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EAST OREGONIAN

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More terror in Paris

Death toll at 20 as suspects, hostages are killed

By **LORI HINNANT**
and **ELAINE GANLEY**
Associated Press

PARIS — With explosions and gunfire, security forces Friday ended three days of terror around Paris, killing the two al-Qaida-

linked brothers who staged a murderous rampage at a satirical newspaper and an accomplice who seized hostages at a kosher supermarket to try to help the brothers escape. The worst terrorist violence France has seen in

decades killed at least 20 people, including the three gunmen. A fourth suspect — the common law wife of the market attacker — was still at large and believed to be armed. Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen said it directed the at-

tack against the publication Charlie Hebdo to avenge the honor of the Prophet Muhammad, a frequent target of the weekly's satire. The brothers were not unknown to authorities: One had a terrorism-related conviction for ties to a network sending fighters to battle

See **TERROR/10A**



In this image taken from a video provided by PFMTV, police officers storm a kosher grocery to end a hostage situation in Paris on Friday.

Pendleton medical equipment program earns statewide interest



Matthew MacPherson, an independent assistive technology professional from Portland, takes a donated wheelchair off a shelf while cleaning and doing inventory Thursday in Pendleton.

Little closet flung open

People donate wheelchairs, walkers they find in garages and attics

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

When Darrin Umbarger started his medical equipment loan closet five years ago, he had no idea his model would one day expand to help the entire state of Oregon. Umbarger only knew what it's like to depend on medical equipment that is often expensive and time-consuming to obtain. At age 23, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. As his baby son learned to walk, Darren's own balance be-

came precarious. Eventually, he needed a wheelchair. Umbarger and his wife, Carol, started a free medical equipment loan closet as part of their non-profit Clearview Mediation and Disability Resource Center. Donated wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs and other durable medical equipment filled a tiny shed. The equipment, which had emerged from people's garages, basements and attics, was cleaned and repaired and made available to anyone who needed it.



"We're going to save the taxpayers lots and lots of money."

— **Darrin Umbarger,**
Medical equipment loan closet

Now the little loan closet is being supersized into a pilot project that will test the model as a statewide cost-cutting strategy. "We're going to save the taxpayers lots and lots of money," said Umbarger, 49. Last year, after the Umatilla

County closet had been up and running for a while, Umbarger caught wind of a bill introduced by Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, D-Portland, to set up an exchange system of refurbished medical equipment

See **CLOSET/12A**

MILTON-FREEWATER

Fast freeze brings orchards to their knees

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

Fruit orchards aren't expected to blossom for another several months, but some growers near Milton-Freewater have already started pulling trees killed by last fall's sudden and severe cold snap. Temperatures dipped from 60 degrees to as low as 5 degrees in a matter of days during the mid-November freeze, killing a large number of young trees and damaging fruit buds before they could become acclimated to the conditions. Clive Kaiser, extension horticulturist with Oregon State University, said he doesn't expect much of a crop off the area's stone fruits in 2015 — including cherries, plums and peaches. The apple harvest should also see a reduced yield. "I would testify this is a disaster across the region," Kaiser said. "A lot of (producers) have pulled out orchards." A similar freeze was last reported in 2011, when temperatures plummeted to minus 12 and minus 15 degrees. At the time, Umatilla County commissioners asked the governor to declare a state of emergency. Milton-Freewater's fruit industry generates about \$85 million per year, and is the leading producer of apples in Oregon, Kaiser said. There are roughly 60 commercial growers and 3,500 acres of trees across the valley.

See **FREEZE/12A**

Bedard, Wickert sentenced for child sex crimes

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Justin Bedard cried and begged a judge Friday morning in Pendleton not to send him to prison for the rape and sexual exploitation of a 12-year-old girl. But Circuit Court Judge Chris Brauer of the 6th Judicial District stuck to the sentencing deal Bedard made a deal with prosecutors. Brauer sentenced Bedard, 35, and his co-defendant Lori Wickert, 33, both of Pilot Rock, to six years, three months each for their 2012 crimes against the girl. The pair were accomplices of John Wesley Malcom, 45, who Circuit Court Judge Eva Temple of Hermiston sentenced last week to 37 years after he admitted to repeatedly using the girl in the making of child pornography. Bedard in November 2013 pleaded guilty to second-degree rape

See **SEX CRIMES/10A**



Bedard



Wickert

PENDLETON

PHS security system to go electronic

First test as three caught breaking into high school

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

While crews continue to work on security upgrades at Pendleton High School, Superintendent Jon Peterson maintains the new additions will not transform the institute into an institution. Employees from Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co. are working on several metal gates and a chain link fence that span the high school's campus. After students leave for the summer, an electronic key card system and security cameras also will be installed.

See **SECURITY/12A**



Students leave the Pendleton High School campus after class let out Thursday. The Pendleton School District plans to install security gates at critical access points of the school.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

