

Pendleton Fourth of July event expands

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton's Fourth of July is getting a new community celebration at Roy Raley Park.

Its children's games and bike/scooter parade contest, races, corn hole competition and other activities conclude at 5 p.m. The family fun event is free, with prizes. Food will be available for purchase, or participants can bring their own picnic lunches.

"The event is alcohol-free," said organizer Donna Biggerstaff, city administrative assistant. "We could make money with a beer garden, but wanted the event to be family friendly."

Biggerstaff said she hopes residents will stay in town for the event, saving money on costly travel. Oregon's average price for regular gas was \$5.42 on June 7, up from \$3.45 a year earlier. In Umatilla County, the average was \$5.20.

"We encourage people to patronize local businesses this summer," she said.

Biggerstaff also is seeking volunteers.

"We still need volunteers for the milk can toss, face painting and to sit in the dunk tank," she said.

Independence Day fun run and parade

A fun run at 9 a.m. precedes the parade. The high school track team plans to dress up and run the route, in lieu of their daily practice.

"It's not a race or organized event for the community," Biggerstaff said. "It's the team having fun and entertaining those on the parade route before the kick-off."

This year's Independence Day Parade has the theme of "Freedom" and begins at 10 a.m. July 4. Veterans of Foreign Wars "Let 'Er Buck" Post 922 hosts the parade.

The parade's route starts at city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., marches to Main Street, then to Southwest Court Avenue to the Pendleton Convention Center. The horse staging area is at the Western Auto/Baxter Auto Parts' parking lot, 336 S.W. Emigrant Ave., with line-up



The Pendleton Round-Up rides through the town's Fourth of July parade in 2021.

EVENT SEEKS DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS

• Pendleton Rotary Foundation is receiving donations for the Pendleton Fourth of July display.
Organizer Jerry Imsland said contributors can make checks payable to the tax-deductible foundation with a note that the contribution is for the Fourth of July fireworks.
You can mail donations to the Pendleton Rotary

Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Pendleton, OR 97801.
• Donna Biggerstaff is seeking volunteers for the Fourth of July community event in Roy Raley Park, to help with the milk can toss, face painting or sitting on the dunk tank.
To sign up to volunteer or for more information contact Biggerstaff at 541-966-0220 or by email at donna.biggerstaff@ci.pendleton.or.us.

on Southwest Dorion.

All entrants are welcome and will receive a participation ribbon. Any individual, organization or business may enter. Judges will award trophies in 14 categories. The VFW will award the Patriot Trophy to the entrant with the most overall votes.

"I guarantee that anyone dressing up as drummers and a wounded fife player will win the Patriot Trophy," parade organizer Fred Bradbury said.

Archibald Willard's painting, "The Spirit of '76", exhibited at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, famously features a drummer boy, an old man drumming and a bandaged fife player.

Grand marshal is Mike Hagan, honored for his 41-year career in the Oregon Army National Guard, including active duty in

Afghanistan, Bradbury said. Hagan was one of three men in his unit who turned 58 during their 2005-06 deployment. One of these veterans was shot down both in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Hagan's other public service was as a reserve sheriff's deputy in Marion County for 25 years and in Umatilla County for 20. He is past president of the Pendleton Air Museum, a member of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and a deacon at the Pendleton Church of God.

Three of Hagan's four children are joining him in the parade with his wife Pat and all four grandchildren.

Parade entry forms are available at the Chamber of Commerce, 501 S. Main St., or by email to fbradbury@yahoo.com. Bradbury also is available to answer questions at 541-377-7474.

Tax-deductible donations are used to buy trophies, participation ribbons, flags, advertising, postage and printing.

Fireworks on July 3

Independence Day fireworks are scheduled for the evening of July 3, in the lot west of Walmart, organizer Jerry Imsland said.

"We're just almost there on funding for the display," he said. "Our goal is \$15,000. We have \$12,500 in the bank, with two \$500 donations on the way."

Imsland explained that moving to the night of July 3 yielded a \$2,500 break from the pyrotechnic company in Portland.

"They're short of people to light 'em off," he said, "like so many other businesses today. So we're going to have \$17,500 worth of fireworks. Should be a heck of a show."

State invests in financial aid for tribal students

By JISELLE HALFMOON
Confederated Umatilla Journal

MISSION — Access to higher education just got a lot easier for tribal students in Oregon.

Thanks to Gov. Kate Brown, the 2022 Oregon Legislature funded a historic program for students who are enrolled members of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to pay for college.

The \$19 million Oregon Tribal Student Grant is expected to pay for most or all college-related expenses, including tuition, housing, books and other costs not covered by other grants on a first-come first-serve basis.

Brandie Weaskus, Higher Education Program manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, stated she hopes to see an increase in enrollment this fall.

"That would mean this opportunity has opened doors and aided in decisions to attend college or university or another qualified program," she said.

Weaskus also said she hopes tribal members will choose to stay in Oregon and more tribal members will finish their degrees.

Additional requirements to qualify for this grant include enrollment at least half-time for the 2022-23 school year and working toward an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree. Students also must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an Oregon Student Aid Application, as well as the Oregon Tribal Student Grant Application.

The application now is open. Additional information regarding eligibility requirements is available on the state grant website: oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-tribal-student.aspx.

Pendleton City Council passes 2022-23 budget

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton City Council at its meeting Tuesday, June 7, unanimously adopted the city's fiscal year 2022-23 budget.

The total for all funds in the budget is almost \$112.7 million, including more than \$19.3 million in the general fund. Finance Director Linda Carter explained more than \$102 million is in fact appropriated. The almost \$10.6 million in reserve funds would have to be approved separately, should the city dip into them.

The adopting resolution approved without changes the budget committee's FY 2022-23 proposal it recommended in May.

The adoption resolution imposes and categorizes the property taxes for the general and debt service funds. For 2022-23, taxes are imposed

for the adopted budget at a rate of \$6.5771 per \$1,000 assessed value for the general fund and the amount of \$548,617 for general obligation bonded debt.

Carter explained the city cannot legally expend any funds in the upcoming fiscal year until a budget is adopted and appropriations made.

The 2022-23 budget adds two police officers, appropriates funds to create additional housing as well as replace and improve water, sewer and road infrastructure.

The budget is online at the city of Pendleton's website: pendleton.or.us/finance/page/city-pendleton-budgets.

The council also approved a supplemental budget for the remaining fiscal year and passed a resolution to receive state revenue sharing funds. The \$200,000 thus obtained is to dedicated to public safety.

Pendleton liquor store deals with recent high water

By YASSER MARTE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton Mixer & Cigar Inc. is recovering after water rose during the storm Thursday, June 2, leading to thousands of dollars in property damage.

"It was about 8 to 9 inches of water," business owner Greg Roland said. "I had to close down and make sure my employees were safe."

Roland also hired a professional cleaning crew to flush out and disinfect the store at 237 Emigrant Ave.

"The crew stayed cleaning here for a week," Roland said.

Despite the damages, Roland reopened the liquor store June 3, getting it up and running again to make up for the financial losses.

"I'm not happy with the city," he said. "I had (fecal matter) in my store."

According to Roland, the sewage drain pipes, on the



Pendleton Mixer & Cigar Inc. owner Greg Roland attends to customers Monday, June 6, 2022, as he discusses the damages caused by the sewage drains during the June 2 storm.

corner of the store and across the street, overflowed and flooded his store.

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Brown visited Pendleton Mixer that same night to check on the damages. According to Brown, it didn't

have anything to do with the sewage system because the sewer main was not clogged.

"It was a high intensity storm and it affected only that property," he said. "But if Roland is unhappy we'll reach out to him."

The National Weather Services in Pendleton on June 2 tweeted, "Heads up. More storms on the way today and tomorrow. A few strong storms may even occur with gusty winds, hail and frequent lightning. Heavy rainfall and localized flooding will also be a concern."

Later that day, the NWS issued a warning and posted a special weather statement.

At the back of the store, several lines of liquor boxes sit on the floor swollen and dilapidated. Industrial vacuums and fans rev loudly, sucking up sewage water contaminated with fungi, bacteria and viruses soaked into the carpet and tile floor.

According to Roland, so far there is \$75,000 worth of property damage to the building. He is working with his insurance company on the financial claim.

Roland has owned Pendleton Mixer & Cigar since 2015.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Umatilla County reports 79 new COVID-19 cases

UMATILLA COUNTY — Umatilla County Public Health this week reported COVID-19 cases are on the rise.

"UCo Health has received reports of 79 active COVID-19 cases in the last week," according to a press release Monday, June 6. "This is the largest weekly case count in Umatilla County since February 2022."

In response to the rise and to provide accurate information, the county health department is updating its COVID-19 Regional Dashboard Monday through Thursday. The dashboard is at www.co.umatilla.or.us/

health/COVID_Regio9_Dashboard/.

"We want to make sure residents are aware that COVID-19 is circulating in the community at elevated levels over the next few weeks," the press release stated.

The health department encouraged residents who are 50 and older to receive COVID-19 booster vaccinations.

The county reported 22,772 total cases of COVID-19, with 21,662 confirmed and 1,110 presumptive. The county also reported 226 deaths from the disease.

Umatilla County Public Health also announced it will update its facebook page as new information becomes available.

—EO Media Group

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
6/10 - 6/16
Cineplex Show Times
Price changes: Adults: \$10.00 • Child: \$8.00
Senior: \$8.00 • Matinees (before 4:00pm): \$8.00

Jurassic World: Dominion (PG13)
4:10p 4:50p 7:30p 8:10p
extra 12:50p & 1:30p
show 6/10-6/12

Top Gun: Maverick (PG13)
4:30p 5:10p 7:50p 8:30p
extra 1:10p & 1:50p
show 6/10-6/12

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (PG13)
4:00p 7:20p
extra 12:40p show 6/10-6/12

LIGHTYEAR (PG)
STARTS 6/16!

wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR 1-84 - Exit 216

EOCIL PRESENTS:
COVID-19 VACCINATION EVENT
EVENTO DE VACUNACION COVID-19

June 11, 2022 11:30am - 3:30 pm • Museum Park, 108 SW Frazer Avenue Pendleton, Oregon

- Free Food Box to individuals receiving a vaccination
- Caja de alimentos gratis para las personas vacunadas

COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters available for ages 5 and up
Vacunas de COVID-19 y refuerzos disponibles para 5 años en adelante

Questions? Preguntas? Call EOCIL at 541-276-1037