

Davis Amusement closes business

Closure leaves Umatilla County Fair searching for new vendor

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A longtime provider of carnival rides, concessions and midway games for the Umatilla County Fair closed its doors at the beginning of January.

Michael J. Davis, CEO of Davis Amusement Cascadia, confirmed to the *East Oregonian* in an email that the company would not be running any carnivals in 2020.

“After 80 years and five generations of family business, our company has reached a point where we are no longer able to overcome the high costs of doing business in today’s world,” he said. “Like many other family-owned businesses we have struggled in recent years with the increases in trucking, insurance, minimum wage and labor.”

He said like many businesses, there was a ceiling on how much they could charge the public before it became “counter-productive” in driving business away, and they had



Workers unload parts of a carnival ride from a Davis Amusement Cascadia trailer during set-up for the Umatilla County Fair in August 2019.

reached a point where the company’s revenues could “no longer go as far as they needed to.”

Angie McNalley, Umatilla County Fair coordinator, said in an email the fair had recently been made aware of the news. She said fortunately she and fair board members are in Roseburg for the Oregon Fairs Association Convention this weekend, allowing them to start preliminary discussions with other

carnival vendors who serve Oregon.

“Davis Amusement Cascadia holds the Umatilla County Fair in high regard and has offered to assist in our recruitment efforts in any way that they can,” she said. “We value their input given their extensive knowledge of the carnival and fair industries, and are lucky to have the ability to consult with them during this process. We foresee a smooth carnival transition

for the 2020 fair.”

Davis Amusement Cascadia is sometimes confused with Davis Shows Northwest, which provides the rides in downtown Pendleton during the Pendleton Round-Up. Davis said that Davis Shows Northwest is run by other members of the Davis family, but is a completely separate company and is “still running strong and aggressively with no changes in sight.”

Council to vote on garbage rate increase Monday

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Sanitary Disposal, Inc. will request the Hermiston City Council’s permission to increase garbage rates inside city limits during Monday’s council meeting.

Sanitary Disposal is requesting a \$1.55 increase to cover rising costs, putting the total at \$18.80 for a customer with a 90-gallon bin. Umatilla County and Morrow County commissioners recently approved a \$1.70 increase for Sanitary Disposal customers outside of city limits.

According to the city’s rate study, that would keep the cost under what residents in Pendleton, The Dalles, Ontario and La Grande pay for garbage service. The last increase in Hermiston was in 2016.

Monday’s council meeting will be held in the Lanham Room of the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., after a fire at city hall closed that building for the month of January. The council will discuss the repairs needed because of the fire and possibly take action related to it during the meeting.

ONLINE

For the full agenda packet, see hermiston.or.us/meetings.

The regular business meeting at 7 p.m. will be preceded by a 6 p.m. work session, also open to the public, to review the results of the city’s pilot program to create a food truck pod last summer and discuss potential future plans for the project. The council may vote on a plan during their 7 p.m. meeting.

Also during the 7 p.m. meeting, the council will take final action on a proposed rezone that Eastern Oregon Development requested in October. The rezone would allow storage units to be built on the 5.5 acres north of Roger’s Toyota between Northeast Fourth Street and Highway 395.

The council voted down an ordinance that would have approved the rezone, but according to state land use laws must adopt “findings of fact” on the decision for it to become finalized. Those findings of fact will be presented for a vote Monday.

City clears out east Pendleton homeless camp

By ALEX CASTLE AND ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Shortly after Christmas, Pendleton city officials took on the homeless camp near the corner of Southeast Frazer Avenue and 10th Street.

Police Chief Stuart Roberts said it was a semi-active campsite, but it was mainly used as an illicit storage area for Pendleton’s homeless population.

The camp was located on a secluded piece of public property but was surrounded by private property.

Roberts said the city decided to take action after receiving complaints from nearby residents about homeless trespassing on private property to access the site and all the refuse on the property.

Before they could begin clearing the site, Roberts said the city had to post notices on the property for people to retrieve their belongings and also needed to secure a temporary right-of-way to bring



A city employee uses an excavator to clear refuse from a tract of city property near the railroad tracks at the corner of Southeast Frazer Avenue and Southeast 10th Street in Pendleton on Friday morning. The site had been used as an illicit storage site.

in equipment to remove the debris.

Pendleton Parks and Rec Director Liam Hughes said he and his team, which included City Manager Robb Corbett, gathered at 7 a.m. to get to work on clearing the camp as soon as there was daylight.

Hughes said they worked the day before to clear a path from 10th Street so that their dump truck and

other equipment could reach the camp. While there on Friday, Hughes said they cleared piles and boxes of random items that ranged from teddy bears and jewelry boxes to drug paraphernalia and sex toys.

The camp clearing didn’t come with any surprises, Hughes said, and wasn’t nearly the worst or most challenging he’s dealt with.

As the issue of home-

lessness has risen to the forefront, the Pendleton City Council banned sleeping in public buildings and benches in August.

But the council held off on prohibiting outdoor camping as local officials tried to find a legal space where homeless people could stay.

City Councilor Carole Innes serves on an ad-hoc committee to tackle the issue, and she said the committee has taken “baby steps” toward finding a solution.

The city council previously discussed using city-owned property as a sanctioned homeless camp, but besides the logistical challenges, Innes said liability issues wouldn’t make the idea feasible.

Innes said the city could still partner with a non-profit to offer some sort of campsite or shelter for the homeless, but she was concerned that such a facility wouldn’t have enough volunteers to keep it running.

In the meantime, Innes said the committee will continue to meet and work toward a resolution.

BRIEFLY

M-F woman accused of kicking officer, trespassing

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Milton-Free-water woman has been accused of kicking an officer and trespassing in an Isaacs Avenue bar in December.

Kristi M. Childers, 23, was charged Tuesday with third-degree assault and first-degree criminal trespassing after police responded Dec. 29 to the Green Lantern on reports “of an out-of-control female.”

Childers allegedly was yelling at employees, who told police they couldn’t understand her, records stated. When police arrived, she reportedly told one he “was fat” and walked away.

Another officer also tried coaxing her out of the bar, but she fell, and the officers arrested her and took her outside, records stated.

She allegedly kept yelling while officers helped her into a patrol car. However, she fell into the car and kicked one officer in the stomach twice, records stated. She was booked into the Walla Walla County Jail the same day.

Childers’ first appearance was Dec. 30, and her arraignment was scheduled for Jan. 27.

Hermiston councilor elected to Small Cities Council

HERMISTON — City Councilor Lori Davis will represent Hermiston at a national level after being selected to serve on the National League of Cities Small Cities Council.

The council represents the interests of cities with fewer than 50,000 residents, and connects leaders of those cities so that they can discuss solutions to common problems they face.

Davis, who has been a city councilor since 2009, grew up in Hermiston and works for Two Rivers Correctional Institution.

“I look forward to strengthening Hermiston’s ties to America’s small cities,” she said in a news release. “We are able to share ideas and gain resources to better the lives of Hermiston residents.”

According to the release, Davis will play a “key role” in identifying common trends in small cities across the country and developing policy options to address those issues.

— EO Media Group



Davis

Irrigon rape defendant pleads no contest to 2 charges

East Oregonian

HEPPNER — An Irrigon man pleaded no contest Thursday to two of the 12 counts he was indicted on in 2017 for sex crimes involving two children.

Eduardo Salas, 62, initially faced seven counts of first-degree sexual abuse, two counts of first-degree rape and three counts of attempting to commit a Class B felony, and initially pleaded not guilty to all of the charges after his 2017 arrest.

He was arrested following an investigation conducted by the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office and the Department of Human Services.

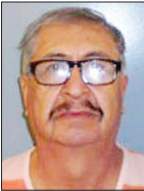
According to the June 2017 indictment, Salas raped and subjected two children, one younger than 12 years of age and the other under

14 years of age, to sexual contact during 2016 and 2017.

Salas pleaded no contest to making unlawful sexual contact with both children while in his home.

The two victims still live in the Umatilla-Morrow County area.

Court records show he posted \$10,000 bail in 2017 and lived under security release conditions, which included not having contact with either victim and staying at least 500 feet from each of them. He was arrested in January 2019 for violating that part of the release, after a sheriff’s deputy saw footage of Salas within 500 feet of one



Salas

of the victims at a gas station.

“That was unique for this case,” Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said Friday. “To have someone out of custody for a long time.”

Salas’ sentencing has yet to be determined, according to court records. By pleading no contest, Salas is not admitting guilt but could still face punishment by the law. Attempting to commit a

Class B felony is considered a Class C felony, which carries a maximum of five years in prison.

Nelson added that a defense counsel investigation yielded additional information about Salas that may have steered the case’s outcome.

“In this case it was a multitude of factors and evidence,” Nelson added.

Salas is lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

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