

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015

139th Year, No. 71

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Melonville Comedy Festival in Hermiston
- Sunset Elementary book exchange Friday
- BMCC rodeo poker showdown Saturday

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Catch a movie



Johnny Depp stars in the lackluster heist caper "Mortdecai."

For showtime, Page 5A

For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
43/41	55/43	57/36

Shooting reported in Hermiston

East Oregonian

At least one person was shot and others were possibly injured about 10 p.m. Thursday night in Hermiston.

Police and medics responded to the Foxwood Apartments on SW 11th Street and W. Orchard Ave. where multiple gunshots were reported.

According to scanner traffic, one man was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center with a gunshot wound. Hermiston Police Capt. Travis Eynon was at the hospital but declined to comment.

Police cordoned off a section of Victory Square Park, which abuts to the east of the apartment complex as part of the investigation. Oregon State Police were also on scene.

Eynon said Chief Jason Edmiston would have more information Friday morning. Check www.eastoregonian.com for updates.



Pendleton City Councilman Chuck Wood, center, poses a question about his concerns on the implementation of the state's recreational marijuana law during a listening session put on by the OLCC on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Loud and clear

Listening session hears this: keep marijuana away from minors

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Area residents told policymakers they do not want minors to have access to recreational marijuana and they want parents to handle educating children about the substance.

The messages came out Thursday night at the Pendleton Convention Center during the Oregon Liquor

Control Commission's kickoff to developing regulations for Measure 91, the state's recreational pot law voters approved last November. More than 80 people attended the two-hour session to give feedback and learn about the law. The commission held its first listening session earlier Thursday in Baker City and OLCC chairman Rob Patridge said eight more sessions are in the works.

The crowd worked in small groups to list priorities it wants the OLCC to consider. Protecting children came up over and over again, especially through

See MARIJUANA/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The OLCC Commission Chair Rob Patridge addresses an audience of more than 80 people about the commission's plan to create the rules for the sale of recreational marijuana during a listening session Thursday in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Log truck spill slows Southgate traffic

A log truck spilled its load, partially blocking traffic Thursday near the intersection of Southgate and Southwest Hailey Avenue in Pendleton.

PENDLETON
St. Anthony cuts 3 jobs

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

By the end of January, St. Anthony Hospital's parent company will have laid off 1,500 employees. They've already let go of three in Pendleton.

That amounts to about 1.7 percent of the company's 90,500 workers. The non-profit health system, which owns 105 hospitals in 19 states, sustained a \$14 million net loss in fiscal year 2014.

"This is a workforce reduction across the entire scope of the company," said Larry Blanc, communications director for St. Anthony Hospital. "We had to lay off three people."

Blanc said they were non-clinical employees who will receive severance packages and assistance in finding new employment. He said two of those affected in Pendleton have already secured new jobs.

Workforce reduction is only part of the cost-cutting strategy, Blanc said. The health system will also reduce its use of consultants and decrease travel expenses. He said the financial belt tightening is not unique to CHI.

According to Becker's Hospital Review, a hospital trade publication, numerous hospital and health systems announced or carried out layoffs in 2014. CHI's reduction was the largest, but 37 other hospitals and health systems also announced sizable cuts. The Cleveland Clinic cut several hundred positions and about 700 employees accepted retirement. The Mayo Clinic eliminated 188 medical transcriptionist jobs. University Medical Center in Las Vegas cut 285 employees in its second round of layoffs in 2014.

CHI, based in Colorado, recently watched its credit rating drop a notch. In December, financial analysis company Standard & Poor downgraded CHI's rating from A+ to A. The CHI website reports company assets of \$21.8 billion.

School Choice Week highlights education options

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

National School Choice Week kicks off this weekend, reminding parents that traditional public school isn't their only option for their child's education.

"The goal of School Choice Week is really to shine a positive and uplifting spotlight on all the choices parents have," National School Choice Week President Andrew Campanella said during a conference call with reporters across the country.

He said the week-long event, which was recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution Tuesday, has been criticized as an attack on public schools. But he claims that

isn't the intent.

"As long as a parent is happy, that's a good thing," he said. "If a parent is happy sending their child to a traditional public school, that's great."

However, sometimes public school isn't the best fit. Maybe a family situation makes it hard to get a student to school between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Maybe aspects of the public school curriculum and culture clash with a family's religious values. Maybe the only public school in the area has dismal test scores.

In those cases, Campanella noted 21st century parents have more options than ever before. Online classes in particular, he said, allow even the most rural parents to

look at options beyond just home-schooling and public schools.

"School choice has grown exponentially," he said.

For students in this part of the state, however, the options are still less numerous than they are for students in more urban settings.

Of all the school choice options listed by the National School Choice Week organization, here's how local offerings compare:

Virtual Academies

About 85 students in Umatilla County are enrolled in the state's largest online school, Oregon Connections Academy. In total there are nine virtual academies

See SCHOOL/8A



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