

## PENDLETON

# Council to vote on referring a psilocybin ban to voters

By JOHN TILLMAN  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton City Council is holding a public hearing and vote on placing an initiative on the November ballot banning psilocybin product manufacture and service centers in Pendleton. Umatilla County Board of Commissioners approved a similar

measure earlier this month, and Hermiston City Council is considering another.

While Oregon's 2020 Ballot Measure 109 to legalize the hallucinogenic mushrooms passed statewide, 64% of voters in Umatilla County opposed it. Thus, cities and counties need to vote anew to ban psilocybin manufacture and services in their jurisdictions.

Pendleton Mayor John Turner said the council had the first reading of the proposal Tuesday, July 19, and will vote on it at the council's meeting Aug. 2.

There is strong support for the ban, but the council didn't discuss it July 19, Turner said.

Ballot Measure 109 established the Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board to make recommendations to the

Oregon Health Authority on scientific studies and research into the safety and efficacy of the psychoactive drug in treating mental health conditions. The advisory board also recommends requirements, specifications and guidelines for providing psilocybin services in Oregon.

The advisory board develops a long-term strategic plan for ensuring psilocy-

bin services become a safe, accessible and affordable therapeutic option for all appropriate persons 21 years of age and older in Oregon. It also monitors and studies federal laws, regulations and policies regarding psilocybin.

Measure 109 directed the advisory board to submit recommendations for rules and regulations to the OHA before June 30, 2022.

Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board voted to recommend "milligrams" as the measurement standard. Facilitators need a standard dose in order to know how much psilocybin a client should receive. The board's products subcommittee recommended 10 mg doses for extracts and 0.5 grams for fruiting body and mycelium products at its June 22 meeting.

## Summer construction projects dot Pendleton

By JOHN TILLMAN  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton city workers and contractors are busy on city streets this summer.

State contractors replaced and removed street lights on Southeast Court Avenue and made sidewalks accessible to wheelchairs in the spring. And city crews have been working on replacing a storm system on Byers Avenue that was from the 1920s.

"We could do the water pipe replacement with in-house crews," Pendleton Public Works Director Bob Patterson said. "If the project is over \$200,000, we have to bid it out. We like to use in-house, because they're better at working with the public. It's the old three-legged stool. Speed, quality and cost: you can have only two."

He also said fiber optics companies are laying cable all over town.

"There have been issues through city rights of way,"



A construction crew Wednesday, July 20, 2022, works on curbs and gutters on Southeast Third Street and Goodwin Avenue in Pendleton.

he said. "They use multiple subcontractors."

Pendleton is using different contractors for its street overlay work. American Rock Products, formerly Pioneer Asphalt, is at work repaving now, Patterson reported. For Southeast Byers Avenue, Southwest 10th Street, around the

former Pendleton Grain Growers' building, and Southeast Fourth Street between Emigrant and Dorion avenues, the city is using Humbert Asphalt of Milton-Freewater.

"We haven't used them for a long time," he said.

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Brown described

an ongoing curb, gutter and street overlay project on Southeast Goodwin Avenue and Southeast Third Street near the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter.

"We're putting in the curb and gutter on the north side of Goodwin now," he said.

"Then we'll do most of the south side before paving."

## \$4K grant a boon to Hermiston speech pathology business

By MCKENZIE ROSE  
For Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — Roxana Lieberg Jordheim of Hermiston received a \$4,000 grant from the National Association for the Self-Employed for her business, Li'l Talkers Speech Therapy.

Li'l Talkers, at 115 W. Hermiston Ave., Suite 100, Hermiston, offers numerous services, including language development, social skills and articulation/phonology therapy.

Jordheim grew up in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and like most college students was not quite sure which career she wanted to pursue. When she discovered a "communication sciences and amplification disorders" program in her local college's course catalog, she decided to try it out.

"From that point on, I was hooked," she said.

Jordheim spent six more years obtaining her master's degree, and upon completing it, she was ready to start working.

Jordheim moved to Hermiston in August 2016 and began working for the school district. After several years, she decided to start her own speech therapy business.

"I have always had the idea of a private practice in the back of my mind, but I did not really begin to think of it as a viable option until the spring of 2021," she said.

Li'l Talkers Speech Therapy opened Nov. 1, 2021. Jordheim still was working full time for the Hermiston School District, so she only had one client at that time. Now, she sees roughly 30 clients and also has more referrals being processed.

"It has grown very quickly in just a few months," Jordheim said.

And she is the lone employee at Li'l Talkers.

"I have 21 years of experience as a speech language pathologist, but I have always worked in a school system or for another agency. Calling insurance companies, billing, and navigating the business world and the medical world have definitely been a challenge," she said.

Jordheim knew she would need financial assistance,

though, and became a member of the National Association for the Self-Employed in April last year.

NASE is a large organization that aims to support self-employed individuals and small businesses. Among other programs, it offers assistance with taxes, health care and more.

Jordheim first looked at the grant when she became a NASE member, but one of the requirements was to be a member for a minimum of six months. So when those six months came around, by November, she applied. However, such a grant would not just be awarded to anyone.

"It was an extensive process, with only serious businesses being considered," she explained. "A full business plan, along with documentation of startup costs,

12-month projection, and accompanying plans for growth were required as part of the application process."

According to John Hearrel, NASE's vice president of Membership and Affiliate Programs, "Li'l

Talkers Speech Therapy was chosen for this Growth Grant award because it demonstrated a well-defined plan for growth ranging from executing new marketing initiatives, purchasing new equipment or other creative ways to grow and expand."

"I have had difficulty finding grants opportunities applicable to my business, so as of now, this is the sole grant I have been awarded," Jordheim said. "I was very grateful and surprised to be awarded this grant."

With the grant money, Jordheim plans to purchase "primarily sensory integration" items that augment communication, such as a voice generator. She also said she would like to hire a speech language pathology assistant within the next year.

While her self-run small business renders her busy, she thoroughly enjoys it.

"I absolutely love working with children," Jordheim said. "I think the best part of my job is being able to help kids communicate more effectively and helping parents support their children at home."



Jordheim

## CTUIR provide update on fish hatchery

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO  
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — Native fish are coming back to the Walla Walla River.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on July 13 shared additional information about its fish hatchery on the South Fork of the Walla Walla River.

The hatchery, 9 miles southwest of Milton-Freewater, was originally completed in 1996 as an adult fish facility. Built with the intention to add on to the original project, that finally came to fruition in July of 2021.

During the past two years, CTUIR has added incubation facilities, early rearing and grow-out buildings, and research and feed storage rooms. It also includes a new visitor center where those



Jon Lovrak/Contributed Photo

The Walla Walla Hatchery sits next to the South Fork Walla Walla River 9 miles southwest of Milton-Freewater. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation recently completed a host of upgrades to the facilities.

coming can see the fish.

"It took a lot of painstaking time to work through (permitting) issues, funding issues, and contractual issues," CTUIR artificial production supervisor Jon Lovrak said.

Construction began on the hatchery in January 2020, but was quickly halted due to extreme flooding one month

later. That flooding that was a blessing in disguise: the original flooding was not prepared for floods of that nature.

"If the flood would have come later, we would've had to start over," Lovrak said.

After the building was completed more than a year later, it was time for fish to come in. The facility is programmed to produce

500,000 spring chinook salmon, but in its first year only received 165,000 partially reared fish, which were released in April. Lovrak said the hatchery will be closer to capacity in 2022 with 485,00 fish, all of which have been reared from the egg stage.

Approximately 80% of the fish are released in the South Fork and Walla Walla Rivers, with the remaining fish released in the Touchet River. Lovrak said reintegrating chinook back into the ecosystem will be a great help, not only to the tribe but the entire area.

"The ecosystem will thrive better with salmon back in it," Lovrak said. "We hope in the long term the returns are around 5,000."

For those interested in touring the hatchery, visiting hours at the new visitor center are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## ODOT holds open house for bridge replacements

By SHANNON GOLDEN  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Oregon Department of Transportation plans to replace the Meacham Creek and Union Pacific Railroad Bridge in 2024, a project that is estimated to cost \$6.9 million.

According to ODOT, the bridge, on the Interstate 84 Frontage Road at milepost 239, is structurally deficient and does not provide adequate clearance between piers and the railroad tracks.

"We do routine bridge inspections every two years, and that's how it was determined that we needed to replace this bridge," said Erin Winterton, a transportation project manager working on the Meacham bridge renovation.

The transportation department noted several concerns about the bridge in its report, including the poor condition of the rail and deck, severe concrete deterioration, cracks in the pavement and concrete grinders, insufficient clearance between the piers and the railroad tracks and the

bridge's one-way traffic allotment.

Winterton noted in ODOT's sufficiency rating scale, the bridge, which was built in 1925, scored a 38.5 out of 100.

"The bridge deck and the bridge rail especially need attention," she said.

Due to a variety of maintenance needs and increasing maintenance costs, the department opted to replace the bridge completely rather than make repairs to the existing one. The project involves removing the existing bridge and constructing a wider one that accommodates for two-way truck traffic and that has sufficient clearance.

The project will go out

to bid in September 2023 and construction is scheduled for spring and summer 2024. According to the state, the project will require road closure. Vehicles will be able to make a detour around the construction via I-84 Exit 234.

The department will provide more information about the project's impacts closer to construction.

There will be an in-person open house about the project Tuesday, July 26, at 5 p.m. at the ODOT Meacham Maintenance Station, 64462 Old Oregon Trail Road, Meacham.

ODOT encourages local residents and businesses to visit the project's website for more information. For those who want to keep up-to-date

on the project, the department offers a sign-up on the website for Northeast Oregon news releases.

**Hand Crafted Loans for Eastern Oregon Homes**

Umpqua offers a full range of home loan programs, whether you are buying, refinancing, building or renovating.

**UMPQUA BANK Home Lending**

Lee Ann Ottosen  
HL Loan Officer  
NMLS 277636

T (541) 304-6192  
C (541) 969-8020

LeeAnnOttosen@UmpquaBank.com  
UmpquaBank.com/Lee-Ann-Ottosen

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender SBA Preferred Lender NMLS 40182

**WHAT DOES AN AUDIOLOGIST DO?**

**Audiologists diagnose, manage, and treat hearing and balance problems. They work with all patients from newborns to older people. The first step toward healthy hearing starts with a medical history review and evaluation of current health. Next, the audiologist will perform various tests to help diagnose the problem. They will help you to manage the condition through a customized treatment plan which may include hearing aids, aural rehabilitation, or balance therapy.**

**541-276-5053**

2237 SW Court, Pendleton • [renataanderson.com/resources/](http://renataanderson.com/resources/)