



The Pendleton Christmas Display at the corner of Highway 11 and Southeast Emigrant Avenue reflects on the wet concrete on Wednesday night.

Lighting up the night

Public Works Department brings Christmas display to life

By BEN LONERGAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the second year in a row, the city of Pendleton’s Christmas Display at the corner of Highway 11 and Southeast Emigrant Avenue came to life Tuesday.

Dave Pedro finished installing the final strands of lights on the display Tuesday morning and said that it was unlike anything he had

done before.

“It takes me a good week to get the whole thing up,” said Pedro, an electrical and HVAC technician with the city of Pendleton.

The display features three, 12-foot Christmas trees, more than 2,000 feet of extension cords and nearly 50,000 individual LED lights, an increase of 5,000 over last year’s total. However, the display is not your typical Christmas light setup. A small radio transmitter allows those with an FM radio to listen to a selection of Christmas music as they pass by.

Glenn Graham, the facilities and technology manager for the city of Pendleton, said the display runs on a device called Christmas in a Box. The device is a ready-made kit that controls the light show and turns on and off individual strands of lights in time with the music.

The Christmas display was made possible through donations from Creative Signs, Gordon’s Electric, Graham’s Photos, Platt Electric and Zimmerman’s Hardware, as well as volunteer support from the Pendleton Public Works Department.

According to Graham, the device will cycle through six songs before repeating

the show. Those interested in listening can tune their radio to 89.3 FM. The radio station broadcasts the music in a roughly 2- to 3-block radius around the display.

Graham advises those wishing to watch the entire display to park in the parking lot of the state of Oregon office building across the street. The display runs 24 hours a day, however, Graham said it is best viewed at night.

Graham said he hopes the display will continue in the years to come and that it can continue to improve.

“Each year we try to think of something more that we can do,” said Graham.

HERMISTON — The Hermiston School Board approved a project manager for the 2019 bond projects this week.

Voters approved the district’s \$82.7 million bond in November. Bond projects that Wenaha Group will oversee include the replacement of Rocky Heights Elementary School and the construction of a new elementary school.

— EO Media Group and wire services

Man arrested for allegedly lying to police about shooting

By EMILY THORNTON
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

MILTON-FREEWATER — A local man was arrested today for allegedly lying to police last week about being shot to cover up a gambling debt.

Johnson Le, 35, was arrested for investigation of initiating a false report and tampering with evidence, both misdemeanors, and unlawful weapon use, a felony.

He was taken to Umatilla County Jail, according to Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer.

Le’s wife did not lie to police, Boedigheimer wrote

in an email, although his previous report indicated otherwise.

Le’s wife, Maria Morales, 50, told Milton-Freewater police by telephone at 9:08 p.m. Dec. 4, that her husband was shot by an unknown masked person who entered the backyard of the couple’s home at 308 Miller St. to rob them, Boedigheimer wrote in an earlier email. He wrote today that Le “made that up, and admitted to shooting himself.”

Investigations revealed



Le

that Le shot himself in the arm with a 9 mm Glock pistol and lied “to attempt to hide and cover up a gambling debt,” Boedigheimer wrote.

Le was taken by Milton-Freewater Rural Fire Department medics to Providence St. Mary Medical Center with a gunshot wound. Hospital spokeswoman Kathleen Obenland wrote in an email she did “not have any information on a person by this name who is from Milton-Freewater.”

No one else was involved, according to Boedigheimer.

Oregon State Police troopers and Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office deputies also responded.

Man pleads not guilty to assaulting two Walla Walla police officers

By EMILY THORNTON
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Milton-Freewater man pleaded not guilty Monday in Walla Walla County Superior Court to two counts of third-degree assault and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

Jakob K.P. Johnson, 33, allegedly assaulted two Walla Walla police officers after they responded at about 8 a.m. Nov. 25 to the 900 block of West Main Street for reports of two people fighting, records stated.

Officers saw Johnson

holding a large rock and yelling at another man in a backyard. Officers told Johnson to drop the baseball-sized rock, but he yelled at the officers and walked toward another person. An officer blocked him from getting too close to them, records stated.

When officers tried arresting Johnson, he put one officer in a headlock and hit another officer in the face while “flailing his hands,” according to Sgt. Eric Knudson. One received an abrasion on his neck and the other a cut lip.

A witness told officers Johnson had yelled a racial

slur at a man putting gas in a vehicle nearby, and the two began yelling at each other. This escalated to fighting and throwing rocks and lasted until police arrived, records stated.

The witness also told police the other man fled before they arrived and wasn’t who the officers saw.

Johnson’s trial was scheduled for March 3, 2020.

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Frozen 2 (PG)
11:40p* 1:50p* 4:40p* 7:00p 9:20p

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Energy Facility Siting Council to meet in Pendleton

SALEM — Oregon’s Energy Facility Siting Council will meet on Dec. 19-20 in Pendleton. The public meeting begins at 5 p.m. Dec. 19 and will reconvene Dec. 20 at 8 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn, 304 S.E. Nye Ave.

The main item on the council’s agenda is the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line. The council will receive a presentation Dec. 19 from Oregon Department of Energy staff, reviewing the B2H Draft Proposed Order, comments received on the DPO and responses from the project’s applicant, Idaho Power, to those comments. The agenda item continues Dec. 20 and the council may provide staff comments they would like to see reflected in the proposed order.

The proposed 500-kilo-volt transmission line would span about 280 miles in Oregon and five counties, including Umatilla, Union and Baker counties.

The next council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 24 in Hood River.

Hermiston school board approves project manager

HERMISTON — The Hermiston School Board approved a project manager for the 2019 bond projects this week.

St. Mary's CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 14, 2019 at the St. Mary's Catholic Church from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Vendors will be selling a variety of handcrafted items. All proceeds will go to support the needy in our community.

A \$1.00 fee gives admission and a raffle ticket. Vendor space is available for \$60.00.

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