

**BUCKS FINISH
FIRST EVER
SWEEP OF CRC
SOFTBALL/1B**

Osprey get
homes off
power poles
LIFESTYLES 1C



NATION:
Jury orders death of
Boston bomber **7A**
ENTERTAINMENT:
Group combines jazz and
American Indian music **3C**

EAST OREGONIAN

MAY 16-17, 2015

139th Year, No. 152

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Fuel standard repeal reportedly on table

Brown, Dems try to get
GOP back to negotiations

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A repeal of Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard is among the proposals on the table as Gov. Kate Brown and legislative leaders discuss options to

entice Republicans back to transportation funding talks.

Sources say Democratic leaders from the Oregon House and Senate laid out half a dozen ideas during a meeting at the governor's mansion Tuesday. At the other end of the spectrum was a proposal in which Brown would promise some type of executive action on the low-carbon fuels program, in exchange for Republicans' return to negotiations for the transportation package.

Republicans withdrew from those funding

discussions earlier this year in protest, after Democrats passed a bill to make permanent Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard.

Brown signed Senate Bill 324 into law in March, making Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard permanent.

The program is supposed to reduce carbon emissions from transportation fuels in the state by 10 percent over the next decade, although supporters and the agency that will implement the program have acknowledged the pollution reduction could be less than that. The state has

not yet implemented the program, which was set to sunset this year under the 2009 bill that originally authorized it.

Legislative leaders tentatively plan to meet again with Gov. Kate Brown at the Capitol Monday. Brown said during her State of the State speech last month that she wants lawmakers to send her a transportation funding package before they go home this summer, and mayors across the state sent a

See **FUEL/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Former drug addict turned author and life coach Gordie Bufton gives a motivational speech to the graduating class of drug court participants Friday in Pendleton.

Celebrating a second chance

Addict turned author,
athlete speaks during
drug court graduation

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Gordie Bufton's life went sideways in a hurry.

He went from star student to pot-smoking, ecstasy-popping, drug-dealing addict who squandered college academic and golf scholarships. He spent time in jail, lived on Florida beaches and ended up in a psych ward at age 20.

Bufton, now 26, addressed a

roomful of Umatilla County Drug Court graduates Friday afternoon at the Vert Auditorium Club Room. The graduates nodded at Bufton's description of his messed-up life like comrades in battle. The details might have been slightly different, but his story paralleled their own in so many ways.

The Arizona man has stayed clean and sober for five years now. He is an author, addiction recovery life coach and athlete who is training for an Iron Man triathlon.

Six years ago, however, he was a mess. The onslaught of drugs had changed his brain chemistry. Delu-

See **DRUG/12A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Drug court graduate Brianna Gillette accepts her certificate from Umatilla County assistant district attorney Micah Johnstone on Friday in Pendleton.

ODFW to discuss proposed hunting tags

Numbers similar to last year

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

The number of fall hunting tags available in 2015 should be similar to last year, including at wildlife management units throughout Eastern Oregon, according to the state Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Mark Kirsch, district wildlife biologist in Pendleton, said there are no major changes compared to a year ago, and hunters can even expect modest increases in some areas, especially as elk-calf ratios are on the rise near Ukiah.

ODFW will adopt final tag numbers when the Fish and Wildlife Commission meets June 5 in Salem. Kirsch held an informal public meeting Thursday in Pendleton to take comments and questions from hunters, and discussed several research projects on tap for the area.

The Pendleton district is in charge of setting tags for the Walla Walla, Mount Emily and Ukiah units. That's 1,952 square miles of hunting ground, concentrated primarily in the Blue Mountains.

"For us, we did some minor changing of things but we really didn't change anything in a big way," Kirsch said.

Mild winter conditions mean big game came through in great shape for the coming year; however, the looming drought could stress the animals and affect cows' ability to become pregnant again — especially south of the interstate, Kirsch said. Pregnancy rates might fall between 50-60 percent during a particularly bad year, cutting into hunters' success for the following fall season.

If drought persists another two or three years, then Kirsch said the department might be forced to start reducing tags.

"It's setting up to be a nasty drought year," he said. "Cow elk will be physiologically strained."

As for deer, Kirsch said the department See **ODFW/12A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Law Enforcement Memorial

Steve Pyle of Athena plays "Scotland the Brave" on the bagpipes while marching with the honor guard during the 6th Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony on Friday at Til Taylor Park in Pendleton.

Wyden zips among issues, colleagues, re-election bid

By **LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Running flat out for a new term at home and tiptoeing through tough issues in the Capitol, Ron Wyden brags that he's "different, like Oregon."

Not everyone sees that as a good thing, though, at least in the Senate. In the space of just a few hours this week, Wyden managed to offend Republicans and Democrats alike over legislation he co-authored permitting President Barack Obama to cut "fast-track" trade deals that Congress could approve or reject, but not change. It's part of Wyden's effort

to show he's for trade, against government intrusion and pragmatic — even if it means embarrassing his president, irking his colleagues and angering labor and environmental groups back home. As the senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, Wyden is at the center of the debate.

"Wyden trying to pull a fast one on fast track," blared the headline of a recent Oregon AFL-CIO newsletter.

"Save the Internet, Stop Fast Track," read a 30-foot blimp by a company called Fight for the Future that flew over the senator's

See **WYDEN/12A**



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