

CTUIR proposes agreement with city of Hermiston

Tribe aims to ink formal agreement on cultural preservation

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is hoping to strengthen ties with the city of Hermiston with a formal agreement on cultural preservation.

Teara Farrow, manager of the tribes' cultural resources protection program, told the city council on Monday that a 1994 memorandum of agreement between the city and CTUIR set guidelines for the city to notify the tribes of planned public projects, take input and allow for surveys to help discover any culturally sensitive items, ranging from arrowheads to burial sites.

The agreement expired and the CTUIR asked for a renewal in 2006, but the

council at that time declined to sign a new agreement, she said. They hope the current city council will consider renewing the formal partnership.

Kristen Tiede, an archeologist with the cultural resources protection program, said a partnership that fosters more cultural surveys of public land around Hermiston would be beneficial to development.

"If we identify sites beforehand you don't have to hold up a project, you can include it in the plan," she said.

When artifacts are discovered, she said, there are options to adjust the project so that a resource can be preserved or capped, or if disturbing the resource is unavoidable, they can talk about options for mitigation such as donating money toward preservation programs.

"By working together we can help protect cultural

resources without stopping development," Tiede said.

Farrow said surveys don't take long. Their archeologists can do a 40- to 80-acre site in a day if they're only examining the surface, and a few days more if they're testing below ground.

She said the CTUIR has similar agreements with cities such as Umatilla and Richland, and with ports and counties in Washington. She said the agreement with Hermiston would ideally include provisions for voluntary information sharing, giving first preference to tribal archeologists to complete surveys, meeting with the CTUIR board of directors annually and other coordination.

City manager Byron Smith told the council that staff had taken a look at the previous agreement the city had with the tribes, as well as the current agreements the CTUIR has with other communities, and

was prepared to come back at a future meeting with a recommendation.

Mayor David Drotzmann said he hoped they could work out something that would be of mutual benefit to both entities, and a win for the region.

"It's been a nice relationship and I hope it continues to mature," he said.

School district

On Monday the city council also listened to a request from the Hermiston School District for a resolution supporting the school district's bond campaign. The district plans to put an \$82.7 million bond on the November ballot that would replace Rocky Heights Elementary School with a larger school on the same site, add a new classroom annex to Hermiston High School and build a new elementary school on Theater Lane.

Property owners will see a drop on their next property

tax bill, taking the school bond tax from about \$4.09 per \$1,000 or assessed value to about \$3.65 per \$1,000 thanks to paying off all pre-2008 bonds last month. District finance director Katie Saul told the council that if the new bond passes, the rate will stay at about \$3.65, but instead of paying off all school bonds in 10 years, taxpayers would be paying that rate for about 25.

Councilors asked questions about the projects and were told that they would allow for modular classrooms at the high school and Sunset Elementary School to go away, as well as the ones at Rocky Heights not being used by Head Start.

The current Rocky Heights building would remain in use while the new, larger building would be built on the other side of the property. As part of that, the softball fields there would be moved onto the old fairgrounds next to the high

school.

Later in the meeting, parks and recreation director Larry Fetter told the council that his department has started the process of creating a master parks plan and is partnering with the school district so that both entities could assess all of their current green space and all of their recreational needs together.

Drotzmann praised that idea as a way to reduce "dual taxpayer expense."

Public employees are only allowed by state law to give information about bond campaigns, not advocate a political position on it, but school board member Josh Goller was allowed to be more direct, asking for the council to pass a formal resolution in support.

Multiple councilors voiced their approval of the idea, and Drotzmann asked staff to bring a formal resolution back at a later meeting.

Pendleton Fire Department participates in training exercises



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Members of the Pendleton Fire Department participate in a training with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in the former Pendleton Grain Growers parking lot on Tuesday morning. The training dealt with appropriate control and procedure for fighting propane tank and gas meter fires.

Pendleton residents get extension for National Night Out events

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton residents have a couple more days to register with the city police department for National Night Out parties.

Tuesday was the deadline to register for the chance to win hot dogs, beverages, and more from local sponsors. Shelly Studebaker is the community services officer with Pendleton police and coordinates National Night Out and other events. She said she received five registrations, so she would extend the deadline a couple of days.

Pendleton police in years past hosted a National Night Out event at a city park, providing free hot dogs, beverages and ice cream floats to any and all who came. That required a large contingent of department staff. Stude-

baker last year implemented the change for locals to host smaller gatherings in neighborhoods and city parks the evening of the first Tuesday of August. Several neighborhoods took advantage of the program and hosted parties at Roy Raley Park, the Kiwanis Park and the 100 block of Southeast Seventh Street.

"This year, I kind of wanted to see if it would take off on its own," she said. "It's still strong, as far as I'm concerned."

Neighbors holding their own gatherings is more in line with the ethos of National Night Out. Studebaker also said she sees the lower turnout as a positive. Community partners, including Hill Meat Co., Safeway, Walmart and more, have multiple demands to contribute to community events, so with fewer registrations, there could be enough free goods to go around.

Some circumstances may have played a role in why more groups are not participating. Residents on Southwest 44th Street, for example, played hosts last year, but the April flooding of McKay Creek hit that neighborhood hard.

Officers again will visit the NNO gatherings, she said, and those who do register qualify for a drawing to win all the fixings for ice cream floats. Pendleton police also will again hold a coloring contest for children 3-11 years old. The coloring sheet will be available at the Pendleton Public Library, Pendleton Police Department and the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon.

For more information about National Night Out, email PPD-NNO@ci.pendleton.or.us or call Studebaker at 541-276-4411 extension 1109.

Umatilla County Charter recommendations in hands of commissioners

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners decide Wednesday on what to do with the recommendations to revamp county government.

The county's Charter Review Committee from 2018 though this past spring examined the charter, the county's founding document, debated on improvements, and in late May gave the county commissioners three proposals for ballot measures.

The simplest proposal would replace "Law Enforcement Department" with "Sheriff's Office" in the charter and reflect the sheriff's functions according to Oregon law. The second would change the election for county commissioners. If no more than two candidates seek the office there would be no May primary election and the candidates would advance to the November general. If more than two run, the two who win the most votes in the primary face off in the general.

The biggest change would come to the structure of the county administration. The charter review group proposes moving from a board with three full-time commissioners to a county administrator answering to a board of five part-time commissioners.

George Murdock, chair of the board of commissioners, has stated the board should put the proposals on the ballot for county voters to decide. Commissioner Bill Elfering and freshman

Commissioner John Shafer have not said one way or the other on putting the issue to a vote of the people.

The county board meets Wednesday starting at 9 a.m. in room 130 at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. Members of the Charter Review Committee will be present to submit the report and answer questions.

The board in other business will consider requests to seek bids for improvements to the courthouse, including to repair the east wing roof and to replace the building's failing boiler. And the board will decide on what to do about renovating two school-based health centers.

The county received a \$100,000 federal grant for the renovations, but bids from Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co. to do the work total \$209,000.



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	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room — DJ
THURSDAY	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	9:00am	Steer Tripping, Three Rounds
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — DJ — No Cover Charge
FRIDAY	8:00am	Golf Tournament — Alpine Meadows Golf Course
	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — FrogHollow Band
SATURDAY	6:00am	Shrine Breakfast begins
	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	12:00pm	Nez Perce Friendship Feast — Encampment Pavilion
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	3:00pm	Traditional Indian Dance Contest — Encampment Pavilion
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — FrogHollow Band
	After Rodeo	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 3:00am
SUNDAY	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 10:00am
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service





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