

Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter (PAWS) pulls tax district proposal

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The tax to fund a Umatilla County animal control district will not appear on the November ballot.

The Pioneer Humane Society, which operates the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, worked on a petition to put the initiative to the voters in all Umatilla County cities besides Hermiston and Milton-Freewater, which have their own contracts with other shelters. That required approval from

the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners.

During the county board's meeting Aug. 1 in Pendleton, Amy Word with the Pendleton-based Humane Society said the organization wanted to postpone the proposal. Word did not give a reason for the move.

But Commissioner George Murdock said voters in the county have grown tired of new taxes for districts, and some people are going to breathe a sigh of relief this measure is not going on the ballot. Still, he said animal control

remains an issue in the county.

"I still think animal control is a matter of policing," he said, and suggested the county should look at its budget for possible funds to cover the work.

Commissioner Larry Givens suggested the Pioneer Humane Society could look to how the Blue Mountain Humane Society in Walla Walla conducts business because it receives no city or county money. He added that funding animal control would open the door for other organizations to ask the county to fund

their missions.

And Commissioner Bill Elfering said there is a need for the animal shelter and the work it does, but providing for a county-wide district would be difficult. He said the county has to distribute its funds equitably and suggested the group look for grants, including from the county.

"It's absolutely clear we're not united in our belief where animal control fits into the scheme of things," Murdock responded, noting that he felt it was an issue the county should address.

Jackie Carey, Pioneer Humane Society president, told the board animal control is a county-wide problem. Some locals dump their pets in the county's jurisdiction, and the sheriff's office is already fielding those calls. And while grants help cover the cost of spaying and neutering animals, she said they do not pay for day-to-day operations.

But Pioneer Humane Society is not throwing in the towel on public funding. Carey said the organization plans to seek contracts with cities for animal services.



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Milton Freewater

August 3
Milton Freewater Senior Center Luncheon
311 N Main St,
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
11:15 am - 1 pm

Pendleton

August 28
City Hall Community Room
500 SW Dorion Ave,
Pendleton, OR 97801
1 pm - 3 pm

Boardman

August 15
Boardman Chamber Luncheon at Port of Morrow
2 Marine Drive, Boardman, OR 97818
11:45 am - 2:00 pm

Athena/Weston/Adams/Helix

August 29
Senior Luncheon at Memorial Hall in Weston
210 E. Main St., Weston, OR 97886
11 am - 1 pm

Hermiston

September 18
Community Center • 415 S Hwy 395, OR 97838 • 3 pm - 5 pm

Pendleton

August 27
Senior Center
510 SW 10th St,
Pendleton, OR 97801
11 am - 1 pm

Heppner

September 13
City Hall Conference Room
111 N Main St,
Heppner, OR 97836
10 am to 12 noon,
Lunch to Follow

Citizens visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CAPECOneedsassessment to take the survey!

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August Menu:

Thursday, August 9

Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, cobbler

Tuesday, August 14

Hamburgers/hot dogs, potato salad, chips

Thursday, August 16 (BIRTHDAY DINNER!)

Roast pork w/ apple sauce, mashed potatoes & gravy, salad, cake & ice cream

Tuesday, August 21

Chef salad, fruit tray

Thursday, August 23

Meat loaf, potatoes & gravy, salad, dessert

Tuesday, August 28

Pork & potato casserole, salad, spinach, dessert

Thursday, August 30

Chicken pot pie, salad, dessert



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