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HERMISTON BOYS, GIRLS TAKE A LOSS
BASKETBALL/1B

Hermiston names educators of the year
REGION/3A

EAST OREGONIAN

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139th Year, No. 64 | WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD | One dollar

HERMISTON

School District opts out of ESD

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

In what was framed as a choice between political power and financial benefits, the Hermiston School District chose to follow the money Tuesday night by voting to leave the InterMountain Education Service District.

After about two hours of discussion, the board voted 5-2 in favor of the move, providing the two thirds majority necessary to leave the education service district.

"Please everyone realize that this was extremely difficult," board chair Karen Sherman said.

IMESD superintendent Mark Mulvihill asked the board to consider the ways opting out would weaken Eastern Oregon's voice through the political power that comes from the collaboration of the 19 districts in-

See SCHOOL/6A

Kitzhaber, Hayes hire Portland law firm

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. John Kitzhaber and his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, have hired a prominent Portland law firm to represent them ahead of a potential state ethics inquiry.

The announcement by the governor's office on Tuesday also followed a report by *Willamette Week* on Friday that the FBI was investigating Hayes for undisclosed reasons. The weekly newspaper was also the first to report that Hayes signed three private consulting contracts in 2013, to work on some of the same issues on which she served as an unpaid policy adviser to Kitzhaber.

EO Media Group was unable to independently confirm the existence if an

See KITZHABER/6A

PENDLETON

Police confront white supremacist gang

Mauer

Recent shooting near Pendleton no hoax, police chief says

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A white supremacist gang in Pendleton is responsible for a recent slew of fights, stabbings and shootings in the city, Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts reported Tuesday.

And Roberts also said last week's shooting near Pendleton was no hoax, countering the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office's description of the incident.

That incident, Roberts said, led police to arrest one gang member and the leader of the United Aryan Empire, or UAE, a Pendleton-based gang with the purported mission of "ridding the community of methamphetamine dealers."

Jeremiah Jerome Mauer, 30, is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on one count of possession of a prohibited firearm and five counts of felon in possession of a firearm. Umatilla County Circuit Court Records show Mauer has felony convictions in 2007 for theft and criminal mischief.

See GANG/6A

Freshman Rep. Barreto has plans for first term

Hillary Borrud/EO Media Group

Rep. Greg Barreto stands outside the Oregon House of Representatives chamber at the State Capitol, Monday.

Optimistic a couple proposals could win bipartisan support

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Oregon state Rep. Greg Barreto of Cove said he is eager to get working in his freshman legislative session. The Republican and business owner joined fellow lawmakers to take oaths office Monday at the Capitol in Salem.

Barreto is the new face for House District 58, succeeding Republican Bob Jenson, 83, of Pendleton, who opted to retire. The upcoming session is the first in which no state rep has called Pendleton home since 1996, when Jenson won his first election. That same year, voters sent Republican David Nelson of Pendleton to the Senate.

Barreto said there is some feeling of pessimism among his party that Democrats simply will force through proposals, given they control both chambers of the Legislature. But he said he is optimistic a couple of his proposals could win bipartisan support.

One involves giving a tax break to businesses that hire new workers. If a business, for example, expands its workforce by 30 percent, then it would receive a corresponding tax break. Barreto said this would be a way to encourage businesses to put more people to work.

Another would create an incentive to donate to educational institutions, such as state colleges. Under the plan, an individual could contribute up to $1,000 a year, married residents filing joint tax returns could give up to $4,000, and a business could give up to $20,000. In exchange, he said, contributors would get a 50 percent tax credit for how much they gave.

Idaho has had some success with a similar plan, he said. He also said the proposal has a five-year sunset. That gives it an opportunity to work, and lets it die if it does not.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, appointed Barreto to serve on committees for agriculture and natural resources, business and labor, and education. He said he was happy with the selections, particularity the first two.

"That's the heart of what we are over there," he said of Eastern Oregon.

Barreto also said he was looking forward to sitting with state Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, for bi-monthly video conferences with local leaders during the 2015 session. Jenson and Nelson started that tradition some years back.

So far, Barreto said, lawmakers from both sides of the political divide have been friendly, but he knows the place will get a bit more intense as the session moves forward.

Professor talks Putin

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

History professor Brigit Farley sees Russian leader Vladimir Putin as an anti-hero.

Farley, who teaches Russian and European history at Washington State University's Tri-Cities campus, decoded Putin at last night's Eastern Oregon Forum at Blue Mountain Community College with "Deconstructing A Dictator: Who is Vladimir Putin and What Does He Want?"

Farley learned to speak Russian at Pendleton High School, spent a college semester at Leningrad State University (1981) and served as a guide in Moscow, Kiev, Rostov-on-Don and Tbilisi (1987-1988) with the United States Information Agency's traveling exhibit "Information USA." She returned to Russia in the late 1990s and 2000s to research a book she is writing about a historic cathedral on Red Square.

> "Today, it is all Putin, all the time, nothing except what he wants the public to know."
>
> — **Brigit Farley,** Russian history professor

"I think it's clear what Putin wants — he wants to rule Russia as an autocrat," Farley told the crowd of almost 100. "Like the tsars and the Soviet leaders, he wants to be the one man with the one truth and the one version of reality. He wants a return to the old days, updated for the digital."

Putin, a career government

See PUTIN/6A

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Russian history professor Brigit Farley decoded Russian President Vladimir Putin during Tuesday evening's Eastern Oregon Forum at Blue Mountain Community College. Here, she points to apartments available to Russian citizens living in Moscow.

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