

# More than \$1.5M in federal funds headed to Oregon

East Oregonian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon's U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden on Tuesday, March 22, announced more than \$1.5 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds is headed to Oregon to help fund the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation acquisition of five properties in the floodplain.

"I saw firsthand how the flood in February 2020 was devastating to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and other residents in Umatilla County," Merkley said in a press release. "I am pleased that CTUIR will now have the funding needed to safely remove structures that were damaged beyond repair by



East Oregonian, File

**A property along Cayuse Road in rural Umatilla County is inaccessible Feb. 9, 2020, as floodwaters had yet to subside. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is receiving more than \$1.5 million in federal funds to help with the acquisition of five properties in the floodplain.**

the raging floodwaters. This clean-up is an important step in the tribe's remarkable efforts to restore floodplains and protect water quality. I look forward to continuing to work with Oregon's sovereign tribal nations to ensure they have the resources their communities need to thrive."

"The impact of the February 2020 floods in Eastern Oregon was painfully clear in the faces of the community I met with at the Red Cross shelter and the emergency operations center," Wyden said in the release. "The destruction landed especially hard on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. And I'm glad to have teamed up with tribal officials to secure these federal emergency funds for this cleanup and property acquisitions that

are essential steps in the road to economic recovery."

The grant comes to a total of \$1,524,951.53 to help fund the acquisition of every structure on five properties in the floodplain as well as the required assessments, studies and environmental historic preservation review necessary to demolish and/or restore the properties in the floodplain.

"This will help Umatilla Indian Reservation residents recover from the February 2020 flood of the Umatilla River that was so devastating to so many homes and so much property," said Kat Brigham, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. "We are extremely grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their support."

## Giving senior center new purpose

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A demolition team worked quickly this week on the interior of Pendleton's former senior center in preparation for its metamorphosis into a children's center, as child care director Brittney Jackson and architect Mark Seder looked on.

Down came the ceiling tiles, the framework that held them in place and the old insulation. Gone was a wall between two small rooms to create a larger preschool room.

If all goes to plan, the Pendleton Children's Center at 510 S.W. 10th St. will open in September for preschool-age children. Fundraising will continue to pay for



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Nicolas Altamirano, of Pursuit Construction of Salem, removes a framework that once held ceiling panels in place on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at the former Pendleton senior center, 510 S.W. 10th St., site of the future Pendleton Children's Center.**

Niemeyer Foundation and the Walmart Foundation total \$260,785. The senior center building, worth \$300,000 also came as a donation.

Biggest donors include \$20,000 from Hill Meat Co., \$20,000 from Rodney Parker of Pioneer Title, \$10,000 from an anonymous medical practice and \$10,000 from CHI St. Anthony Hospital.

"Our second phase will be to acquire the adjacent building and to renovate the top floor," Brown said, "so that we can expand our child care center to have capacity for 150 infants, toddlers and preschoolers."

*Editor's Note: Kathryn Brown is the vice president of the EO Media Group, the parent company of the East Oregonian.*

further renovations, including a new playground.

Kathryn Brown, secretary-treasurer of the nonprofit's board, said the group

received \$98,000 in local donations since the board formed in 2019. In addition, grants from the Oregon Community Foundation, the

## Pendleton company gets federal help with power storage studies

By JOHN TILLMAN  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A new Pendleton-based energy company is receiving federal assistance on electrical power storage.

Coyote Steals Fire Energy Group of Pendleton filed its articles of incorporation with the state in July 2021. The U.S. Department of Energy on March 15 announced Coyote Steals Fire was one of 14 organizations nationwide to successfully apply for such aid under the Energy Storage for Social Equity Initiative.

Patrick Mills, project manager at CSF Energy Group, said staff at U.S. national laboratories will provide the company with technical assistance with the storage portion of its work with its partners, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He said the company is in discussions with the CTUIR Board of Trustees "as how best to generate, store and distribute energy to reservation communities."

Jiselle Halfmoon, interim communications director for the tribes, said CSF Energy Group is a separate, independent company that Donald Williams, an enrolled tribal member, founded.

The Department of Energy launched the Energy Storage for Social Equity Initiative in September 2021 to support power storage in underserved communities to increase resilience and long-term affordability of their energy supply.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory of Richland, Washington, and Sandia National Laboratory of Albuquerque, New Mexico, will help the 14

groups assess their energy challenges, evaluate solutions and find partners to meet their client communities' goals.

Greg Koller, senior public affairs advisor at PNNL, said the technical assistance team will work closely alongside Coyote Steals Fire to evaluate needs, scope and feasibility of energy storage to meet local energy goals.

"Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will conduct an equity and workforce analysis for Coyote Steals," he said, and assistance "may include system and load analysis, energy storage sizing and siting, equity metrics, economic and financial analysis and utility interconnection requirements."

"Our ES4SE Team is scheduling meetings with the selected participants over the next few weeks to understand their communities, energy needs and project scopes," he added. "At this time it is premature to specify what PNNL will be providing for CSF Energy and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation."

Koller said Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is working with the CTUIR Board of Trustees' process in conjunction with Coyote Steals Fire in developing the project scope of work.

"The ES4SE technical phase ends at the end of this calendar year," he said, "so we are anticipating the technical assistance will be provided by then."

Mills previously procured funding for and managed two phases of the Umatilla Indian Reservation geothermal resources assessment and a 98 kilowatt grid-tied solar array installation.

## Burning weed pile ignites garage



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**A Pendleton firefighter sprays the remains of a garage off Southwest Tutuilla Creek Road, Pendleton, after a weed pile fire spread to the structure Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Property owner George Ogden said while the garage was a total loss, no one was hurt and firefighters kept the blaze from spreading to nearby structures, including his home. The heat from the fire, however, warped the paneling on the house.**

## Pendleton FNP fails probation, hands over license

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A Pendleton resident surrendered her family nurse practitioner license after failing to follow requirements of probation under the Oregon Board of Nursing.

Shannon Blood gave up her license voluntarily earlier this year, according to the nursing board's Tuesday, March 22, news release of recent disciplinary actions.

According to the stipulated order of voluntary surrender, Blood received her nurse practitioner license on Oct. 1, 2013. On Sept. 24, 2020, the board received information that Blood was practicing outside the scope as a family nurse practitioner.

Blood was providing mental health services since September 2015 in her private practice, according to the order, including prescrib-

ing therapy and providing continuing education credits related to mental health.

The nursing board opened an investigation and subsequently placed Blood on two years of probation starting May 19, 2021. Part of that required her to check in each month with her "compliance monitor" and complete five continuing education courses within the first six months of probation. She failed to complete

the courses, according to the order, and in October stopped checking in.

The nursing board staff sent Blood a letter and asked her for an explanation of her non-compliance. Blood contacted the board staff and explained she decided to "take her career in a different direction and wished to voluntarily surrender her FNP license at that time."

Blood signed the order to give up her license on Jan. 31.

**eOMEDIA** group  
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.  
eomediagroup.com

**WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO**  
3/25-3/31  
**Cineplex Show Times**  
Price changes: Adults: \$10.00 • Child: \$8.00  
Senior: \$8.00 • Matinees (before 4:00pm): \$8.00

- The Lost City (PG13)  
4:10p 6:40p 9:10p  
extra 1:40p show 3/25-3/27
- The Batman (PG13)  
4:40p 8:30p  
extra 12:50p show 3/25-3/27
- Uncharted (PG13)  
3:40p 6:30p 9:20p  
extra 1:00p show 3/25-3/27
- Dog (PG13)  
4:50p 7:10p  
extra 2:30p show 3/25-3/27
- X (Rated R)  
3:50p 9:00p
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (PG13)  
(English Dubbed)  
6:20p extra 1:10p show 3/25-3/27
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (PG13)  
(Subtitles)  
9:30p thru March 30th

wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850  
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

**Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator**  
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!  
877-557-1912  
**FREE** 7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!  
Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**dish** BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!  
Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

**2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE**  
America's Top 120 Package  
**\$69.99** MO. for 12 Mos.  
**190 CHANNELS** Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100  
**1-866-373-9175** Offer ends 4/13/22.

**Careers that make a difference**  
Work with people with disabilities!

**www.ImpactOregon.careers**

**impact**