

10 apply for Pilot Rock City Council vacancies

Agenda starts with selection of new councilors

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock City Council could get back to business Tuesday, Aug. 3, with selection of residents to fill three vacancies on the council. The three remaining coun-

cilors have 10 locals to consider to fill the empty seats.

City Recorder Teri Bacus said the agenda starts with selecting the new council members. Each of the 10 applicants will have 3 to 5 minutes to address the council about why they should get the votes to serve on the volunteer council. The council then will deliberate and can vote to fill one,

two or all three sets. She said her recommendation to the council is to select at least one to give the council a quorum and move forward with business.

“We have 10 people, we can fill all three seats,” she said.

The three remaining council members can opt to not select anyone. Bacus said that’s not what she wants to see happen.

Council business has been backing up since July 6, when Jackie Carey and Robbie Young resigned from the council in a dispute concerning the council’s consideration of a policy to allow residents to live in recreational vehicles on private property. Prior to that, Bob Deno resigned due to health issues.

Bacus said she was thrilled so many applied for

the vacant seats. If the council has a quorum it can pick up where it left off in the midst of the meeting in early July, including adopting the “Umatilla County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan,” a requirement for seeking disaster mitigation grants under Federal Emergency Management Agency programs.

The council also could consider approving funds

for cleaning up and repairing Birch Creek.

Flooding in May 2020 caused the collection of major debris in Birch Creek. The city has about \$187,000 for capital improvements in the economic development fund and needs \$20,000 for permit fees.

The council meeting begins at 6 p.m. at Pilot Rock City Call, 144 N. Alder Place.

Irrigon celebrates harvest season



Parade participants throw candy Saturday, July 31, 2021, during the Irrigon Watermelon Festival. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File
A fan lifts their hat Saturday, July 10, 2021, during the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

Pendleton area sees warmer than normal July temps

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton area experienced much warmer than normal temperatures during the month of July, according to preliminary data received by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service Office in Pendleton.

The average temperature during the month was 77.5 degrees, 5 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 94.4 degrees, 6.5 degrees above normal, according to the monthly climate summary.

The highest temperature was 107 degrees recorded on July 30. On 24 days during the month temperatures exceeded 90 degrees, and it was over 100 degrees on five days in July, according to the monthly climate summary.

Low temperatures averaged 60.7 degrees, 3.5 degrees above normal. The lowest temperature for the month was 46 degrees, recorded on July 22.

Precipitation for the month totaled 0.02 inches, which was 0.30 inches below normal, the report said. Measurable precipitation — at least 0.01 inch — was received on two days, with the heaviest, 0.01 inches, reported on July 26, according to the monthly climate summary.

Precipitation for the year is 4.35 inches, which is 3.36 inches below normal. Since October 2020, the water year precipitation at the Pendleton airport has been 8.8 inches, 2.91 inches below normal, according to the monthly climate summary.

The highest wind gust was 39 mph on July 7, the report said.

The outlook for August from NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for the Pendleton airport during August are 86.8 degrees and normal lows are 56.9 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.38 inches.

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LOCAL BRIEFING

Fire burns through wheat field near Helix

HELIX — A fire threatened several buildings and a home before farmers with water trucks helped firefighters extinguish the blaze Saturday, July 31, near Helix.

A combine caught fire and sparked a larger blaze in a wheat field on Vansycle Road, according to a Suzie Reitz, spokesperson with East Umatilla Fire and Rescue. Firefighters responded to the fire just before 10:30 a.m. The fire burned in stubble and standing wheat Reitz said.

Officials have yet to determine the size of the fire, but an image shows a large, black plume of smoke towering over much of the town.

No injuries were reported and no structures were damaged, according to Reitz, who said many local farmers with water trucks helped douse the fire.

Police respond to multiple crashes over weekend

PENDLETON — The Oregon State Police had a busy weekend responding to car crashes, including four where people were hospitalized with injuries.

On Thursday, July 29, a driver lost control while attempting to stop his car and rear-ended another vehicle near milepost 24 on

Highway 207, OSP reported. Robert Alan Shaffer, 21, from Lexington, was injured and had to be taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

Then, July 30, three vehicles crashed near milepost 179 on Interstate 84. The crash occurred when a car merged onto the interstate from exit 177 and another car failed to yield to the right of way, police reported. The cars sideswiped another vehicle traveling east.

Police cited the driver who failed to yield. The passenger of the car that was sideswiped was injured and taken to Good Shepherd.

On July 31, a vehicle carrying four people crashed and rolled. One passenger was hospitalized at Good Shepherd.

State police arrested the driver, Stephanie Michelle Ramirez, 19, of Umatilla, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, three counts of reckless endangering and one count of possessing alcohol as a minor. A breath test showed her blood alcohol content to be 0.13%, state police reported.

Local emergency services also responded July 31 to a crash on Vansycle Road near Helix.

East Umatilla Fire and Rescue responded to reports of the crash just past 6 p.m. Residents reported hearing a loud bang and a car alarm and smoke coming from the vehicle after it landed in a ditch.

Officials transported one victim to a local hospital, according to East Umatilla

Fire and Rescue.

And Oregon State Police reported a crash that occurred July 31 at about 10 p.m. ejected one person.

The report from OSP was sketchy on details, but a car collided with the side rear bumper of another car, sped off the road and rolled, coming to a stop upright. The crash ejected one person, who OSP reported was unresponsive and had to be taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Heppner.

The state police report did not provide a location for the crash, which involved a man and woman from Hermiston, a man from Umatilla and a 10-year-old boy from Hermiston.

The person who was ejected was later scheduled to be transported to Oregon Health & Science University, Portland. A preliminary investigation revealed alcohol was a contributing factor in the crash, according to state police.

DEQ issues air quality warning

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality issued an air quality warning for Umatilla County, Morrow County and the rest of Northeastern Oregon due to smoke from wildfires in Washington, Idaho and Canada, according to a Monday, Aug. 2, press release.

DEQ anticipates keeping the warning in place until the evening of Aug.

inside every Thursday

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