

UMATILLA GIRLS
BEAT RIVERSIDE
BASKETBALL/1B



County pot study group
gets answers from state
REGION/3A

EAST OREGONIAN
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015

139th Year, No. 66 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

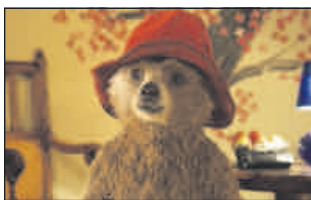
Your Weekend



- Cabin Fever concert
- Sunday in Hermiston
- Night at the Children's Museum on Friday
- Hermiston Relay for life kickoff event Saturday

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie



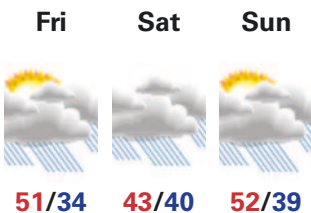
AP Photo/The Weinstein Company

Sweet family fun in the big screen adaptation of "Paddington."

For showtime, Page 5A

For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather



Immigrants
can now get
Mexican birth
certificates in
United States

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — For Mexicans living in the U.S. illegally and hoping to stay in the country under President Barack Obama's new immigration policy, things just got one step simpler.

On Thursday, the Mexican government began issuing birth certificates to its citizens at its consulates in the United States.

That will make it a little easier for Mexicans hoping to obtain U.S. work permits, driver's licenses and protection from deportation.

Up until now, Mexico required its citizens to get birth certificates at government offices in Mexico. Many of those living in this country had to ask friends and relatives back home to retrieve the paperwork.

See IMMIGRANTS/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sophomore diesel mechanic student Brandon Norland of Mount Vernon works on the electrical system for a Dodge 318 engine for a class project Thursday during a lab period at the BMCC campus in Pendleton.

COLLEGE WON'T
PAY FOR ITSELF

BMCC president
revels in recognition,
but dubious of
Oregon's proposal

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Community colleges are feeling the love in recent days.

President Barack Obama last week pitched the idea of tuition-free community college for Americans who are willing to work hard. One state, Tennessee, already offers free community college and others, including Oregon, are considering similar legislation. Hollywood actor and community college graduate Tom Hanks applauded the notion in his op-ed Wednesday in the *New York Times*, saying community college "made me who I am."

All of this hoopla makes Blue Mountain Community College President Camille Preus and other community college officials smile.

"We appreciate the recognition of what community colleges bring to the county, the state and the nation," Preus said. "And we're enjoying the



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sophomore diesel mechanic Jaylin Throob of Glenwood, Wash., works on replacing the air intake boot on his truck during a lab period Thursday on the BMCC campus in Pendleton.

spotlight."

With his remarks, she said, Obama defined college education as a necessity.

"Gone is the day when the high school diploma gave you the skill to get you that good-paying job," Preus said. "Essentially, the president is moving to make community college free because there's an acknowledgment that everybody needs it and that it takes more than a high school diploma."

She likened the sea change to the World War II era when people realized the necessity of a high school education to secure a middle-class income. As the nation realized the need

See COLLEGE/10A



Preus

"Essentially, the president is moving to make community college free because there's an acknowledgment that everybody needs it ..."

— Camille Preus,

Blue Mountain Community College president

Ousted commissioner doesn't
regret coal dock opposition

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The former chairwoman of the Oregon Transportation Commission says she has no apologies for her opposition to \$2 million in state money for a coal-loading dock project — a vote that prompted Gov. John Kitzhaber to remove her last week.

Catherine Mater of Corvallis, who led the commission for just seven months, made her remarks Thursday at a hearing by the commission. The commission is reconsidering the project for a share of \$4 million in grants for nonhighway transportation projects under Connect Oregon.

Atop the short list recommended by a review panel last week is \$2 million for renovation of Berth 2 at the Port of St. Helens near Clatskanie on the Columbia River.

The port's original request was to have been matched by \$3 million from Ambre Energy, the Australian company proposing to ship coal via the Northwest to Asia. But Mater and two other commission members rejected that project on a 3-2 vote Aug. 22.

Now the port, whose officials say the project is an all-purpose dock for ocean-going ships, proposes to put up the \$3 million match itself.

The four remaining commission members will decide the grants at their next meeting Feb. 19 in Keizer.

Kitzhaber has said he opposes coal exports, but some state officials — including his transportation adviser — say the dock project should stand on its own merits.

Also in support of the project is Sen. Betsy

See COAL/10A



Peter Wong/Pamplin Media Group

Catherine Mater, ousted this week from her post as chairwoman of the Oregon Transportation Commission, talks with Commissioner Dave Lohman after a commission hearing Thursday in Salem.



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