

Umatilla man pleads not guilty in triple murder

REGION/3A



39/33

The lights of Pendleton and environs illuminate a low-hanging layer of fog under a star-filled sky Tuesday off Old Emigrant Hill Road east of Mission.
Staff photo by E.J. Harris



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WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Jeremy and Cheree Gillette moved to Hermiston last year after Cheree nearly died after falling ill to the H1N1 flu virus when the couple lived in The Dalles.
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Woman beats deadly H1N1 complication

Hermiston family sees darkest side of the flu

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

This is a story about the flu. It's also a love story. A year ago, Cheree Gillette started feeling sluggish. A tickly cough arose as she coached

middle school basketball in The Dalles, where she and her husband, Jeremy, lived at the time. A couple days later, she grew worse. A physician's assistant tested the 39-year-old for flu, but got negative results and sent her home with cough drops. By the

weekend, her skin had turned gray and she felt weak. "It was a chore to get dressed," Cheree said. Jeremy, a firefighter/paramedic, drove his wife to the emergency room. Her oxygen saturation level had sunk to 78

percent, far below the norm of 95-100 percent. Jeremy pushed to have Cheree transported to Portland. Cheree, however, didn't want to be that far away from their three children and her doctor wasn't convinced her condition warranted moving her. Then, her lung function

See FLU/6A

HERMISTON

Hoops an economic harvest

Businesses welcome thousands for basketball tournament

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston is about to get a little crowded. Around 4,000 visitors are expected to descend on the city for the AAU Best of the West youth basketball tournament this weekend, increasing the population of Hermiston by about 23 percent.

The influx of visitors might make it a little harder to find a parking spot around town, but local business owners said when Hermiston School District hosts a big athletic competition like the AAU tournament it means an influx of cash for the local economy.

"People come out with busfuls of kids. ... It's extremely good for our purposes, and the city's purposes," Hermiston Rodeway Inn manager Nakul Butta said.

He said he's always willing to work with event organizers on helping out-of-town participants find lodging. AAU organizers didn't get back to him about doing a promotion through them, but he said he's gotten a "good response" through advertising online. With hotel rooms at a premium in Hermiston, big events mean there are always enough visitors to go around.

"The rooms will get filled regardless," Butta said.

See HERMISTON/6A

PENDLETON

Rebuild committee blazes ahead with Pioneer Park plan

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

After a lengthy delay, work can now begin on a picnic shelter, landscaping and other new amenities for Pioneer Park.

Much of the project is being paid for by the Steering Committee to Rebuild Pioneer Playground, which received the insurance payments from the Pioneer Park playground fire in 2012.

Marty King, the chair of the committee, said they wanted to start building the picnic shelter last year.

But before the committee could receive permission from the city, she was informed that the proposed construction site on the west side of the park was within the limits of the historic Pioneer Cemetery and would require authorization from the State Historic Preservation Office.

After a radar study revealed no "burial-like objects" underneath the site, the project could move ahead.

But even with state approval, there are still risks.

See PARK/3A

MISSION

Tamastlikt to build solar carport

\$440,000 in grants expected to save museum roughly \$26,000 per year on electricity bill

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

Tamastlikt Cultural Institute is taking another major step toward its goal of net-zero energy consumption.

The museum, located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, received a \$350,000 grant from Pacific Power to build a solar carport capable of generating up to 200 kilowatts of clean, renewable energy.

The project comes one year after Tamastlikt began operating its 50-kilowatt wind turbine

that was also funded, in part, by Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program. Together, the development of wind and solar resources at Tamastlikt is expected to save \$26,000 per year on the building's electricity bills and reduce overall energy consumption by 76 percent since 2013, said museum director Bobbie Conner.

The carport will provide covered, shaded parking over 20 spaces in the museum's parking lot, with an array of solar panels mounted on top to generate power for the building. Permit-

ting for the project is underway, Conner said, and construction could begin in May.

In addition, Tamastlikt has secured \$90,000 from the Energy Trust of Oregon to cover building costs. One more grant is still pending, and if awarded would allow the museum to develop an educational curriculum and training program on renewable energy.

"It's a multi-faceted project," Conner said. "These two grants will allow us to construct the carport."

Tamastlikt began investing in energy efficiency and savings in 2003, shortly after hir-

See ENERGY/6A



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