

FAA grants Pendleton UAS Range line-of-sight waiver

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Federal Aviation Administration on May 9 granted the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial System Range a waiver for beyond visual line-of-sight operations. This allows drone flights without observers for the entire mission.

“We’ve opened a small corridor for true beyond visual line-of-sight flights, and have already flown some missions,” Range Manager Darryl Abling said.

This is the first step in obtaining full permission for beyond visual line-of-sight operations, he explained, and waivers are company-specific and for a single type of aircraft.

“It’s a crawl, walk, run process,” he said. “We’ll eventually expand the corridor of operation and add more beyond visual line-of-sight aircraft. We’ll go out and do flights within the parameters of each waiver.”

Abling said he envisions not only expanding opera-



Retired Air Force Col. Stan Springer, center, runs the Volatus Group, a drone pilot training facility at the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial System Range in Pendleton. The range on May 9, 2022, received a federal waiver for beyond visual line-of-sight operations.

tions to the range’s whole 14,000 square miles, but ultimately to the entire

national airspace. Not just last mile delivery drones but pilotless passenger flights

over cities are in the offing. “It’s maybe 10 years out,” Abling predicted. “But it

can’t just be a free for all. A national standard is going to emerge for detection and avoidance equipment to enable unobserved flights over populated areas.”

Abling said he expects manufacturers to cooperate in setting standards, with a role for the federal government.

“The existing air traffic control system on the ground should play a part,” he said. “But the onus will be on manufacturers to come up with standards. To be compliant, onboard equipment might need to detect a bumblebee at two miles. The technology is there. Once a detection and avoidance standard is agreed upon, then we can roll out implementation.”

He also said he looks forward to urban mobility corridors throughout the national airspace.

“For now, we’ll go fly where waivers permit,” he said. “It’s coming and we’re on the cutting edge. We’ll keep expanding our corridor.”

Volatus Group at Eastern Oregon Regional Airport is

flying beyond visual line-of-sight drones on the range, Abling reported.

“It’s interesting to see the shape of the curve of flight operations here,” he said.

In April, the range had 1,900 flights, 2,300 in May and 4,500 in June, Abling said. A company is flying frequently to demonstrate robustness and reliability, so he said he expects a similar high number of operations as in June this month.

“Number of operations is one metric we look at,” Abling said. “We charge companies per flight day, not by number of individual operations. Another metric, which further indicates our growth, is number of companies invoiced per month. We invoiced 20 companies last month. Some are bigger than others, but they all count.”

Pendleton UAS Range just signed a new company, Abling said, and he expects another next week. The range employs 150 workers.

“We’re growing by all metrics,” he concluded.



East Oregonian, File

Columbia Harvest Foods in Umatilla on Nov. 17, 2021, advertises the store’s “holiday meal deal.” Bill Meade, the Stanfield man who started the grocery store in 1992 that would become Columbia Harvest Foods, died July 9, 2022, at the age of 84.

Longtime Eastern Oregon business owner dies at 84

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — Bill Meade, longtime Stanfield resident, Umatilla business owner and civil servant has died. He was 84.

Meade was born Dec. 18, 1937, and raised in his family home in Stanfield. He is survived by sons Dave and Mitchell “Russ” Meade, as well as three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A star baseball player at Stanfield High, Meade attended Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, to play before meeting his wife, Barbara. The two moved to the Seattle area, where he began a job in the grocery business.

After 27 years in Washington, Meade worked his

way back home to Stanfield, a community he had kept close with over the years.

“He always had a soft spot for Stanfield,” Dave Meade said, “He always was a Stanfield Tiger.”

Upon his return to his hometown, Bill Meade, who had been involved with grocer advertising, became interested in owning a store of his own.

In 1992, he purchased a Umatilla grocery store, remodeled it and renamed it the Red Apple Market. The store, still owned and operated by the Meades today, now is Columbia Harvest Foods. During his time as owner, Meade was three-time businessperson of the year in Umatilla.

His son remembered him for his compassion, instituting policies in the store that stand

today, such as 10% discounts for seniors.

“He had great compassion and courage,” Dave Meade said. “Everyone who knew him, liked him.”

During his time in Stanfield, Bill Meade became intricately involved with the local government. Dave Meade said his father served 17 years in some form or another, serving on the city council and chamber of commerce board, even filling in as the mayor for a time.

Bill Meade retired from the family business to care for his ailing wife. Following her death in 2015, he frequented Stanfield baseball and football games, reliving his fond experiences from his youth.

A memorial for Meade was Saturday, July 16, at Pleasant View Cemetery, Stanfield.

Pendleton gives tentative OK to proposal to restore guardhouses

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The city of Pendleton has tentatively approved Pendleton Air Museum’s proposal to restore the historic guardhouses on Airport Road and Northwest A Avenue.

“The guardhouses are a community treasure,” City Manager Robb Corbett said. “We’ll do everything we can to preserve them for posterity.”

PAM Vice President Tim Kelly sent the city a letter proposing the museum take responsibility for restoring the guardhouses. The city provisionally agreed the museum could restore the more damaged one, Corbett said.

“We’ll seek donations of money, materials and manpower ideally to restore both guardhouses,” retired U.S. Army Col. Kelly said. “We’re looking into logs right now. We’d like eventually to lease the guardhouses from the city to display items relating to Pendleton Army Airfield



Mackenzie Whaley/East Oregonian

Sunlight illuminates this World War II guardhouse Friday July 15, 2022, on the north side of Northwest A Avenue, Pendleton. The city has tentatively agreed to a proposal from Pendleton Air Museum to restore this and the guardhouse on the other side of the road.

history. Ideally, we’d also be able to lease the area near them for future static aircraft displays, but those options weren’t included in the tentative agreement.”

The north guardhouse, adjoining the new Radisson Hotel, is in worse shape than the southern one, which might be leased to

Elvis’ Restaurant for storage, Kelly noted.

“We’d love to have access to both guardhouses to mount cool displays, including manikins wearing uniforms,” PAM President Chris Sykes said. “We have space in our downtown gift shop for only a small fraction of our donated exhibits.”

LOCAL BRIEFING

Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office seeks help identifying relatives of woman who died

UKIAH — Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office is asking the public to help find relatives of a woman who died camping near Ukiah. But the sheriff’s office only wants to hear from people who knew the woman or know her relatives.

Barbara Lee Soha, 73, was associated with the area of Salt Lake City, the sheriff’s office reported in a press release Friday, July 15. Deputies on July 9 responded to the Frazier

Campground & Trailhead in the Umatilla National Forest near Ukiah on a report of a dead person. Deputies found Soha’s body in a tent.

All the addresses on her identification were obsolete, according to the sheriff’s office, and its attempts to locate and notify her relatives have been unsuccessful.

The sheriff’s office also asks anyone who knows Soha to not post responses on Facebook but instead call the 24-hour dispatch center at 541-966-3651 and reference Case No. 22-0961.

—EO Media Group



Soha

CTUIR releases comprehensive app

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO
East Oregonian

MISSION — The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation debuted its new communication app this past week, hoping the user-friendly system will catch on quickly.

Cay-Uma-Wa Camp Crier app works as a broad alert system app as well as a message board for groups to communicate together. The app is only accessible by approved members, who must be a part of the tribes.

“We hope that the community runs with it,” CTUIR spokesperson Jiselle Halfmoon said. “That they’ll see it as a need and add friends.”

The idea for a comprehensive tribal system formed during the height of the

pandemic lockdown. Years prior, CTUIR relied on an alert system for mass notifications across the reservation, but it decided to use something to meet tribal needs.

“We saw a lot of people using socials and websites,” Halfmoon said. “But we wanted to get something that was in people’s pockets.”

Using funds from the federal Recovery Act, Mission-based Cayuse Native Solutions developed the app. Its name is based on native history: The camp criers of old traveled from camp to camp sharing news and information with the people.

The tribes released Camp Crier last week and is slowly building up a consumer base on the reservation. Halfmoon is the only administrator but is hopeful that changes as the tribes plan for a team of

moderators to take over.

“We want to be more hands-off and that the community runs it,” Halfmoon said.

And it’s not just those on the reservation who can join the app. Anyone with a CTUIR enrollment number can join. Halfmoon mentioned groups in the Portland area that she said she hopes will use the Camp Crier for updates and messages.

The release of the app ends the first phase of development. Next up is streaming. Halfmoon said the developers are in contact with KCUW Radio for sports coverage and radio service. In the future, she said the app could be available nationwide for other tribes to use.

The app is available on both the App Store and Google Play.

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