

Pendleton Convention Center lays out new court



Students from the Pilot Rock High School leadership class help to lay down a new basketball court at the Pendleton Convention Center on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. The court, which is emblazoned with logos for the Southland Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas, will be refinished to represent the Pendleton Round-Up, Happy Canyon Night Show and Boutique Air, according to Pendleton Convention Center director Pat Beard.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

City council passes law allowing electric scooters

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton City Council unanimously approved an ordinance that allows electric scooters on city streets, clearing the way for a Southern California company to launch its scooter service in Pendleton next month.

At a Tuesday, March 16, meeting, Michael Covato, an executive with scooter company Bird, said Pendleton's regulations were more conservative than some of the other cities he's worked with, but he felt that Bird could function within them.

Bird plans to ship up to 55 scooters to Pendleton next month, with the fleet being managed by a yet-to-be-announced local partner. Users will be able activate and deactivate the scooters with a cellphone app and must ride them in the street.

The council also considered a companion ordinance to allow electric scooters on the Pendleton River Parkway, but after Police Chief Chuck Byram reminded the council that it conflicted with another ordinance, the council tabled the issue until the two laws could be reconciled.

Members met as both the city council and the Pendleton Development Commission on the evening of March 16, and took action on a number of issues.

The council approved a contract with McCormack Construction to act as the construction manager and general contractor for an airport terminal renovation project.

McCormack will now need to determine the cost of the project, which includes refurbishing the lobby, conference room and bath-

rooms, rehabbing the office and tenant spaces, updating the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, and creating disability access to the control tower.

The council agreed to award Pave Northwest of Marcola a \$75,102 contract to provide slurry seals and Commsurf Pro of Medford \$164,104 for crack seals.

Crack seals and slurry seals are typically performed on higher quality streets to help preserve them and prevent more expensive repairs down the line.

The council approved revisions to its parks and recreation, convention center and building fees in addition to new fees for police records, legal documents and electric vehicle charging.

The city is also adjusting its street utility fee. Whereas the fee used to rise each year based on a 2.5% increase or a price index — whichever was higher — the city will now only consider raises based on the index.

Acting as the development commission, the council approved a contract with 2KG Contractors of Portland to build a new splash pad at Til Taylor Park for no more than \$250,000.

The splash pad will replace the wading pool as a part of larger park renovation project.

The council approved \$670,120 in façade and second story grants to Pendleton developer Al Plute to renovate the old Odd Fellows building at 261 S. Main St. into a multi-use facility with 12 apartments on the upper floors. Plute, a former city councilor, will act as his own contractor, and will spend \$1.7 million on the façade and upper story parts of the project.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Hansell appointed to State Fair Council

SALEM — Oregon Sen. Bill Hansell has an additional job.

The Republican from Athena was recently appointed to serve on the Oregon State Fair Council by Senate President Pete Courtney, according to a press release.

"I am excited and honored to have been appointed to the State Fair Council, formerly called the State Fair Board," Hansell said. "I look forward to ensuring state and county fairs will be enjoyed by countless more Oregonians in the future."

The Oregon State Fair Council is a state of Oregon public corporation, with 11 council members appointed by the governor. Two additional positions are reserved for a state senator and a state representative, and are appointed by the Senate president and House speaker, respectively.

"I want to thank Senate President Peter Courtney for the appointment. I look forward to serving on the council," Hansell said. "The

Oregon State Fair has been held since the early days of statehood, and along with county fairs, are critical sources of economic vitality and cultural celebration."

Hansell's appointment to the fair council was met with excitement in Umatilla County.

"Hansell's background, wisdom and dedication will make him a great advocate for our state and county fairs," said Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Dorrn. "I believe he is the first elected official from Umatilla County to serve on the State Fair Council, and I know he will do a great job and serve us well."

Walla Walla man flown to hospital after bike crash

UMATILLA COUNTY — A Walla Walla, Washington, man was flown by Life Flight to a hospital after crashing his snow bike, according to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

A news release stated that the Umatilla County Dispatch center received a 911 call after 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, stating Eric Burmood, 63, of

Walla Walla, had crashed his Honda snow bike and was "suffering from severe injuries."

The crash took place on Summit Road USFS 31, about 8 miles southwest of Highway 204.

The caller, Matt Sweeney, also of Walla Walla, reported he was administering first aid but requested Life Flight to respond because of the nature of the injuries and the snowy conditions at the scene of the crash. According to the news release, two USCO snow patrol deputies arrived on scene at about 6:20 p.m., Umatilla County Search and Rescue was activated in case additional help was needed, and Life Flight was able to transport Burmood via air ambulance to Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla.

The hospital is not providing patient statuses during the pandemic, according to the *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin*.

McKay Creek principal resigns

PENDLETON — McKay Creek Elementary School Principal Lorena Woods will resign at the end of the school

year, meaning the Pendleton School District will need to search for two new principals this spring.

Superintendent Chris Fritsch said Woods would continue to work for the district through June and was leaving Pendleton to look for other opportunities elsewhere.

The district hired Woods in 2018 to replace Ronda Smith, who had shifted over to Sherwood Heights Elementary School. Woods was a math teacher in Hermiston at the time of her hiring, but her long career in education included stints as an athletic director and assistant principal.

This is the second Pendleton principal to resign following the resignation announcement of Pendleton High School Principal Melissa Sandven.

The district will accept applications for the McKay Creek position through April 8. Fritsch said the district will set a timeline for hiring a new principal after it reviews the initial pool of candidates.

Woods' replacement will earn \$110,131.

— EO Media Group

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