



Phil Wright/East Oregonian

The charred remains of Rex Rosenberg's all-terrain-vehicle remain where they burned Sunday, April 24, 2022, next to his Pendleton home.

Fire destroys ATV in Pendleton

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Rex Rosenberg of Pendleton went to bed Saturday night, April 23, and awoke to find fire destroying one of his all-terrain-vehicles.

Rosenberg said he fueled up the vehicle at about 9 p.m. April 23 and put it on the trailer in front of his home

at 920 S.W. 33rd St. in anticipation of a trip April 24. He went to bed but shortly after midnight saw the ATV ablaze.

"It was fully engulfed," he said.

And the heat was so intense, he said, it was impossible to approach it from the front door.

The fire damaged the trailer, the pickup towing it and the ATV in its bed, and

the heat melted siding on the front of the house as well as plastic taillights on a pickup in his driveway and the taillights of a pickup across the street.

Rosenberg said no one was harmed in the blaze, and the Pendleton Fire Department were on the scene at about 12:20 a.m. and extinguished the fire. He also said he had no idea what caused the fire.

HERMISTON

New tool allows residents to give input

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The city of Hermiston has launched a new public survey tool to better understand local priorities and concerns on a wide range of city services and the local quality of life.

The tool will enable the city to collect feedback from the local neighborhood level to community-wide priorities, according to a press release from the city.

Following the intensive Hermiston 2040 survey campaign and other recent efforts to gather public input, the Zencity Community Survey is to track resident satisfaction and response to specific efforts over a long period.

"We are always striving to get input from residents and this partnership with Zencity will be a great step toward understanding the needs and concerns of our residents to make the best decisions for the future of our city," City Manager Byron Smith said in the announcement. "Zencity enables us to have a broader, more representative insight in resident priorities."

Already underway, the survey typically will gather thousands of responses from Hermiston residents each year in English and Span-

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Zencity's community survey incorporates voices from every corner of the community, according to a press release from the city of Hermiston.

To do so, Zencity sets response targets based on U.S. Census data about the municipality.

Zencity ensures the security and privacy of its data and survey respondents. Survey responses are anonymous, unless a respondent chooses to share their email address

for follow-up purposes, in which case their survey responses are kept confidential. Zencity does not collect a respondent's name, address, or any other personally-identifying information. Zencity's weighting accounts for the responses of every single person who answered a question. The responses give a proportional voice to all demographics, including age, sex, race and income level, based on the makeup of the municipality.

ish. The survey appears to residents through digital ads in various locations such as news websites, social media platforms, blogs and apps. Based on responses, the survey measures resident satisfaction regarding local services and quality of life in the city, while identifying key concerns residents want the city to address. In addition, residents can find and respond to the survey on the city website.

This initiative builds on an existing partnership between Hermiston and Zencity, the community input platform used by local governments to hear from more residents and get the most meaningful and

actionable insights, the press release stated. Hermiston began working with Zencity in 2021 to better understand the feedback residents already are voicing about the issues that matter to them the most — whether on publicly available social media channels, comments on traditional news sources or through official channels such as 311 — helping the city to hear from all corners of the community.

Zencity works with hundreds of municipalities across the U.S. including Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle and San Diego on issues ranging from public safety to American Rescue Plan Act implementation.

LOCAL BRIEFING

MF Chamber Downtown seeks new boss

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Milton-Freewater Chamber Downtown is accepting applications for a full-time executive director now thru May 23.

The joint organization conducted a successful funding campaign at the end of 2021 that provided the organization a strong financial base to pay for a full-time executive

director and to pursue goals for 2022, including:

- Explore revitalization and the future of established events such as Annual Awards Banquet, Brews by the Blues Brew Fest and Summer Festival.

- Provision of informative webinars, training and networking opportunities for local businesses.

- Development of a business retention and recruitment program.

For the complete job description and information,

visit MFdowntown.org or email info@mfedowntown.org.

The Milton-Freewater Chamber Downtown Alliance is the result of a joint operations agreement between the Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce and the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance. The overarching goal of the MFCDA is to coordinate the efforts of the chamber and alliance to the benefit of Milton-Freewater businesses and community.

— EO Media Group

STANFIELD

Council appoints new mayor

Susan Whelan to step down as councilor to take on new role

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — Susan Whelan will be sworn in as Stanfield's mayor at a city council meeting on Tuesday, May 3. Whelan, a Stanfield city councilor since 2017, was selected Monday, April 18, from the council to replace Mayor Thomas McCann. McCann died April 16 of a heart attack.

"I will do my best," she said, during an interview Friday, April 22.

Whelan said she admires McCann a great deal. They knew each other for several years, she said, and their families were close. According to Whelan, their children played together, and she misses him. But then, she said, many people in town have the same feelings.

"He was an icon in the community, well-loved and well-respected," she said. "It will be hard to fill his shoes."

McCann, she said, "really knew how to run a meeting." She attributed his authoritative presence to his history as a police officer; he knew how to command respect. She said it will be difficult for her to be like him in the same way.

At the city council meeting in which she was selected, she recalled that Councilor Jason Sperr nominated her to the vacated mayoral position. She said, no one else was nominated. Before the other councilors voted, she

asked them if they thought she could do it. They said that she could, and then they unanimously voted in her favor — 5-0, with Whelan abstaining.

Asked why she was selected, Whelan joked that it was "the only way they were going to get her off the council."

The incoming mayor is lighthearted by nature, she said, and she likes to laugh. She said she feels that "humor makes things go easier" and "life is short." Also, life can be "hard for people," she said. A sour attitude makes things worse.

A wife, mother to three, grandmother to five and great grandmother to two, Whelan said she has recently been the subject of teasing within her family. Family members are asking her if they should call her "mayor" rather than "grandma."

She said, she is happier with her grandchildren calling her grandma, just like she prefers to be called "Susan" around town.

She is not doing this job to satisfy her ego, she said. Nor does she have great plans to "make her mark" on the town, she added. Instead, she said she is focusing on the job itself.

"God doesn't care if I'm mayor, and I'm not trying to impress anyone," she said.

That said, she did say that there are things she wants to do in town.

One of her goals is making city business more accessible to the public. According to Whelan, evening city council meetings are not enough for people.

"I want to be available

to people," she said. To that end, she is planning regular community breakfasts where she and a city councilor can meet over a meal at the Stanfield Community Center, 160 S. Main St. There, she can hear from people, get their ideas and discuss issues.

The next breakfast meeting, she said, will be Saturday, May 7, 7-10 a.m.

She said she is looking forward to meeting people. She added that she hopes they will see her as she sees herself, a person who is not afraid to make tough decisions and "say things that need to be said."

Further, she said she wants to live up to her image as a person who gets things done. Before retiring, she worked at Banner Bank for 20 years. She was a purchasing manager, she said, and has experience with finances and teamwork.

In the coming months and years as mayor, she said she will look after continuing projects in town. Construction projects and cleaning up Main Street are two things, which she said are on her mind.

She said she feels "a bit embarrassed" about the limelight, but she is looking forward to the opportunity to help. Also, she shied away from saying she was excited.

"I wouldn't use that word," she said. "I don't get excited. I've looked forward to things, or I've dreaded them. At this point of my life, I don't need to dread."

This leaves the 70-year-old Whelan looking forward to her mayoral work.

At the upcoming swearing-in ceremony, she will step down as a city councilor and take on the mantle of mayor, serving out the remainder of McCann's term.



Whelan

Follow us on Facebook!

Then & NOW

2022 Graduates

Tell your favorite graduate how proud you are of them with a special ad!

Only **\$49**

Includes full color. Three line maximum message.

EAST OREGONIAN

Publishes May 28

Umatilla, Morrow & Gilliam County

Jennifer Smith



High School Name
Congratulations Jen!
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom & Dad

2x3 example size

Name of graduate: _____

School: _____

Message: _____

Call 541-564-4538 or email
aworkman@eastoregonian.com

the pathfinder network

APPLY NOW

Join us for an informational session
APRIL 28TH 2:00PM - 3:30PM
for the meeting link contact the email below!

We Need...

FACILITATORS/COACHES

- Individuals interested in working within a correctional setting
- Able to deliver cognitive behavioral and parenting programs in a classroom setting

Contact

503.892.5396
ewatson@thepathfindernetwork.org
www.thepathfindernetwork.org



We Offer...

\$1,000 Hiring Bonus

401k Match

14 Paid Days of Significance

Employer Paid Health, Dental and Vision

Paid 30 Minute Lunches

Mental Wellness Hours