

PENDLETON

# Farmers Market opens Friday

By JOHN TILLMAN  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The 2022 Pendleton Farmers Market opens for business Friday, May 13, a week later than it planned.

The market operates on the 300 block of South Main Street in downtown Pendleton. The volunteer-run nonprofit operates 4-7 p.m. on Fridays from May to October. The open-air market is closed only on the Friday of Round-Up week. Masks are not required this year.

The market was scheduled to open on May 6, but was cancelled due to a thunderstorm. Vendors sell produce, eggs, baked goods, crafts and other products. Live music at the market is common.

Cheryl Montgomery manages the Pendleton Farmers Market and described how the market weathered the pandemic.

“In 2020 we were able to still operate at a different location, the former Elks Lodge, now Electric Sundown,” she said. “The owner (Lance Leonnig) graciously offered his parking lot. We were still able to operate as farmers markets were considered an essential business.”

Montgomery rated that year “respectable” for the



East Oregonian, File

People wander a sun-spotted Main Street in downtown Pendleton on the opening day of the Pendleton Farmers Market on May 7, 2021. The market's 2022 season begins Friday, May 13.

market financially, with mixed comments from shoppers about the temporary location.

“The pandemic did affect our vendors and shoppers, just like everywhere else,” she added, “as we had to modify how we operated with sanitation and social distancing put into practice.”

In 2021 the market was able to return to downtown. Normal operations resumed among the outdoor pod seating, which enhanced the social atmosphere.

“Looking at this year, we have returning and new vendors scheduled,” she

concluded, “so come down to the market.”

The market participates in Oregon’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. It uses a wireless terminal to transmit transactions from a SNAP recipient’s Oregon Trail swipe card. Small \$1 wooden tokens are issued to recipients to purchase fresh produce, vegetable starts and packaged bakery items. Vendors collect the tokens at the end of the market and return them to staff for reimbursement in cash the same day.

SNAP tokens are \$1,

with no minimum purchase or surcharge. Customers can spend the tokens only at the Pendleton Farmers Market. They can purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, beans, herbs, vegetable starts and packaged bakery items. There is no expiration date on the wooden tokens.

The Double Up Food Bucks program of Oregon’s Farmers Market Fund provides a match of up to \$20. The program gives recipients who spend 20 SNAP dollars at a participating farmers market another \$20 to buy more locally grown produce.

## Local voters cast ballots on three bond measures

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Local voters decide on three ballot measures for bonds in the Tuesday, May 17, primary election, and the biggest by far is in Morrow County.

The Morrow County School District has proposed Measure 25-87, a \$138 million bond to remodel and improve existing educational facilities and build new ones. The bond also would allow the district to upgrade technological infrastructure and make facilities accessible for people with disabilities. The school district has a website with more information about the measure here:

[www.morrow.k12.or.us/page/bond-information](http://www.morrow.k12.or.us/page/bond-information).

The 20-year bond would cost \$2.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value per year. A home valued at \$200,000 would pay \$534 annually.

If voters pass the measure, the school district would receive a grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program of \$4 million.

The other two local measures are in Umatilla County communities.

Voters in Milton-Freewater consider a \$500,000 bond to improve recreational facilities, Helix voters weigh a \$1 million bond to install a new public pool and the

Morrow County School District has proposed a \$138 million bond to improve its facilities.

Measure 30-151 in Milton-Freewater is asking voters to consider renewing a tax measure of \$100,000 a year for five years at a rate of 32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to replace or repair city recreation facilities, according to the “Umatilla County Voters’ Pamphlet,” including the Joe Humbert Family Aquatic Center, Yantis Park Playground equipment and city ballfields.

If the measure passes, the city would begin the capital projects in fiscal year 2024.

The Helix Park & Recreation District has proposed Measure 30-151 to raise \$1 million to design and build a new public pool, splash pad, pump house, improve the bathhouse and exterior restrooms and pay the cost of bond issuance.

According to the bond information, Helix property owners would pay 37 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The bond would mature in 21 years or less from the date of issuance.

If the bond passes, the project needs another \$500,000. Park & Recreation is looking toward fundraising and grants to provide the funds.

## Corps to connect McNary Dam, Umatilla wastewater

East Oregonian

UMATILLA — U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers announced construction begins this summer to connect the wastewater systems of McNary Dam and the city of Umatilla.

The Corps in a press release Tuesday, May 10, reported the work will result in temporary closures and detours affecting Third Street, West Park, Spillway Park and the Visitor Center/Juvenile Fish Facility.

Officials at McNary Dam determined through routine maintenance and inspections that the current on-site

septic systems for the dam, Visitor Center/Juvenile Fish Facility and West Park were nearing the end of their service life and need replacing. The Corps decided to connect to Umatilla’s wastewater system due to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality administrative rules.

According to the press release, DEQ rules state it cannot issue permits for new septic systems if a sewage system is within 4,128 feet of the property. Utilizing the city’s wastewater system also will reduce maintenance of drain fields for the dam, could improve

groundwater quality in the area and allows for future connections as needed.

The Walla Walla District awarded a \$3 million construction contract to Crestline Construction Co. out of The Dalles to connect the two wastewater systems.

The dam’s parks, nature area and visitor center has approximately 290,000 visitors per year, but the Corps reported it expects the project will have minimal bother on visitors but there will be times when roads must be trenced and restrooms closed during the project.

The Corps also contin-

ues to seek public input on its update of the McNary Master Plan, which guides how the Corps manages the lands surrounding Lake Wallula behind McNary Dam on the Columbia River near Umatilla. The master plans only are about the land and do not address dam operations, including spill, fish passage, flood risk management or navigation.

The Corps is accepting comments through June 2. For more information on what the McNary Master Plan covers, the areas in the McNary Project and how you can comment, visit [bit.ly/3L0j3Vh](http://bit.ly/3L0j3Vh).

# Pendleton airport renovation begins

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Temporary facilities arrived at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, Pendleton, on Thursday, May 5, to begin the \$3.9 million terminal renovation project. Commercial flights and food services will continue uninterrupted.

Airport Manager John Honemann said one of the project goals is to limit the impact on airport services, according to a press release from the city.

“We are really excited to begin construction, but it was also very important for us to make sure services are uninterrupted,” Honemann said. “We’ve worked closely with the restaurant and with commercial air service to keep everything open as much as possible.”

The existing terminal building is more than 70 years old. A federal CARES Act — short for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act — grant for airports will fund replacing and updating aging equipment, including upgrades to heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems, according to the press release. It also includes renovating bathrooms and the restaurant kitchen, as well as cosmetic improvements, such as paint, finishing and flooring.

Pendleton City Council in February selected McCormack Construction Co. as the general manager and contractor.

The entire project is expected to last about eight months, broken up into five phases to minimize impacts on services.

Crews from McCormack on May 5 began installing a 60-foot temporary terminal and bathrooms. Those facilities, next to the main terminal, can be accessed from the airport parking lot. They will keep commercial flights operating during the construction.

Passengers will be rerouted to the temporary facilities sometime between May 5 and May 19, when construction begins inside the terminal.

The city also reported remodeling will not affect air traffic control services, and airport administration services will operate out of the World War II hangar. After installation to temporary facilities, administrative staff and tenants will move out of the terminal.

During terminal construction, in-terminal access to Elvis’ Bar and Grill, the restaurant at the airport, will be closed, but the front entrance will remain open, and the restaurant will continue to operate.

In coordination with Elvis’ Bar and Grill, the time frame for the kitchen and bathroom renovation project has been identified as mid-September to mid-December. The timeline allows the restaurant to remain open through the Pendleton Round-Up in September and then shut down for renovations.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### 2 local special districts receive \$3,000 grants

HERMISTON — One special district in Umatilla County and one in Morrow County received grants to help cover the costs of summer internships.

Umatilla County Fire District No. 1, Hermiston, and West Extension Irrigation District, Irrigon, each received a \$3,000 grant from the Special Districts Association of Oregon. The local special districts are among 15 statewide to receive SDAO grants totaling \$42,000.

According to a press release from the association, many districts offer summer internships to college-level students in their area who are seeking to learn more about local government careers. SDAO provides 50% matching grants to the districts for the internships. The maximum grant is \$3,000 for a project that would cost \$6,000 or more.

For grant consideration, districts must submit appli-

cations outlining the details of their project, the benefits it will bring to the district and how they will utilize a summer intern. At the end of the summer, recipients must submit a project summary and receipts to the Special Districts Association of Oregon.

Special Districts Association of Oregon represents more than 920 special districts in the state. For more information, visit [www.sdao.com](http://www.sdao.com).

—EO Media Group

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**Cineplex Show Times**

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**Firestarter (R)**  
4:10p 6:40p 9:20p  
extra 1:30p show 5/13-5/15

**Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (PG13)**  
4:00p 4:30p 7:10p 7:40p  
extra 12:50p & 1:20p show 5/13-5/15

**The Bad Guys (PG)**  
3:50p 6:30p 9:10p  
extra 1:10p show 5/13-5/15

**Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG)**  
3:40p 6:20p 9:00p  
extra 1:00p show 5/13-5/15

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IN OREGON THE NRA-PVF HAVE ENDORSED ONLY 6 CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION THEY ARE:

Congressman Cliff Bentz 2nd Congressional District ..... A Rating

State Senator Kim Thatcher Senate District 11 ..... A+ Rating

State Senator Bill Kennemer Senate District 20 ..... A Rating

State Senator Daniel Bonham Senate District 26 ..... A Rating

State Representative Jami Cate House District 11 ..... A Rating

State Representative Bobby Levy House District 58 ..... A Rating

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[www.NRAPVF.org/grades/Oregon](http://www.NRAPVF.org/grades/Oregon)

There may be more endorsements after the 17 May 2022 Primary  
Rick Coufal Colonel, US Army (Ret), Frontlines Activist Leader (FAL) Oregon

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