

Keep on trucking



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Semitrucks travel along Interstate 84 amid the snow-covered Blue Mountains outside of Meacham on Thursday morning.

Byers resident opposes street-widening plan

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — South-east Byers Avenue resident Carolyn Pearson went before the Pendleton City Council with a simple mes-sage: Please repave the street, but don’t widen it. Pearson spoke to the council during the public comment section of its Tues-day meeting to dissuade the city from going through with plans to widen Byers from Southeast Eighth Street to 13th Street. At the suggestion of Mayor John Turner, Pear-son said she planned to return to the city with a petition to show that there is widespread neighborhood opposition. In July, the Pendleton Development Commission agreed to direct \$1.5 million in urban renewal funding toward Byers, among other projects. Besides fixing a road that’s fallen into disrepair, city officials want to widen

the road to ease traffic on a street that leads to Washing-ton Elementary School. At a development com-mission meeting in July, Community Development Director Tim Simons said the lack of driveways on many Byers properties force many cars to park on the street, further narrowing an already narrow road and spurring some cars to park on curbs and sidewalks, damaging walkways. Pearson disputed many of the city’s reasons for expanding the road, includ-ing the street’s parking situation. She thought widening the road was too expensive, and suggested a different solution. “I don’t understand why we have to widen the street when we can pave it and just put parking on one side,” she said, suggesting the city restrict on-street parking to one side of the street. Turner said the council was also shocked at the price it took to do street projects,

but encouraged her to come back with the petition. After the public com-ment period ended, the council took action on mul-tiple issues. The council unanimously approved an ordinance that changed the zoning of a property at 2601 S.W. Hai-ley Ave. from tourist com-mercial to medium-density residential. The council’s decision will allow Richland devel-oper Justin Pratt to turn the old, vacant U.S. For-est Service office into a 33-unit apartment complex. Pratt plans to build the first phase of the project over the summer. The council also unani-mously approved a \$69,409 bid from EnviroClean Equipment of Gresham to purchase a new closed-cir-cuit television system. According to a staff report, the public works department uses the sys-tem to inspect the sewer and storm drain systems, and it was last upgraded in 2004.

Records reveal homicide victim also allegedly stabbed last year

By **ALEX CASTLE**
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWA-TER — The man found dead from a fatal gun-shot wound Saturday night in Milton-Freewater was well known to local law enforcement, according to *East Oregonian* archives. George Anthony Mar-tin, 61, was found dead in the 100 block of South-east Seventh Street after Milton-Freewater police responded to a welfare check call at about 10 p.m. Saturday. *East Oregonian* archives show Martin was allegedly stabbed in May 2019 by local man Krys-tian T. Allen on Rasp-berry Loop. Martin suf-fered a nonlife-threatening, though serious, injury to his back requiring medi-cal treatment at St. Mary Hospital in Walla Walla, Washington. Both men were con-sidered homeless and a motive was unknown, Mil-ton-Freewater Police Chief

Doug Boedigheimer said in a release at the time. Court records show Allen was charged with second-degree assault and later received two fel-ony first-degree failure to appear charges for not showing up in court. Martin, too, has a crim-inal history. Court records show he faced legal trou-bles over the last few years stemming from a 2016 arrest for felony posses-sion of a stolen vehicle. Martin was granted condi-tional release but failed to show up for court, which led to an indictment for first-degree felony failure to appear in February 2017. According to court doc-uments, Martin pleaded guilty to the failure to appear charge on Feb. 6, 2018, and had his posses-sion of a stolen vehicle charge dismissed just over a week later. Martin was sentenced to 24 months of supervised probation along with 120 hours of commu-nity service work. Between August and

December 2019, Martin was arrested four times for probation violations and later released, according to court documents. Martin was last arrested on Dec. 18 and denied bail, but was then granted “emer-gency release due to medi-cal reasons” from Umatilla County Jail on Dec. 20. The Umatilla County DA’s Office had issued a warrant for Martin’s arrest after he failed to appear for his latest court date on Dec. 27. Those with informa-tion regarding the homi-cide case can call the Mil-ton-Freewater Police Department at 541-938-5511. Milton-Freewater Police Det. Morgan Dunlap is the case officer. Oregon State Police, sheriff’s deputies with Morrow and Umatilla counties, Pendleton and Hermiston police, Ore-gon State Police Crime Lab workers and Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office employees are all helping with the case.

BRIEFLY

State department to hold discussion on housing

HERMISTON — The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development will visit Hermiston in February to discuss Oregon housing issues with the public. The community meeting will be Feb. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, in Hermiston. The event will include a presentation followed by “table-level” discussions about housing initiatives, such as House Bills 2001 and 2003 passed by the Legis-lature last year, and what concerns the affected communities may have as the department works on rulemaking to implement the laws.

HB 2001 allows duplexes and tri-plexes in areas previously zoned for only single-family dwellings. HB 2003 requires large and medium cit-ies to study housing needs in their area and adopt a local housing production strategy. Spanish interpretation will be pro-vided, and special accommodations are available upon request for persons with disabilities or those speaking other lan-guages. All ages are welcome and a light lunch will be provided. Questions, written comments and requests for accommodations can be emailed to housing.dlcd@state.or.us. Information can also be found at www.oregon.gov/lcd/UP/Pages/Housing-Re-sources.aspx.

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CTUIR Board of Trustees pares back its election authority

Decision reverses effects of a 2018 resolution

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

MISSION — The Confed-erated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is begin-ning to overturn the poli-cies that led to the temporary removal of board member Sally Kosey. The tribes announced Tuesday that the Board of Trustees voted to remove its own “sole authority” to deter-mine the qualifications of board candidates and officers from the election code. The move reverses the effects of a 2018 resolution, which previous board mem-bers used to declare Kosey’s seat vacant in August and effectively remove her from office. “After much discussion by board members, and review with the Election Commis-sion, this resolution passed,” Board of Trustees Chair-woman Kat Brigham said

in a statement. “We have further directed the Elec-tion Commission to address how best to satisfy Constitu-tional qualifications by June 30, 2020, by either amend-ments to the Election Code or Constitution” Kosey was elected to an at-large seat on the board in 2017, but questions over her residency soon put her in con-flict with other members of the board. The members who voted to vacate her seat maintained that her Pendleton residence outside current reservation boundaries disqualified her from holding tribal office, while Kosey argued she lived within tribal boundaries established by the Treaty of 1855 rather than the “dimin-ished” parameters. Kosey sued the board members who removed her in Umatilla Tribal Court, where a judge issued a temporary restraining order that tempo-rarily reinstated Kosey back onto the board. Both sides eventually agreed to a set-tlement that allowed her to remain on the board for the

rest of her term. Tribal voters seemed intent on keeping Kosey on the board longer than that — not only did she win her race for board secretary, every board member who was pres-ent for the vote to vacate Kosey’s seat also lost their races. Long-term questions over candidate residency will be addressed by the General Council, a body composed of every adult member of the CTUIR. As a part of the resolu-tion, the board supported a General Council motion for a special election referendum that establishes the Treaty of 1855 boundary as satisfac-tory for tribal office residency requirements. In an email, CTUIR spokesman Chuck Sams said tribes will hold the special election on Feb. 26.



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4:10p 6:50p 9:30p

Like a Boss (R)
12:00p* 2:10p*
4:50p 7:00p 9:10p

Star Wars:
The Rise of Skywalker (PG13)
12:10p* 3:20p*
6:00p 6:30p 9:40p

Jumanji: The Next Level
(PG13) 11:50a*
4:20p 7:10p 9:50p

Uncut Gems (R) 3:10p* 9:00p

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Join us for this year's MLK National Day of Service, Monday, Jan. 20.

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