



REGION:
Shooting victim's status improved, still no suspects **3A**

WRESTLING:
Sam Colbray takes first in-state loss of prep career **1B**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris
A buck walks across a field into a fog bank Monday outside of Pendleton. Fog is forecast to remain in the picture throughout the week, according to the National Weather Service.

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

139th Year, No. 73 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jesse Kack, of Pendleton Internal Medicine, and Jaqueline Herman, of Pendleton Family Medicine, returned to rural America after completing their medical training. With a doctor shortage in rural areas and baby boomers turning 65 at a rate of 8,000 per day, physician's assistants are filling a void.

Physician assistants offer another health care option

PAs fill void for aging population

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Jesse Kack and Jaqueline Herman treat patients, diagnose illnesses and write prescriptions, just the same as any doctor. The two young women, however, aren't doctors — they are Pendleton's newest physician assistants.

With about 8,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day and a shortage of family physicians, PAs like Kack and Herman are filling a void in rural America, said Ted Ruback, a physician assistant

who is the founding director of the Oregon Health & Science University PA program.

"Already PAs have been part of the solution to providing care in rural counties," Ruback said.

Herman, a graduate of Ruback's program, returned to the place she had grown up in this fall to practice at Pendleton Family Medicine. She first became interested after tearing her anterior cruciate ligament during a soccer game at age 14 and saw a PA for care. She earned an undergraduate science degree at Or-

"Having PAs has allowed us to accept more patients. It increases access and allows for same-day appointments."

— Ty Driskel, clinic administrator at Pendleton Internal Medicine and Pendleton Family Medicine

egon State University, worked a year as a phlebotomist for Interpath Laboratory and entered OHSU.

Kack, the daughter of two physicians, took a while longer to decide on a career path. She first studied healthcare administration before realizing she'd made a wrong turn and found administration tedious. She looked around for

something that was a better fit.

"I thought about becoming a physician, but that was a six-to-eight year commitment," Kack said. "My advisor suggested becoming a physician assistant."

Kack shadowed a PA and liked what she saw. She changed her major to biolo-

See HEALTH/6A

PENDLETON

Browning chooses a speedy trial

Records show Aryan gang targeted its former member

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

One member of the Pendleton white supremacist gang facing charges of racketeering and conspiracy to murder aims to have a trial in March. And Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said the days of the gang's operation are coming to a swift end.



Browning

Warren Gerald Browning, 35, pleaded not guilty Friday at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, to 12 counts for his involvement with the United Aryan Empire, a gang Roberts said wreaked violence in the area since at least October 2014. Browning appeared Monday morning in court via video from the Umatilla County Jail, and through his attorney, Dan Stephens of Hermiston, requested a trial within 60 days. Judge Chris Brauer set the trial for March 17, and a pretrial conference for March 2.

The constitutions of the United States and Oregon guarantee defendants the right to a speedy trial, but defense attorneys often have clients waive that right. Browning, though, could be trying to move to the front of the line for making a plea deal with the Umatilla County District Attorney's Of-

See GANG/6A

HERMISTON

Council approves street compromise

Will let voters have say on judge

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston city council approved a settlement Monday night that cleared the way for a portion of West Ridgeway Avenue to be turned into private property.

The 60 foot wide gravel section of road, which connects to Highway 395 between Auto Kool and the former Tum-a-Lum Lumber property, has been a point of contention after Auto Kool owner Rhonda Sallee threatened to sue the city if it gave the southern 15 feet of the road to the property owner to the south.

But Monday's settlement agreement stipulated that Sallee would not file litigation over the street vacation. In return, according to City Manager Byron Smith, the northern five feet of road in front of Auto Kool will be turned over to Salle Properties LLC to clear up some "encroachment issues" and a 15 foot wide stretch behind the building will also transfer to Sallee.

"I'm really pleased to have this agreement and to be able to move forward," Smith said.

He confirmed that the property to the south has changed hands from Mitco Developments LLC to a company called Hermex LLC. The limited liability company has not announced what it plans to do with the property, but Mitco owner Mitch Myers previously said he was selling the property to a hotel developer.

Mayor David Drotzmann said he was excit-

See HERMISTON/6A

LA GRANDE

Climate on topic at Cattlemen's Workshop

About 400 ranchers attend annual event

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are reporting 2014 was the hottest year on Earth since 1880, and the latest in a series of warm years due to climate change driven by greenhouse gas emissions.

George Taylor, former director of the Oregon Climate Service at Oregon State University, isn't



Staff photo by George Plavén
Mike Forman, of Trinity Farms in Ellensburg, Washington, speaks with a group of people at his vendor booth during the 11th annual Cattlemen's Workshop Saturday in La Grande.

See CATTLEMEN/6A



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