

# EAST OREGONIAN

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**PENDLETON**

## Umatilla County OKs giving \$2M to Pendleton

County Commissioner George Murdock says he discussed deal with city officials for months

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners agreed to invest \$2 million in a Pendleton infrastructure project last week. But more than a week after the

commissioners approved it on a split vote, the actual terms of the deal are not publicly available.

On Nov. 10, commissioners voted to provide the city with a \$2 million revolving fund. The fund is meant to contribute toward the building of a connector road between Highway 11 and Highway 30 on Pendleton's South Hill, a piece of infrastructure city officials believe will open land for potentially hundreds of housing units.

Addressing commissioners after

their vote, Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett told them about a survey the city recently conducted with its top employers.

"There's 500 empty jobs in the community," he said. "There are a growing number of jobs at the airport. Consistently, in all of our conversations, the comment is, 'We want housing.' So there is a direct link between our economic future and our ability to provide housing."

In an interview after the meeting, Chair George Murdock also touted

the fund's ability to help with housing.

"They can't move forward with this development of new housing without something like this to provide the funds," he said.

But the circumstances leading to the vote were unusual. The actual text of the agreement wasn't available to the public or the commissioners ahead of the vote.

Murdock said the written agreement wasn't available because county counsel Doug Olsen was out

of the office and couldn't provide it. Commissioner Dan Dorran said he supported the project, but couldn't vote for it if he couldn't read the actual agreement.

Dorran requested Murdock table the issue until he could see the document, but Murdock said he felt comfortable moving forward on it. Commissioner John Shafer joined Murdock in approving the revolving fund, while Dorran voted against it.

See Project, Page A7

## 'The silent are screaming'

Report precedes event where officials and researchers disclose findings in full

By BRYCE DOLE  
*East Oregonian*

**M**ISSION — Survivors of sexual violence on Umatilla Indian Reservation don't trust authorities, fear retaliation if they talk and fear friends and family won't believe them or would shame them.

Those are part of the findings of a survey Tribal Family Violence Services and its manager conducted for a year-and-a-half with 86 community members and employees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The information-gathering efforts found more than half of respondents are "very aware" of sexual violence occurring in their community, and more than a third said the violence has become worse over time.

More than 90% of survey respondents are women and enrolled CTUIR members.

"Rape, in all its brutal forms, has been occurring since before boarding schools, since before Columbus arrived, and has just increased since then against Indigenous people of this land," said Desiree Coyote, an abuse survivor, advocate and enrolled CTUIR member. She manages Family Violence Services, which is dedicated to helping survivors of violence.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**Desiree Coyote, an abuse survivor, advocate and enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, stands for a portrait Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, at the Nixyaawii Governance Center in Mission. Coyote manages Tribal Family Violence Services and assisted in conducting a year-and-a-half long study of sexual violence on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.**

**CALL FOR HELP**

If you are a victim of intimate partner violence, intimidation, sexual violence, rape, elder abuse, teen dating violence or stalking, you can reach Family Violence Service's 24-hour hotline at 541-240-4171.

"We, the United States, didn't address it back then," she said. "We're still not addressing it today. We're still not addressing the violence against Indian women today, as well as they do for everybody else."

**Survey's findings**

The initial findings shows nearly 60% of respondents believe sexual violence or domestic violence survivors either are underserved or inadequately served. Nearly 70% said the same for child sexual abuse survivors.

And the survey illuminates a general reluctance to report such crimes to authorities.

More than 60% of respondents said sexual violence survivors would not report such crimes to law enforcement or health services because of a lack of trust, awareness or privacy.

Nearly 80% said they wouldn't report because they would not be believed, and 88% said they wouldn't because they fear retaliation, the study showed.

What's more, the findings show more than 80% of respondents said victims would not

report sexual violence to their family and friends, fearing gossip, retaliation, shame or that they would not be believed.

"When we can't trust the people who serve us ... then when are we going to be able to talk about what hurts us?" Coyote said, adding: "If we can't trust each other, then we'll fail."

The report comes ahead of an event called "The Voices and Perspectives of the Tribal Community: What we Know About Sexual Violence," where officials and researchers will

See Silent, Page A7

## New airport manager lands in Pendleton

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — John Honemann knew the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport had a lot of moving parts, but he didn't get a full sense of its scale until he started this position as airport manager in July.

"The extent and the complexity of what we're doing here is pretty cool," he said in an interview. "This is a neat airport. We're doing things that no one else has done before."

Besides the general aviation operations that characterize most rural airports, the Pendleton airport also includes an industrial park, a growing unmanned aerial systems range, a control tower and an Oregon Army National Guard facility.

The airport's services touch on different facets of aviation, but Honemann's 25 years in the aviation industry are similarly diverse.

A Colorado native, Honemann attended college at the University of Colorado and soon found himself working as an engineer after graduation. Despite providing ample time for skiing and mountain biking, Honemann wasn't attracted to the thought of spending his career working behind a desk. So he joined the Navy.

**The 'flying nerds'**

Officer candidate and flight school followed, and he soon found himself flying an EA-6B Prowler, a four-seat, electronically powered airplane.

"We called ourselves the flying nerds," he said. "We're doing all the not so sexy stuff that fighter guys got to do, but by far the most in-demand

See Airport, Page A7

## Turkey will make it to the table this Thanksgiving

Local grocery owners are optimistic despite supply chain woes gripping the nation

By ALEX WITTWER  
*EO Media Group*

Supply chain issues gripping the nation have led to shortages in everything from semiconductors to paper trays at school cafeterias, but Thanksgiving looks to be running smoothly and on time, according to grocery stores in rural Oregon cities.

Jaime Canale, manager of Grocery Outlet in Pendleton, said hangups in the supply chain have affected grocers across the board, but her store is ready to help customers meet holi-

day meal needs.

"We have turkeys," she said. The store received 30 cases of turkeys on Tuesdays, Nov. 16, with four birds per case. Canale said she is expecting another shipment to come Nov. 19 and still more turkeys on Nov. 22, just three days before the holiday.

Side dishes also are showing up. She said Grocery Outlet received two cases of cranberries, for instance, on Nov. 17.

Canale explained Grocery Outlets are more opportunistic than more traditional grocery store chains and don't

Dave Meade, store manager of Columbia Harvest Foods in Umatilla, said his store is not having trouble



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**Columbia Harvest Foods in Umatilla on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, advertises the store's "holiday meal deal." The local grocer is reporting it has plenty of goods for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday in spite of supply chain issues that have led to some shortages.**

See Turkey, Page A7

