

**TWO DAWGS
MAKE SEMIS
AT RESER'S
WRESTLING/1B**

Local band
teams up with
symphony

ENTERTAINMENT 3C



REGION:
Small earthquake shakes
near Mission 3A

LIFESTYLE:
Sufjan Stevens explains
his Round-Up film 1C

EAST OREGONIAN

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PENDLETON

Supremacists charged in murder plot

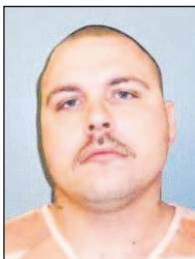
DA charges Aryan gang members
with conspiracy and racketeering

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Three members of a Pendleton white supremacist gang were involved in racketeering and conspiracy to murder, Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said Friday.

Primus and deputy prose-

cutor Jackie Jenkins brought multiple charges against Jeremiah Mauer, 30, Gregory Tinnell, 43, and Warren Gerald Browning, 35, during an arraignment Friday at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. The defendants appeared one at a time via video from the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.



Mauer



Tinnell



Browning

Mauer is the founder of the United Aryan Empire, Jenkins said, while Tinnell and Browning are members.

Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts has said the defendants told detectives they were gang members, and

Browning admitted he was involved in multiple criminal conspiracies to commit violence against others. Pendleton police arrested the trio in the past two weeks as part of a sweep following a vehicle shooting Jan. 9 north of Pendleton. Police also linked the men to shootings in late 2014 in Pendleton.

They initially faced felony weapons charges, but Jenkins told Circuit Court Judge Lynn Hampton the state was

dismissing those cases and filing new ones based on secret indictments a grand jury handed up Thursday night.

The state charged Mauer, Browning and Tinnell with one count of racketeering each, going back to January 2012, and two counts of conspiracy to commit murder for a shooting into a Pendleton home Nov. 23, 2014. The state also charged them with

See CONSPIRACY/8A



Forest plan looks for balance of economic, ecologic and recreational priorities

Botanist Mark Darrach walks through the Umatilla National Forest northeast of Pendleton in April 2013.

EO file photo

Forest Service re-engages with public on Blue Mountains plan

By GEORGE PLAIVEN
East Oregonian

When the U.S. Forest Service unveiled its proposed, revised land management plan for the Blue Mountains National Forests early last year, the agency received more than 1,100 comments from concerned groups and individuals.

Most of the feedback was less than positive.

Consider, for example, the sharp rebuke from Forest Access for All, which panned the proposal as “a recipe for failure,” or the

Eastern Oregon Counties Association, which rejected each of six plan alternatives as “unfounded.”

“Folks weren’t really happy with where we were,” said Kevin Martin, supervisor on the Umatilla National Forest. “The question is: ‘Where do we go, and how do we get there?’”

With support from the Pacific Northwest Region Office, the Forest Service is now taking a step back to re-engage with Eastern Oregonians before moving forward on a new plan that will guide land management on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and

Malheur forests for the next 10-15 years.

About 40 people attended a recent meeting at the Umatilla forest headquarters in Pendleton to discuss how they can reconcile the multitude of interests — everything from conservation to timber and recreation — and come up with a balanced solution that works for everyone.

That’s no easy task. All together, the Blue Mountains National Forests make up 4.9 million acres of prime hunting, fishing and hiking trails, while also providing logs for the local mills and habitat

for a variety of wildlife.

Yet officials and advocates left the meeting on Jan. 8 with a newfound sense of optimism. Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton even issued a rare compliment to the Forest Service.

“I think we really plowed through some new ground,” Britton said following the meeting. “We have the opportunity to have a really, really big-time impact on our plan.”

What comes next, Martin said, is still up in the air. It could mean

See FOREST/8A

HERMISTON

Man shot in fight, suspects at large

East Oregonian

A 21-year-old Umatilla man was shot and is in critical condition following a fight Thursday night in Hermiston.

Giovanni A. Avila, 21, was shot at about 10 p.m. Thursday at Foxwood Apartments, 1072 W. Orchard Ave.

Edmiston reported Avila was one of four Umatilla males, including Raul Frias, 22, Michael H. Thompson, 20, and Avila’s 17-year-old brother, who came to Hermiston and ended up in a fight with at least three other males. Police do not know who those three are, Edmiston said.

During the fight someone shot Avila in the chest. An ambulance rushed him to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, which later moved him to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, Portland. He underwent surgery there and was in critical condition Friday afternoon, though he has shown slight improvement since his internal bleeding has been controlled.

Frias suffered head injuries in the fight, Edmiston reported, and Good Shepherd held that victim overnight for observation.

Police have not made arrests and at this time do not have evidence that the fight was gang-related, Edmiston said. While investigators have an initial account of what happened, they have not been getting straight answers.

“Hopefully we can get some stories locked in today,” the Hermiston chief said Friday.

That scenario is common in these

See SHOOTING/8A

PENDLETON

Drone range negotiations close to bearing flying fruit

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

A little more than a year after Pendleton was approved as a test site for unmanned aerial systems, the range’s first paying customers could be imminent.

Economic Development Director Steve Chrisman said contracts are close to being signed by two companies interested in testing drones at the Pendleton UAS Range.

Despite announcements that

suggest progress, details like the companies involved in contract negotiation and the standard rate for UAS testing have not been released.

Chrisman said the secretive process is in place for good reason — most UAS companies make the city sign a nondisclosure agreement at the start of negotiations.

“You don’t want your competitors to have any more information than they need,” he said.

See AIRPORT/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Like a boss

Intermountain Education Service District Superintendent Mark Mulvihill speaks after being named Boss of the Year at the Pendleton First Citizens Banquet on Friday in Mission. For the rest of the event’s awards see page 3A.

