applied, rather

than the total project cost.

Denight said the other factor was the fact that Leonnig, a licensed electrician, intended to do much of the electrical work himself.

He said The Lodge could qualify for more money if Leonnig submitted a bid for his own labor and included a competing bid from another electrician.

Although the committee didn't settle on a final grant amount, Denight said members didn't want to hinder Leonnig's ability to move forward with the HVAC and roof work and approved his application.

Leonnig said in an interview that there's a short warm-weather window for the roof work and he wanted to move quickly.

Like the rest of the development commission's grant programs, the second story grant works on a reimbursement basis. Leonnig will

pay for the costs of the renovations up front, submit receipts of the costs to the city, and then receive reimbursement based on the grant amount.

Leonnig declined to talk about discussions between himself and the facade committee, but he said he was happy to receive community support for The Lodge.

He bought the 24,000-square-foot building in January, long after the Elks had vacated their former home.

Leonnig and some local business partners have spent the ensuing months fixing up the 63-year-old building.

He said the effort has been labor-intensive, pointing to a series of outlets in the building's Stag Bar that took hours to install.

Even though The Lodge is still a work in progress, it's set to host the fourth installment of its "Live at the Leslie" concert series on Friday.

## Bike Week: Rumbles in Pendleton

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trate their routes using his fingers on the back of his sport bike.

After not participating in any of the rides last year — they instead made use of the demo rides available from various dealers and enjoyed the week's other events — the Bobs wanted to join in the fun this time.

The locations start with the Rattlesnake Mountain Harley-Davidson in the vendor village at the convention center and include Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery, Elite Guns & Tactical and Pendleton Woolen Mills along with the Holton Secret Lab in Helix and Midway Bar & Grill in Hermiston.

Unlike the Rattlesnake 400 that both began and ended on Thursday, riders have until Saturday at 7 p.m. to collect each location's stamp and return their card to the convention center. With time to waste, Jeff said he and his wife will finish the ride over Thursday and Friday, making sure to enjoy the most scenic routes between the three Umatilla County towns.

Within their 26 years of marriage, riding has become a family passion for the Bobs. While Jeff said he's been riding since 1979, Carrie first started in 1997. Or at least she tried to.

As she was participating in a class to earn her Oregon motorcycle endorsement, Carrie learned she was pregnant. Though she finished the class, she couldn't begin to ride until after the birth of their first daughter.

Carrie was patient until her daughter was 8 weeks old, when they then took a family trip and she put her endorsement to use. Now 22, the Bobs' oldest daughter recently received her motorcycle endorsement too.

"It's something I always wanted to do," Carrie said of getting into biking.

Her husband had another theory.

"She hates being a passenger," Jeff said, laughing.

The Bobs don't ride together on the same bike unless they absolutely have to, according to Carrie. But biking has still been a way for the couple to bond.

While now the couple mostly takes some time to



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

**A group of motorcycle enthusiasts rolls into the parking lot at the Pendleton Convention Center for Pendleton Bike Week.**

go riding together along all the "twisty" back roads near Portland, they used to meet up with a group of friends on Friday nights to go biking and would make an annual group fossil trip to the John Day area.

While they share the same passion for bikes and motorcycles, their tastes differ.

Jeff's bike of choice is a silvery gray sport bike with lime green trimming — and that is considered "naked" because of its minimalized windshield covering — while Carrie opts for a sleek, black Indian brand cruiser that she knew she had to have after demoing it at last year's Bike Week.

"It looks bad-ass," Carrie said, laughing.

As a self-proclaimed slow rider, Carrie said the cruiser was comfortable for her, whereas Jeff prefers the speedy bike and "loves the curves."

"Our bikes are like dogs and we're the dog owners," Jeff said. "And everyone's got a favorite dog."

And what better way is there to make friends than taking your dog, or bike, out to see what other favorites people have.

As he stood next to his bike parked in the convention center lot, Jeff motioned in a fellow sport bike rider to park next to him. The two quickly began exchanging travel stories and thoughts on the latest models and news about various bikes.

"This," Jeff said, interrupting their discussion and pointing to the other rider and then himself.

"This is why I'm here."

Soon, Carrie noticed somebody with an Indian brand bike like hers and went to talk with them on the other end of the lot as the Bobs each got to share in their own unique passion for their bikes.

Not everybody shows

up at Pendleton's Bike Week with a plan like the Bobs. In fact, Kay and Angela Hen never intended to show up at all.

"It was a mistake actually," Kay said.

The couple had been headed back home to Portland on their Harley-Davidsons after four days on the road. After leaving the previous Saturday morning, the Hens took the back roads throughout Northeast Oregon, dipping through the John Day and Hells Canyon areas and heading all the way to Boise, Idaho.

On their way back west, they heard of Bike Week in Pendleton and decided to extend their trip through the weekend.

After attending Wednesday's Ride with the Raiders and enjoying some "amazing burgers" in town, the couple planned to use the Poker Run to get more of a tour of the area.

Kay has been biking consistently for the last four years, though he discovered his love for it at a young age. As a child, Kay remembers seeing his dad ride his motorcycle and immediately asking for one for himself. When he was 7 years old, his father obliged and gifted him a dirt bike.

Now, the Hens go biking just about every weekend. Last week, the couple took a 360-mile trip down to Sisters, Bend and the rest of Central Oregon. The week before that, they went to Astoria and took a trip up and down the coast.

And then this weekend they landed in Pendleton by mistake. But riding their bikes has nothing to do with their destinations.

"Freedom," Kay said of why he bikes.

"That's all you need," Angela said.

"It's cool to ride and see neat places," Kay said. "But it's really about freedom."

## BMCC: Bikers looking to give back for a cause

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funding goes back into the team to help pay for things like new equipment, uniforms and travel expenses.

The team will begin practices for the fall on Aug. 1 according to Larson, so Bike Week gives the team a reason to get together before it's time to get to business.

"It's a lot of fun to get out and spend some time together before the chaos of the season," Larson said, laughing.

While many of the players are enjoying their summer vacations, it wasn't difficult for their coach to enlist them for help.

"The girls are really good at coming out and volunteering," Larson said. "They know this goes to them. They reap the benefits."

Most of the team's other fundraisers throughout the year are geared toward volleyball, such as kid camps and clinics. And with the team in season when the Round-Up is in full force, Larson said they aren't usually able to get involved.

"It's nice to be a part of the community out here," she said, gesturing to the surrounding trucks and tents of vendors set up throughout the convention center's parking lot.

When it comes to the bikes, Larson said the team gets to enjoy the colorful

bikes and personalities that come through. However, with a group that specializes in spikes rather than suds, Larson said they have to handle the bikes with care as they clean.

"We know it's expensive equipment," she said. "We make sure to ask if there's things they don't want to get wet or if the don't want us to use a certain soap."

Patrons of the bike wash come to the tent for various reasons. Some are just looking to keep their bike shining, while others are looking to get it into top shape for Saturday's bike show.

And some are just looking to give back.

On Thursday afternoon, Dinah Wheaton stopped by the tent to have her bike cleaned. A bike enthusiast, Wheaton traveled from Tacoma to attend Pendleton's Bike Week for the first time. Her late husband was a member of the stunt and drill bike team known as the Seattle Cossacks, and though her bike was dirty, she mostly just wanted to support the girls.

"I've been helped a lot and it makes you feel good to be able to help others," she said.

While Larson said business has been slow to begin Bike Week, the group will remain at the convention center through Saturday hoping to raise more funds for the season.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

**Dinah Wheaton rides her freshly cleaned 2015 Harley Davidson Street Glide following a visit to the bike wash at the Pendleton Convention Center. The event, part of Pendleton Bike Week, raised funds for the Blue Mountain Community College volleyball team.**



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

**Shawn Rowland checks for any missed spots on his 2016 Harley Davidson Road Glide Special. Rowland purchased the bike in May and decided to take it for its first wash during Pendleton Bike Week.**



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

**Denali Twehues assists her teammates in drying off a Harley Davidson during a bike wash fundraiser for Blue Mountain Community College's volleyball team. The bike wash, a part of Pendleton Bike Week, starts daily at 12:30 p.m. through Saturday at the Pendleton Convention Center.**