

Agency seeking committee volunteers

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is seeking volunteers for positions on two recreational advisory committees.

Four vacant positions are available on the All-Terrain Vehicle Advisory Committee.

The positions are for an ADA representative, rural fire protection district representative, emergency medical services provider representative, and Oregon Vehicle Dealer Association representative.

The ATV Advisory Committee meets two to four times per year at locations throughout the state to advise the Parks Department on ATV issues relating to safety and vehicle classifications.

The ADA representative will also serve on the ATV grant subcommittee, which meets about twice per year to recommend grant application funding for ATV related projects.

The interest form and application are available on-line at www.oregonohv.org under the ATV Committees section, or by contacting the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The department is also seeking to establish a list of candidates to serve on the State Scenic Bikeway Committee in an at-large position.

One seat is open on the 11-member committee. Members of the committee are appointed by the OPRD director to a four-year term and are eligible for reappointment. The committee meets about five times per year, usually in Salem, for an all-day meeting with additional field trips throughout the state to proposed and designated Bikeways. The at-large position is a volunteer appointment and authorized for travel reimbursement.

The committee advises OPRD on ways to strengthen the existing program and the proponent groups associated with each designated Bikeway. The committee also makes recommendations to the department on matters pertaining to the Bikeways program.

Those interested in serving must submit a Bikeway Committee Interest Form by Feb. 28.

For information or to obtain an interest form, go to <http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/BIKE/Pages/info.aspx> or contact Alexandra Phillips at alex.phillips@oregon.gov or 503-986-0631.

City Hall in Joseph gets facelift

By Katherine Stickroth
For The Chieftain

The addition of new siding to the Joseph City Hall is an indication of change on the way.

"We've been talking for some time about updating the appearance of City Hall," said Mayor Dennis Sands. "We've had some real problems here on the south side of the building with rot. Where big double doors once stood at this former garage, the wall was pulling away from the structure, allowing water to pour in."

"For years we've had a line item on the city budget where money is regularly put away for a building fund. Over time that account has built up. We had a goal-setting session, and repairing and the east and south walls of the building were priorities."

At the entrance to the office stands a bronze bust of Chief Joseph, donated last summer to the city by Fred Weatherford Phillips and his



Joe Vinni places new siding on the Joseph City Hall building.

Katherine Stickroth/For The Chieftain

wife, Evelyn Phillips.

Their daughter, Marti S. Abbott who lives in Bend, says, "They had an interest in Chief Joseph, which began

when we were children and we camped at Wallowa Lake. My parents visited a local foundry, and the bust was later purchased from the Lincoln

City Art Gallery in 1985."

Abbott's father had ties to Eastern Oregon. Though he grew up in Portland, Phillips was a descendant of the

Weatherford family, one of the oldest wheat ranching families in Oregon.

The sculpture created by artist Gary M. Hornbeck of Hood River will have a place of prominence in the future large-scale renovation and addition to the Joseph City Hall building.

"The repairs currently underway were the first step in updating the building. Future plans include expanding the building to better serve our residents. Right now our offices are laid out inefficiently and do not afford privacy for the discussion of bill payments. We need to get better organized," Sands said.

"The expansion will include enlarging the library and adding a meeting room for public use. Funds are available for City Hall's portion of the new construction."

Preliminary plans for the project have been drawn and the Friends of the Library will soon begin a fundraising campaign to complete construction of their portion.

Sands will fight for city street money at capital

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands is about to take the condition of Joseph's roads to the state house.

Sands is one of the regional representatives for small cities with populations of 5,000 or less in Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties.

In an October meeting sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities in Elgin, Sands met with two representatives from Oregon Department of Transportation. It was an opportunity for the small cities to talk about their transportation and infrastructure issues.

Sands brought up the issue of Special City Allotment grants for infrastructure improvements in small cities in his region.

"ODOT used to give \$25,000 grants to cities beginning in 1991 but they realized that wasn't much and upped it to \$50,000 about three or four years ago," Sands said.

However, when that change was made, ODOT did not up the total amount of funds available for the grants — effectively cutting the number of small cities that would receive the grant in half.

Joseph received a grant two years ago, but has not been able to garner one since.

Enterprise received one in 2013 and City Administrator

Michele Young said that although they apply every year she thinks they will be lucky to get one every nine to 10 years.

As a result of the information and encouragement gathered at the October meeting, Sands encouraged Eastern Oregon Cities to go on a letter writing campaign, informing legislators that they needed the ODOT Grant budget to be increased.

Sands will again discuss the issue with ODOT at the North East Area Commission on Transportation bi-monthly meeting Feb. 2 in La Grande.

He will be in Salem on "City Day," Feb 8. City Day at the Capitol is local government's major event of the legislative session and includes personal visits with legislators.

The League of Oregon Cities will also approach Reps. Greg Baretto, R-Cove, Greg Smith (R-Heppner) and Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena)

as well as lobbyists for the League to address the appropriate committees that have some say in how the money is appropriated.

Citizens can write their legislators and ask them to request ODOT funding is increased for the Special City Allotment.

In its March 2016 Infrastructure Survey Report the

League of Cities identified \$3.7 billion in capital needs for highway and non-highway transportation projects (\$2.6 billion highway/\$1.1 billion non-highway). In addition, for the 120 cities that participated in the survey, the report shows a budget shortfall for operations and maintenance of about \$217 million per year.

THANK YOU

The family of Tom Morgan would like to thank all of those who sent cards, made phone calls and offered words of sympathy for the loss of our youngest brother.

There will be a memorial service for Tom on April 8th, at 1:00 at the Community Church.

The Morgan Family

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

This week's athlete of the week is Enterprise High School graduate David Ribich. He is a student and track star at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

Last week, Ribich, 21, was rated the nation's top-ranked runner in the mile race for Division II colleges. He is also a member of WOU's mens distance medley team, also the top-ranked team in the Nation.

This week the National Collegiate Athletic Association named Ribich as its Div. II national track athlete of the week.

David Ribich

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Student of the Week

Whitney Evans
ENTERPRISE HIGH SCHOOL

Whitney Evans has earned a cumulative 3.83 GPA here at EHS. She values education as evidence by her participation and success in such classes as AP Literature and Composition, Pre-Calculus, Advanced Biology and Chemistry. She excels in the sciences currently taking 3 advanced science classes this year in Physics, Animal Science, and Anatomy. She recently completed a 200 level college math class. Congratulations Whitney on an outstanding performance here at EHS.

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

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