



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Shannon Gruenhagen, marketing and tour coordinator for Heritage Station Museum in Pendleton, empties a butter churn Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, as Thomas Deibele, 9, looks on during Pioneer Day at the museum.

Churning out learning

Heritage Station Museum hosts Pioneer Day

By **BEN LONERGAN**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As 9-year-old Thomas Deibele dutifully turned the handle on a hand-cranked butter churn Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Heritage Station Museum's Pioneer Day, he peered through its glass sides and watched the butter begin to take shape.

"I wouldn't say it's the funnest thing ever," Thomas said as he continued to crank the handle.

Trading off occasionally to others interested, Thomas was on a mission to create his own butter and smiled wide as Shannon Gruenhagen, the museum's marketing and tour coordinator, scooped out a large hunk of butter from the churn and split it into small sample cups for him to take home.

"Just add some salt and give it a rinse," she advised.

While butter churning was a favorite activity for Thomas, others crowded around a washboard, taking turns scrubbing rags against the corrugated metal as their parents looked on with amusement over their interest in laundry.

"I'm surprised at how much the kids loved making butter and washing



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Children pan for "gold" Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, during Pioneer Day at Heritage Station Museum in Pendleton.

clothes," Gruenhagen said.

For Gruenhagen, the Aug. 7 event, which also offered free admission to the museum, was an opportunity to get the local community involved in the museum and bring the ideas and exhibits to life. In addition to butter making and washboard laundry, participants experienced candle dipping and panning for gold, as well as getting to explore exhibits across the museum property.

"It offers us a chance to bring families into the museum another way," Gruenhagen said. "I think it's been a

really good opportunity."

She said the museum regularly plans events to draw in additional visitors and she already is working on plans for an expanded light display for the holiday season, as well as harvest and Halloween events.

"I love getting the kids and families outside," she said.

Dressed in uniforms from the Spanish-American War, Anthony Bowman, of Pendleton, and Rich Miller, of Cove, stood near a replica army camp from the period. Miller, who said he often participates in reenactments at Fort Walla Walla, said he searches through antique shops and other sales to try and find the various items in his pack.

"I want to tell people the way that it was," Miller said. "So much of our history is being lost."

Miller said he got involved in reenactments after serving with the Army in Vietnam. He said the reenactments gave him an opportunity to share his story and the realities of war with a younger generation and connect with fellow service members.

"I'd like to see more people get involved with history," he said. "That way history stays history."

Pilot Rock fills council vacancies

New council approves deal for dispatch services, other actions

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock City Council is back up and running.

The council was down to three members, half of its full membership, and met Aug. 3 to elect new members. Councilors Raymond Doherty, Paula Evoniuk and Kody Johnson filled all three vacancies.

"We are up and running," City Recorder Teri Bacus said.

Jackie Carey and Robbie Young resigned from the council at the July 6 meeting 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.

The city asked for residents to apply to join the council, and 10 people filled out the paperwork to take on the volunteer tasks of city councilors. The trio of remaining council members voted for Tegan Kaneaster, Derek Turner and Randy Gawith to join the ranks. All three on their application expressed a similar reason for wanting to serve.

Gawith wrote he wanted to join because he wanted to help however he could.

"I'm very open minded and would like to help us have a better city," he stated on the document.

Kaneaster stated she wanted to make a better future for the community. And Turner on his application wrote, "I love living in this community and want to be a part of making it that much better."

Kaneaster, Turner and Gawith also took their oaths of office at the Aug. 3 meeting.

"Then they got thrown right into the fire with city business," Bacus said.

The new council elected Doherty as its president, then voted in favor of adopting updates to 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 approved the agreement between the city and Umatilla County for dispatch services at a cost of \$28,532 for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The city pays that in quarterly installments.

Among other business, the council tabled a discussion on approving funds for cleaning up and repairing Birch Creek. The city has about \$187,000 for capital improvements in the economic development fund and needs \$20,000 for permit fees. Bacus said the council wants more information before making a decision.

For more information about Pilot Rock and the council, including contact information for council members, visit www.city-ofpilotrock.org.

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