

Former Funland fence pickets ready for pickup

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Engraved wooden fence pickets sitting at the Hermiston Community Center this weekend tell a story of the people who came together to rebuild Funland playground in 2001 after it burned down.

After a second fire this spring burned down the 2001 playground, the city salvaged everything they could that had a name on it. The fence pickets local residents sponsored are now catalogued, alphabetized and available for pickup Sept. 20-22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

Charlie Clupny was there Friday morning shortly after the pickup process started, and he



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Engraved fence pickets salvaged from the former Funland Playground after it burned down sit ready for pickup in the Hermiston Community Center.

could tell stories about most of the names on the wooden slats.

“There’s so much history here,” he said.

Clupny is one of eight committee members who are working on the design and fundraising for a new Funland playground at

Butte Park, which they hope will be completed by next summer.

The new park will be larger and made of a more fireproof, long-lasting compressed plastic to discourage future arson. The fence pickets for the new park will be made of the same material, a sample of which is on display at the community center.

Families and individuals can sponsor a slat, engraved with their choice of names or message, for \$100. Businesses can sponsor one for \$250. Other larger sponsorships, such as benches, will also be available as the Funland committee works to raise money for the new playground. For more information, see bit.ly/funlandpicket or call the Hermiston parks and recreation department at 541-667-5018.

Funding for USDA to regulate CBD necessary

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

SALEM — As appropriations bills get ready to hit the Senate floor, a \$2 million appropriation for research on cannabidiol could guide Oregon farmers growing the crop.

Cannabidiol, known more commonly as CBD, is a main component of hemp, which is on track to be a billion dollar crop for Oregon this year.

On a conference call with reporters Thursday, Sen. Jeff Merkley said he wanted to make sure funding was set aside for research, policy evaluation and market analysis for the Food and Drug Administration to regulate CBD.

The non-psychoactive ingredient has risen in popularity as companies have infused it into everything from gummy bears to shampoo. This week The Associated Press released a report detailing lab testing done by the AP and by law enforcement on CBD products. They found some products claiming to contain CBD had none at all, while others mixed in illegal synthetic marijuana without labeling it as such. In some cases, people have ended up in the hospital from ingesting or vaping synthetic marijuana

disguised as a CBD product.

“We’re in the Wild West,” Merkley said.

He said some people are of a mind that the FDA should stay “hands off” on CBD products as long as a specific health claim is not being made. Others want to see the FDA crack down on fraudulent labeling.

“I would encourage them to put significant effort into accurate labeling and disclosure to provide a better foundation for consumers,” Merkley said.

He said hemp farmers also need the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide a standardized method for testing their crop for THC, the high-inducing component in marijuana. The 2018 farm bill legalized hemp, but if a crop has more than 0.3% THC levels, it becomes an illegal marijuana crop under current federal law.

Merkley said the type of test used, when the testing is performed and other factors influence the results, however, so it is important that regulations were put in place for everyone’s crop to be tested by the same standard.



Merkley

Good Shepherd finishes remodel of diagnostic clinic

Hospital officials say major remodel will help hospital better serve community

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Patients of Good Shepherd Health Care System who need an X-ray or mammogram will have a more private, comfortable experience after the hospital completed a major remodel of its diagnostic imaging department and lab services.

Hospital staff celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Thursday. Chief Operating Officer Jim Schlenker said they were excited about the change, which will help the hospital better serve the community.

Eric Peterson, Good Shepherd’s interim facilities manager, told the audience gathered Thursday that the soft, inviting color palette and overall look of the patient staging area was “very representative of what Good Shepherd will look like in the future.” The design work on the project will provide a



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Good Shepherd Health Care System Chief Operating Officer Jim Schlenker, center left, and CEO Dennis Burke cut the ribbon on the newly remodeled diagnostic imaging and laboratory area at Good Shepherd.

template for future remodels to other parts of the hospital. “We can’t do it all at once, but we will over time,” he said.

Previously, patients who needed diagnostic imaging or a blood draw checked in at a desk within earshot of other patients. Now they will be able to check in in the privacy of one of three registration offices before being seated in a lobby.

Inside the lab, the number of draw stations was increased to three, with an area for patients to lie down if they need to. On the other side of the new lobby are the rooms for diagnostic imaging such as CT scans, X-rays, MRIs, ultrasounds, mammograms and echocardiography.

The increased number of registration stations and draw stations is expected to

significantly decrease the amount of time it will take for patients to get blood drawn, and the offices will also mean less wait time for scans.

Good Shepherd has remodeled, expanded or added several new areas to its plaza at 620 N.W. 11th St. in the past few years, including the addition of the Good Shepherd Women’s Clinic.

The clinic announced hiring its second midwife this week.

Cynthia Rice, a certified nurse midwife, comes to Hermiston from Georgia. She has seven years of experience as a registered nurse and a master of science in nurse-midwifery from Frontier Nursing University in Hyden, Kentucky.

She said in a news release that she was inspired to become a midwife after a midwife helped her through the birth of her second and third children after a “very traumatic” birth experience with her first child. She said she is excited to work with the team at the women’s center to provide care for women from adolescence to menopause.

BRIEFLY

Pendleton council will meet privately with potential fire station buyers

PENDLETON — Maintaining their code of silence, the Pendleton City Council will interview potential buyers for the old fire station at 911 S.W. Court Ave. behind closed doors.

At a city council meeting, Pendleton resident Rex Morehouse asked the council whether they were going to hold the interviews in an open meeting.

Mayor John Turner said the council would meet with the potential buyers in an executive session, meaning all discussions about the property and buyers would be shielded from public view until the council made a decision.

The city asked for proposals for the vacated fire station by Aug. 22, but since then, city officials have declined to identify who has submitted a proposal.

The *East Oregonian* independently verified two people who have submitted a proposal: La Grande developer Gust Tsiatsos and Hillsboro business owner Scott Hart.

Tsiatsos owns a boutique hotel and restaurant in La Grande, and he wants to do a similar project in Pendleton. Hart has declined to share details about his project, but he owns a dirt bike equipment business in Hillsboro.

The interviews are set for a city council workshop on Sept. 24.

ODF and woodland association to host tour for forested property owners

WESTON — The Oregon Depart-

ment of Forestry and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association are hosting a field tour east of Weston for forested property owners interested in thinning their land.

For property owners worried their stands will be lost in a fire or insects, the tour will take them to several pre-commercial thinning projects where they can study techniques and treatment options to protect their property.

The tour will be at 56327 Brutscher Road about 10 miles east of Weston from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organizers recommend attendees wear boots and rain gear or warm clothing in case of cold or wet weather.

For more information, call Hans Rudolf at 541-276-3491.

Hermiston council to discuss cybersecurity

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council will be asked to adopt cybersecurity policies during its Monday meeting.

Staff have been working on creating a 25-page set of guidelines on protecting the city from cybersecurity attacks. Cities in some parts of the United States have had all of their data held ransom by hackers, who have demanded millions of dollars for the release of records ranging from police reports to email accounts to building permits.

The proposed plan up for a vote Monday includes measures, such as backing up data, proper disposal of confidential records, strong password requirements, regular trainings, network vulnerability assessments and

creating an incident response team to handle data recovery efforts during security breaches or natural disasters.

The cybersecurity policy headlines a short agenda for the night, which also includes the consent agenda and the city’s regular reports from staff, committees and council members.

The council meets Monday at 7 p.m. at city hall, 180 N.E. Second St. The agenda packet can be previewed before the meeting at hermiston.or.us/meetings.

Eighth Street Bridge to close Tuesday

PENDLETON — The Eighth Street Bridge, which connects Southeast Eighth Street to the Lee Street Grade across the Umatilla River, will be closed to vehicle traffic on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The closure will allow for the installation of riprap to reinforce a section of the riverbank following erosion last spring. The erosion, a result of the heavy rains and construction at the site, resulted in an unstable bank near the bridge site.

For the duration of the bridge closing, a pedestrian crossing will remain available.

The installation of riprap must be completed before the end of the Umatilla River in-water work window on Sept. 30, 2019. Additionally, crews will be unable to finish work on the Riverfront Parkway until after the stabilization of the river’s bank.

For more information, contact the Pendleton Public Works Department at 541-966-0201.

— *East Oregonian staff*

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9/20

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Rambo: Last Blood (R)
12:40p* 2:50p*
5:00p 7:10p 9:20p

Ad Astra (PG13)
1:20p* 4:10p 6:50p 9:30p

Downton Abbey (PG)
1:40p* 4:20p 7:00p 9:40p

Hustlers (R)
2:20p* 4:50p 7:20p 9:50p

It: Chapter 2 (R)
12:30p* 4:00p 7:30p

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