

# Demonstration in Pendleton shows support for keeping abortion legal

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A group of Pendleton locals Saturday, May 14, demonstrated their support for keeping abortion legal in the United States.

About 15-20 people from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. took to the sidewalk in front of Roy Raley Park to display signs and catch the attention of drivers passing along Southwest Court Avenue. Pendleton Action Community Coalition organized the Ban Off My Body protest. Icy Roe, secretary of the coalition board, said the group started working on this May 11.

“We whipped it together a few days ago,” she said, and credited coalition member Sue Peterson with handling the groundwork to get people to come out.

Roe explained the demonstration in Pendleton was a part of other protests across the nation against the U.S. Supreme Court considering overturning Roe vs. Wade, the case that legalized abortion.

“We’re doing this because we fear it will be a domino



Phil Wright/East Oregonian

**Demonstrators against banning abortion display signs Saturday, May 14, 2022, to drivers passing Roy Raley Park on Southwest Court Avenue, Pendleton.**

effect on other communities in our country,” Roe said.

She explained the Supreme Court overturning Roe vs.

Wade endangers women who might have ectopic pregnancies and require abortions to save their lives.

According to the Children’s Bureau at the U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services Administration For Children And Families, the 2020 Adoption And Foster Care Analysis And Reporting System estimates there are 407,000 children at the end of fiscal year 2020 in foster care in the United States.

“I don’t think that forced birthing is going to help that any,” Roe said.

And the ramifications of changing the law go beyond abortions. She said overturning Roe vs. Wade opens the door for overturning other rights and protections, especially for LGBTQ+ people.

Not protecting women’s rights to choose an abortion creates a slippery slope, she said, pushes back health care for women and could send a signal to other countries to follow suit.

Drivers for the most part were neutral as the passed the demonstrations. A few indicted their disagreement with the demonstration, but more honked their horns in support.

## PENDLETON

# City council considers a \$1M water line contract

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton City Council this week considers awarding a contract of more than \$1 million for the water line construction project on Southwest Houtama Road.

The council meets Tuesday, May 17, starting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave. According to meeting agenda documents, the city received seven bids for the water line project and opened them May 10. Two bids came in lower than the city’s estimate, and one was 27% lower than the high bid.

That low bid came from Silver Creek Contracting LLC, of Heppner, and Bob Patterson, public works director, and Tim Simons, city engineer, are recommending the council approve the company for the project.

According to the recommendation, the installation of this 16-inch water line is to increase the overall capacity of the city’s water supply system. By connecting the drinking water well that is down near the Resource Recovery Facility/Waste Water Treatment Plant to the city’s gravity zone distribution system, some 4,100 feet away at the top of Houtama Road, “the entire water supply system will see a benefit, especially in the southwest end of town.”

The council also considers approving the city’s

## MORE INFORMATION

See the Pendleton City Council meeting agenda online at bit.ly/3sA2pp6.

participation in the settlements of class action lawsuits various with opiate manufacturers.

City attorney Nancy Kerns in a memo to the council explained Oregon local governments became aware in late 2021 they will collectively receive an estimated \$329 million dollars out of the deal. Kerns reported she took action in the last week of December 2021 to enroll the city as a member of the plaintiff class.

The pending settlement will bring more than \$500,000 to the city, according to Kerns, in annual increments spanning 18 years. The council, then, needs to pass a resolution approving the city’s participation in the class and authorizing the city manager to take action to receive the settlement funds.

In other business, the council considers giving approval for the city to buy a John Deere 744L wheel loader from Pape Machinery of Pasco for about \$450,300 and spending \$125,000 to pave a portion of the outer airport access road at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport.

## Work underway for new NAPA in Pendleton



John Tillman/East Oregonian

**A pair of workers on Thursday, May 12, 2022, renovate the former Walgreens building at 144 S.W. 20th St., Pendleton, to house a NAPA auto parts store. The city issued a remodeling permit on March 14. NAPA is leasing the premises from Walgreens. The auto parts business hopes to open by mid June.**



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Goods line the floor at Pendleton’s new Sears Hometown Store at 124 S. Main St.**

## Improvements continue at Sears in Pendleton

By JOHN TILLMAN  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton property owner Gary Vaughn continues redeveloping the former J.C. Penny Co. building for his new tenant, Sears Hometown Store.

Vaughn has owned the 124 S. Main St. structure, now housing Sears, since 1996. He also owns the structures housing Sierra Professional, Hope Counseling (the 1906 Templeman building) and D&B Supply on Southgate. His Jager Development of Pendleton has real estate in California, Washington and Oregon.

Interior remodeling is

complete, and Sears operates in the building, but Vaughn said signage, shelving and such are works in progress.

Recent external improvements include a finished paint job by Randy Thomas’ A-Sharp, according to Vaughn, and Ed Miltenberger’s Sign Men are on the schedule to reinstall awnings. Vaughn’s subcontractors put in a 16 foot by 26 foot cement pad on May 4.

“We rely on local subs whenever possible,” he said. “It’s great to continue developing downtown.”

Vaughn said he enjoys doing projects in Pendleton because of the number of good local contractors.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### New boxing club plans falter

PENDLETON — Plans for a second boxing club to open in Pendleton went down for the count Friday, May 13.

Former amateur and professional boxer Buddy Payne said he was planning on opening a nonprofit boxing club in Pendleton and was working on securing a location. He said support from the community for the club had been tremendous.

“People are coming out of the woodwork,” he said. “It’s been wonderful. It has taken off. I’m doing this for the community. It’s a tough sport to make a living in. Most kids won’t make any money, but working out and training is great for them. Doing that is better than something else they might do.”

That was before May 13, when the East Oregonian posted a story about Payne’s moves to open a club, and Payne said he found out Pendleton already has a boxing club and would not go forward with opening his own.

Michael Blanc was teaching physical education at Sunridge Middle School in Pendleton and opened a USA Boxing-sanctioned club in 2013. Now, Rob Brooks operates the club in the basement of the Pendleton Recreation Center.

Brooks said he called Payne and they had a good conversation.

“He said he didn’t even know the club existed,” Brooks said.

He said Payne was trying to do what Brooks already had a handle on, so instead of throwing another club out there, he nixed the plan. Brooks said he invited Payne to check out the Pendleton Boxing Club.

Brooks said he also is working to submit paperwork for the club to obtain nonprofit status and has even set up a board to oversee the club.

### Brown submits appointments for confirmation

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown submitted a list of state board and commission appointments to the Oregon Senate for confirmation and one resident each from

Umatilla and Morrow counties is up for consideration.

Amy Ashton-Williams of Pendleton, the executive director of Oregon Washington Health Network, is up for an appointment to the State Board of Licensed Social Workers. She would serve a four-year term starting July 1 and ending June 30, 2026.

“I am committed to ensuring that all boards and commissions represent the growing racial, gender and age diversity of our state,” Brown said in a press release. “State board and commission members bring a diverse set of life experiences and backgrounds to address the wide range of ongoing issues facing Oregon. I appreciate the willingness of all these nominees to help us build a safer, stronger, just and equitable Oregon for all.”

Brown also reappointed Debbie Radie of Irrigon,

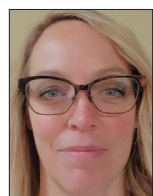
the vice president of operations for Boardman Foods Inc., to a three-year term on the Workforce and Talent Development Board.

The Senate Committee on Rules is scheduled to consider the nominations in June.

—EO Media group



Payne



Ashton-Williams

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