

## COMMUNITY

## SKATE:

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could sit and see what's going on," he said. "It would also be largely indestructible, so primarily made out of concrete and steel, and would have modern features that would be modern into the future. These things have been around for more than two decades now, so the ones that were designed 20 years ago were pretty basic. ... There's been a lot learned over the last 20 years about how to build an ideal skate park."

Fetter said he plans to apply for grants this fall to help fund the facility and would know in the spring of 2016

whether or not the grants were awarded. He said construction could begin as soon as next year, but it is unlikely to occur that quickly.

"These things take time, especially if you're going to engage the local skateboard community and what they want," he said. "I would want to move this through as quickly as possible, in part to remove some of the pressure McKenzie Park is getting from that population."

Fetter said he is not sure what the park would cost but that different funding options may be available.

"The state has a community parks grant program that we would definitely be applying to," he said. "Very often

## Skater lingo

Select skater slang from the website [skatetolive.com](http://skatetolive.com)

**Bust:** To bust a trick is to perform it successfully. You are busting if you are skating well; or a spot is a bust if you are likely to get kicked out.

**Carve:** The act of making big fast turns usually in a large bowl or transition.

**Darkside:** Your board is darkside if it is upside down; the darkside of the desk is the side that the baseplate is mounted to.

**Funbox:** Any variety of box (usually wooden, concrete or metal) with grindable surfaces.

**Grind:** Any variety of tricks where the hanger(s) of the truck(s) grind(s) along the edge of an obstacle.

you'll see half of the funding being asked for these kinds of facilities. We're talking hundreds of thousands of dollars to build a modern facility, not unlike the investment we made in our trail system. It could very easily be over

\$200,000. The ask might be half of that from the state grant program. There are other funding options that I'm exploring. ... I'd be turning over every rock I could find to see how much non-local money we could get."

## COMPLIANCE:

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outgrowth of what we've been doing for years now — trying to get people to take responsibility for their actions by paying their fines or fulfilling other obligations to the city," he said. "Rather than bringing seriously non-compliant defendants in piecemeal, we decided to start setting the contempt hearings in larger, once-a-month batches, giving us a better opportunity to reach the targeted audience."

Creasing said not all of the defendants ordered to attend during that day are "seriously non-compliant" and would not necessarily face a jail sentence. Rather, he said, the event allows a large group to witness the benefits of compliance,

such as hearings being dismissed or fines reduced, and the penalties for non-compliance, such as jail time.

"More than a few individuals who made it painfully clear to the court that they were going to live life on their terms are now having the opportunity to demonstrate that lifestyle while wearing a very stylish set of orange and white stripes," Creasing said. "It's early in the program yet to give solid specifics, but there seem to be a lot more folks both in and out of the program who are making things right."

The defendants who may face jail time have had numerous prior hearings for non-payment, Creasing said, and have frequently failed to appear at the hearings or to follow through with commitments made. He said, at their last hearing, he informs them they

are being scheduled for Compliance Day and warns them they will likely be appointed counsel and their fines could be converted to jail time.

Creasing said, before Compliance Day, the defendants have the opportunity to pay their entire balance to have the hearing dismissed. He also said the city prosecutor will often advise the defendant to pay a fraction of the total balance owed to the city in order for him to recommend the hearing be dismissed.

If the defendant pays less than the recommended amount, Creasing said the payment is examined, and a discussion is had as to whether the defendant needs an attorney appointed in order to have a second hearing at the next Compliance Day before possibly going to jail.

Some defendants who

do not quite meet the criteria for counsel appointment discuss with Creasing "a final last-bite-at-the-apple plan" to pay down their fines, Creasing said, such as paying half of the total balance with no new offenses accrued within a specified period, after which the remainder is forgiven. After the hearing, he said the defendant's performance on any plan is monitored.

Warrants are issued for the defendants who do not show up to the hearing, Creasing said, and the prosecutor can also choose to file new failure-to-appear charges.

"The biggest benefit to Compliance Day is that it

Echo City Administrator Diane Berry said when its skate park was upgraded in 2006, the project was awarded more than \$74,000 in grants, from the Wildhorse Foundation, the Tony Hawk Foundation, the Walmart Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation, the Safeway Foundation and the PacifiCorp Foundation. An additional \$10,000 grant was awarded for general park amenities, she said, and through fundraisers and donations, organizers were able to raise \$105,000 in total for the project.

She said the city found a company, Grindline Skateparks of Seattle, Washington,

that agreed to build the park within the budget. Through luck and timing, the end product was actually larger than originally anticipated when Grindline chose to add on to the project without additional costs.

"Into the project, it just kept growing, and yet it didn't cost us anymore," she said. "We ended up with a bigger park than what we were planning on and a better park. We figure it would have cost us about \$150,000."

Berry said people from Hermiston use the skate park in Echo, and people from farther away travel to use the circuit of parks in the Columbia Gorge, including Echo, Hood River and Irrigon.

to appear at the first Compliance Day Jan. 21, and 25 attended, with eight cases paid in full by the appearance date. On Feb. 18, 28 of the 66 scheduled appeared, with six paid in full by then. At the last Compliance Day, March 18, 32 of the 81 scheduled appeared, with nine cases paid in full.

Emerson said in an email that approximately 15 people have had their fines converted to jail time through the Clean Slate program between January and March, and \$11,574.51 was collected from defendants who paid their fines in full for the three Compliance Day hearings this year.

## EASTERN OREGON

## FORUM



EAST OREGONIAN

InterMountain EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

AAUW

## "Medical Marijuana"

Featuring: Rob Bovett,  
BMCC Arts & Culture Festival Week  
FREE OF CHARGE



Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.  
BMCC, Rm ST-200, 2411 NW Carden Ave., Pendleton

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For you or a loved one:

## LET'S TALK ABOUT LIVING WITH RELAPSING MS

Join us for an MS LIVING EVENT.

Hear from MS experts and others who are living with MS. Plus, get some answers about dealing with MS and information on an oral treatment.

When:

Friday, April 10, 2015 • 12:00 PM Pacific

Where:

Good Shepherd Medical Center  
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Expert Speakers:

Hui Zhang - Richland, WA

**A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED. FREE PARKING.**

Call 1-866-703-6293 to reserve your space  
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EVENT ID: TR287584

## UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBERSHIP DINNER



Saturday, April 18, 2015  
Hermiston Conference Center  
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Our Annual Meeting theme "Homegrown" will recognize an array of products grown and processed in our local area. Learn about UEC accomplishments in the past year, and what we expect in the year ahead. As always, attendance is free to UEC members. We hope your will join us!



**Featured Speaker**  
Judy Hill Lovins of Aspen Colorado, a fine art photographer and "homegrown" native of Hermiston, will share her life story.

McKay Creek Estates  
presents:

## SAFETY FIRST

Join us as we host a lecture series to increase safety awareness on fall prevention, common home injuries and provide solutions to keep you and your loved one safe!



SafetyMan says  
"Always be Safe to Ensure an Active & Independent Lifestyle"

### Avoid Bathroom Dangers - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 3:30 PM

Dangers exist all around your home, and unless safety precautions are in place, you leave yourself in danger. Aside from the kitchen, the bathroom is one of the most dangerous rooms in your home. Recognizing these dangers, and making some common sense decisions, will go a long way in protecting you and your family.

### Learn the 411 on Medicare Coverage - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 3:30 PM

Medicare is a government-sponsored program that people over the age of 65 and those who meet their special criteria turn to for their social insurance. This program provides health insurance, normally to seniors. Come and learn more about what it covers and what it does not.

### Durable Medical Equipment Can Keep You Independent

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 3:30PM

Durable medical equipment is any medical equipment used in the home to aid in a better quality of living. It is a benefit included through most insurance. In some cases, certain Medicare benefits may pay for them.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

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