

Familiar architects selected for Umatilla County Jail renovation

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Jail renovation project has its architect, and it's a familiar face.

Last week, the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners authorized notifying Lombard Conrad Architects, the same company that originally designed the jail that was completed in 1999, of their intent to award them a contract to design the jail's renovation.

The project, which was allocated \$1.6 million in capital construction funds by the 2019 Oregon Legislature, is aiming to better accommodate inmates facing medical issues, drug addiction or mental illness.

"Our team is supported

ONLINE

To see a floor plan for the Umatilla County Jail renovation project, log on to eastoregonian.com.

by many of the original planners, architects, and engineers that assisted the county in the jail's original development," the company's proposal cover letter said. "Adding to these talented professionals, we are providing expertise in behavioral health design to comprehensively address the needs of the specialized environment."

The commissioners' authorization clears the way for negotiations to take place between the county and the company on the total costs of

the contract. Earlier in February, the county approved a \$150,000 project management contract with Pendleton's Wenaha Group to oversee the jail renovation.

DLR Group submitted the only other proposal for the project, and a selection committee from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office worked alongside the Wenaha Group to evaluate the submissions.

Aside from already being familiar with the facility from working on the initial jail construction, Lombard Conrad Architects also provided some preliminary renderings of their concept and took the county up on an invite to visit the jail in person. DLR Group didn't respond to the invitation, and ultimately the committee's

decision was unanimous.

"As this project was initially being discussed, the sheriff and his staff reached out to various groups to see what kind of advice and what kind of input they could get," Commissioner George Murdoch said last week prior to the decision. "This group was Johnny-on-the-spot coming to do whatever they needed in terms of advice or counsel."

In its early years, the jail's average daily population was just 135 inmates. Today, the jail can hold up to 230 inmates but can often have its capacity limited in order to accommodate prisoners with additional needs.

"Predominantly what we needed was more opportunities for single-cell lodging, so there's a higher level of pro-

tection for that population," Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan said on Thursday.

According to the project concept plan submitted with the company's proposal, the project will include reconfiguring the current floor plan to add three new detox cells, two new medical cells, three new holding cells — including one to accommodate inmates entering the facility in a transport situation — and other upgrades to the jail's prebooking and intake area.

"Infrastructure to support the new layout will need to be expanded and updated," the proposal also said.

Lombard Conrad Architects is based in Boise, Idaho, and has worked on projects throughout Washington, Idaho, Nevada and Ore-

gon. According to its proposal, public sector projects are 75% of its workload, with nearly 50% of those being "justice related."

The company's most recent example project provided in its proposal was an expansion project for the Kootenai County Jail in Idaho that was completed in 2018 and added 236 beds to its facility.

Rowan said he doesn't have an updated timeline on the project's next steps but there is a meeting planned with the Wenaha Group next Friday. Though the \$1.6 million in state funding has already been appropriated for the project, those funds are provided through the state selling its lottery bonds at the best rate and may not be released to the county until 2021.

Tugboat recovery on Columbia River



Representatives from various environmental agencies watch as the Tug Nova, a 38-foot tugboat owned by HME Construction, is raised from the Columbia River 10 miles north of Umatilla on Thursday afternoon.

CTUIR voters pass constitutional amendment for candidate residency

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

MISSION — Following years of contention, the voters of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation settled a long-running dispute over candidate residency themselves by amending the tribal constitution.

According to a CTUIR press release, tribal members voted Wednesday to clarify that the boundaries established by the Treaty of 1855 and not the present-day, "diminished" boundaries should be used to determine candidate eligibility for the Board of Trustees and General Council offices. Out of the 422 voters who submitted ballots, more than two-thirds supported the amendment.

Under the tribes' governmental structure, the nine-member Board of Trustees governs tribal affairs and is selected by the General Council, a body consisting of all adult members of the CTUIR, and also maintains its own set of officers.

In 2017, Sally Kosey was elected to an at-large seat on the board, but her Pendleton residency earned her scrutiny from some of the other board members.

Kosey argued that she lived on the reservation as defined by treaty, but the Board of Trustees still voted to declare her seat vacant in 2019, effectively forcing her from office.

Kosey sued the board members in Umatilla Tribal Court, where a judge ordered her temporary reinstatement

onto the Board of Trustees. Both sides eventually reached a settlement that allowed Kosey to stay in her seat through the 2019 election.

Meanwhile, the General Council voted to make a long-term fix to the residency requirements by referring a constitutional amendment to the ballot.

Kosey would go on to win a new term as the board secretary, and all the board members who voted to vacate her seat were defeated in their own elections.

According to the press release, the tribes expect the amendment to be definitive.

"This issue has been debated for over two years within the tribal community

and this vote now provides a clear interpretation of the boundaries of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in relation to elections," the press release states.

Athena still under boil water notice

ATHENA — The city of Athena remains under a boil water notice pending the result of water quality tests that are expected to come in Friday morning.

The city first issued a warning the night of Feb. 20 after preliminary tests showed signs of potentially harmful bacteria in the water. A full test confirmed the water was contaminated with coliform bacteria the morning of Friday, Feb. 21 but showed no signs of *E. coli*.

Athena Public Works quickly flushed and chlorinated the city's system, and according to City Recorder Nancy Parker, the city attempted to test the water Wednesday but a lab error made the results indeterminate.

"Part of our problem is we don't chlorinate our water because our water here is clean enough without it," Parker said. "When we flush the system, that means we have to wait for all the chlorine to leave the water before testing it."

Coliform bacteria are organisms that are present in the environment and in the

BRIEFLY

feces of all warm-blooded animals and humans, an announcement from the city said, and are not likely to cause an illness directly. Instead, the presence of coliform bacteria indicates the possibility of other disease-carrying organisms being in the water system.

"If disease-causing bacteria are present, the most common symptoms are gastrointestinal upset and general flu-like symptoms, such as fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhea," the announcement said. "Symptoms are most likely in children or elderly household members."

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to test McKay Creek

PENDLETON — With gravel removal complete on the bed of McKay Creek, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will begin testing the creek with higher flows.

According to a press release, the bureau will increase the flow out of the McKay Dam to 200 cubic feet per second on March 9. That flow will gradually increase to an undetermined amount on March 10 before steadily decreasing to mini-

mum flows on March 11.

City Manager Robb Corbett said the city would work with the bureau and the Lower McKay Creek Water Control District to figure out how much water can be released during the test without threatening property in the area.

At 75% capacity, the bureau states that the McKay Dam is operating as expected and is safe.

"We appreciate the opportunity to further our work with local partners through this exercise," Umatilla Field Office Manager Sean Kimbrel said in a statement. "In partnership with the National Weather Service, we will continue to monitor the spring weather conditions that inform reservoir operations at McKay Dam and will further the history of collaboration with the City of Pendleton and Umatilla County."

Heavy rains last April led to increased flows from the dam, which overwhelmed McKay Creek and flooded several homes in the area. The city of Pendleton has been working the past few weeks to remove gravel and sediment from the creek bed to help prevent future floods.

— EO Media Group

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Climate Change from our Youths' Perspective

Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), 2411 NW Carden, Pendleton, OR
Science & Technology Building, Room St-200

Featuring: Hunter Houck, Ashlynn Madril and Ivan Salgado

Hunter is a fourteen-year-old climate activist. He is in 8th grade at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School. He is dedicated to educating the public about climate change, in an effort to protect future generations.

Ashlynn is a senior at Pendleton High School. She plans to attend college to pursue a career in Neuroscience. She plays varsity soccer and tennis, is the president of the PHS National Honor Society chapter and serves as ASB secretary.

Ivan is a senior at Riverside Jr/Sr High School in Boardman. He is active in sports and has enlisted in the National Guard. After graduation, he will go to Boot Camp, and then on to Portland State University where he plans to major in Business.

The cost for this series of 4 forums is \$15 per person, \$25 per couple or \$5 per forum at the door - Students are free

For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.

The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College; InterMountain Education Service District; the East Oregonian; American Association of University Women; and Harriet Isom, a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College's annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to www.bluecc.edu.

Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition (EOC3)

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
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Cineplex Show Times
\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday @ 12p
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The Invisible Man (R)	1:10p*
4:00p	6:40p 9:40p
The Call of the Wild (PG)	12:10p* 2:30p*
4:50p	7:10p 9:30p
Sonic the Hedgehog (PG)	12:00p* 2:20p*
4:40p	7:00p 9:20p
Fantasy Island (PG13)	11:40a* 2:10p* 7:20p
Downhill (R)	5:00p 9:50p
Bad Boys for Life (R)	1:20p* 4:10p 6:50p 9:40p

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From the Collections of
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at the Pendleton Center for the Arts
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Join us March 5. 5:30-7:00 PM
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