

# Free bus rides coming to south end of Umatilla County

**By PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

UKIAH — Residents in the south end of Umatilla County soon can ride public transportation for free into Pendleton and Walla Walla.

Umatilla County earlier this year won a Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Intercommunity Discretionary Grant of \$36,000 from the Oregon Transportation Commission. Staci Kunz, who contracts through Eastern Oregon Business Source as the county's STIF coordinator, said the grant allows Umatilla County to partner with the Grant County Transportation District to provide free rides.

The Grant County Transportation District, also known as "Grant County People Mover," operates the route every Tuesday from from Prairie City to the Veterans Administration's medical center in Walla Walla. Kunz, who wrote the grant application, said the goal was to cover the tab for folks in the southern part of Umatilla County.

"It would always cost anyone in Umatilla County because they're not Grant County residents, so this makes it free," she said.

Umatilla County and the transportation district are working out an intergovernmental agreement, she said, so the soonest the free rides go into effect is Nov. 1. The grant also provides funds to promote the route. Kunz said that probably will be bus stop signs and flyers.

Angie Jones is the district manager of Grant County People Mover. She said only a handful of Ukiah residents now use the route but that may change.

"Now that it's going to be free I anticipate more usage," she said.

The route stops at the Walmart in Pendleton, but the deal adds two new Pendleton stops — one at St. Anthony Hospital and on other on Main Street. Kunz said the free rides can benefit locals who need to do some shopping or other actives and get back home the same day.

## ODOT replaces signs near Pendleton



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

A pair of Oregon Department of Transportation workers raise a new interstate logo sign into place near Exit 210 on Interstate 84 westbound. For-profit businesses who wish to have their logo on a highway sign along I-84 between Hermiston and Pendleton pay \$378 per sign, per year.

### BRIEFLY

#### Pilot Rock could get RV lot

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock City Council plans to consider a request to develop a recreational vehicle park.

Robin Mathews wants to turn the vacant lot he owns on East Birch Creek Road near Southwest 10th Street into a park for recreational vehicles. The town's only camping and recreational vehicle site now is at the Bike Pit, the off-highway vehicle park, but those grounds lack hookups for water and electricity, according to city documents. The park meets the site plan requirements, and the city has received the permit fee for the project. Pilot Rock also will receive utility fees upon completion of the park.

The council meets Tuesday at 7 p.m. at city hall at the corner of West Main Street and North Alder Place, and also will consider changing the zoning for the lot that is home to the old schoolhouse and now the Schoolhouse Village Class 5 Coffee Works.

According to the memo on the zoning change, this is the only property in the city with two zones — residential and commercial. The council will consider making the entire lot commercial only.

#### A little rap, country, more go out on emergency channels

PENDLETON — Someone played music disc jockey Thursday over local emergency communication channels.

The tunes started across emergency scanners during the noon hour and included rap songs, country tunes and "O Canada," the national anthem of Canada.

Shawn Halsey, director of the Umatilla Morrow Radio and Data District, said he suspects the culprit was not a typical user, such as a police officer or EMT. Similar instances have occurred in the past, he said, when someone gets on a radio and may not be aware their messages reach a wider audience.

The Federal Communications Commission regulates interstate communications that use public infrastructure, but Halsey said the

FCC usually does not fine someone unless they use profanity over public broadcasts. But Halsey said he can deliver a warning to not abuse emergency communications.

And he can find who sent the signal. Whenever a user opens a mic on the system, he said, the radio sends identifying data.

#### Hermiston crash results in citation

HERMISTON — A two-car crash Thursday morning sent one person to the hospital.

Shandie Marie Peters, 27, of Hermiston, crashed a silver Nissan Altima into the front of a white Ford van, which was the property of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The van, driven by Michael Kelly, 69, of Pendleton, was driving northbound on Northeast Fourth Street when Peters, driving southbound on Southeast Fourth, turned left in front of him. Peters was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital, complaining of pain, and was cited by the Hermiston Police Department for careless driving.

#### Walla Walla VA hosting drive-thru flu shot clinic

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The Walla Walla VA Clinic is hosting a drive-thru immunization clinic this month to will prepare residents for flu season.

The clinic is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center. Area veterans can get their flu shot without leaving the comfort of their vehicles. The clinic is offered outside of Building 74 at the circle on the VA's campus.

Typically held late September each year, the flu clinic was moved to a later date to ensure plenty of vaccine is on hand, according to VA Public Affairs Officer Linda Wondra.

— *East Oregonian staff*



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Trees along the North Hill begin to change color as fall sets in on Thursday afternoon in Pendleton.

## Oregon gets ready to fall back

Oregon did pass a bill that would abolish rolling back the clocks every November, but it's not in effect yet

**By JESSICA POLLARD**  
*East Oregonian*

U M A T I L L A COUNTY — Oregon passed a law earlier this year that would abolish the clock changes, but Oregonians will still be in the business of "falling back" one hour to standard time or "winter hours" on Nov. 3.

"The short answer is, nothing changes in 2019," Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer, a chief sponsor of the law, wrote in an email.

Senate Bill 320, would stop the whole state — except for Malheur County, which is in the Mountain Time Zone — from rewinding clocks by an hour in the fall. Instead, the state would maintain Daylight Saving Time or "summer hours" full time. The result would mean both later sunrises and sunsets.

Gov. Kate Brown signed the bill into law in June.

The law mandates, however, that this change will only go into effect if California and Washington also choose to stick to summer hours, and if all three states receive federal congressional approval.

During the first November after federal approval, Oregon would simply not participate in the clock change, keeping summer hours.

Washington is on board and currently awaiting federal approval, according to the *Seattle Times*. But in California, the legislation only passed through the House and will be reintroduced in 2020.

"California's House passed it overwhelmingly, but now we have word that the Senate is putting it off until next year," Post said. "So we wait."

Federal approval is not required for a state to switch permanently to standard time, but it is to make the switch to Daylight Saving Time, which is why Post and other legislators addressed a Senate Joint Memorial to the president and the U.S. Congress urging them to pass the law back in June.

Oregon Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, voted no on the law during the 2019 Legislature.

"I feel somewhat agnostic about Day-

light Saving Time. But I really felt that that the decision should be left up to the people, since it was their vote that originally brought it into law," Hansell said.

And while he said he sees both sides of the clock-change debate, Hansell is sure of one thing.

"What's positive to me is that we'll all be on the same sheet of music. (The West Coast) will be on the same time schedule," he said.

For or against the switch, arguments vary. The measure summary for SB 320 stated that clock changes cost the country millions of dollars each year in cardiac arrests, workplace injuries and car accidents associated with the time change.

It stated that 26 states had also introduced measures that would do away with clock changes.

During Oregon's legislative session, everyone from farmers to software developers gave testimony regarding the matter.

Farmer and parent Brenda Frietsch from St. Paul wrote legislators in March, claiming that later sunrises would not only make it more difficult for her farm workers to put in hours during the winter, but that dark mornings could deter children from wanting to ride the bus.

"This is going to be a concern for a lot of parents but particularly in rural areas where bus rides are a lot longer and a lot earlier to get to school on time," she stated.

British Columbia announced during the summer that if the U.S. West Coast did make the change, the prov-

ince would follow suit, which brought testimony from many industries and stakeholders.

A ski resort argued that morning daylight was invaluable to skiers, while a golf company stated that an extra hour of evening light would provide more play time for golfers. The Rabbinical Council of America wrote Premier of B.C. Josh Horgan to say that a permanent switch to daylight saving time would interfere with Jewish daily prayer.

Megan Olsen, owner and operator of Big River Golf Course, said she's not sure that the November clock change affects her business.

"Year-round we still have golfers out here. Time is limited for the after-work crowd," Olsen said. "Obviously, shorter days means less time to play, but I don't think we see a big drop-off after daylight savings."

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**The Addams Family (PG)**  
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3D 12:10p\* 8:50p

**Joker (R)**  
1:30p\* 4:20p  
7:10p 9:50p

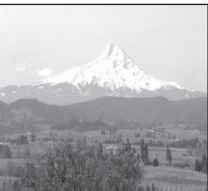
**Abominable (PG)**  
12:20p\* 2:30p\*  
4:40p 6:50p 9:00p

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**Molly's Revenge - Tue, Oct. 15!**

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