



Pendleton police arrest another in gang assault 3A



PENDLETON BEATS BAKER ON THE MATS WRESTLING/1B

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

139th Year, No. 80 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar



Shirley Parsons, center, is greeted by members of her family after being named Woman of the Year on Wednesday at the Hermiston Distinguished Citizens Award banquet in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Devoted to Hermiston

Chamber honors outstanding citizens

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce’s annual Distinguished Citizens Award banquet Wednesday night included a lot of long lists.

There were lists of service clubs joined, committees chaired, causes supported and, as presenters always noted, “too many others to name.”

The sheer quantity, coupled with a high level of quality, marked this year’s crop of honorees.

Woman of the Year Shirley Parsons had a long list of sports and other school activities she has been an avid supporter of, from starting a wrestling booster club to hosting team dinners to selling concessions.

“She has spent many hours in the bleachers,” presenter Kelly Bissinger noted.

Parsons, a local real estate agent, also spends hours serving at Oasis Vineyard Church and has spearheaded a number of



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Former Hermiston City Councilor George Anderson speaks after being named Man of the Year on Wednesday at the Hermiston Distinguished Citizens Award banquet.

local service efforts including the recent collection of 50 gift boxes to send to impoverished children overseas.

Hermiston’s Man of the Year, attorney George Anderson, was introduced with a

long list of boards he has served on, including the Umatilla Planning Commission, Blue Mountain Community College board and Hermiston city council.

Anderson moved to Hermiston 38 years ago and, State Sen. Bill Hansell noted, “his fingerprints are on almost everything good that has happened in and to Hermiston since that time.”

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“... (Anderson’s) fingerprints are on almost everything good that has happened in and to Hermiston ...”

— Sen. Bill Hansell

PENDLETON

County not blown away by wind farm

Says project lacks detail on transmission to power grid

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Umatilla County is asking the Oregon Department of Energy to reject a 500-megawatt wind farm partially located south of Echo until the project developer makes it clear how turbines will connect onto the local power grid.

A preliminary application for the proposed Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility was submitted Dec. 19, 2014 to the Energy Facility Siting Council, but does not specify where transmission lines would be located to move the juice.

That has local farmers concerned about potential impacts to their operations should the lines cross over their fields, said county Planning Director Tamra Mabbott. While the county is not opposed to wind energy, she questioned at what point the developer — Ione-based Wheatridge Wind Energy LLC — plans to involve those underlying land owners in the planning process.

See WIND/6A

Joint committee begins work on marijuana bills

By HILLARY BORRUD

EO Media Group/ Pamplin Media Group

SALEM — A joint legislative committee Wednesday began work on bills to implement Oregon’s legal marijuana system.

Lawmakers will consider bills that cover everything from technical fixes that regulators say are necessary for a successful program, to proposals that would significantly alter Measure 91 which voters approved in November.

Their work will be closely watched by both supporters and critics of legalized pot.

Members of the committee said Wednesday night they hope to avoid problems such as pot candy and other edibles that appeal to kids in Colorado, and the initial shortage of legal recreational pot and accompanying high prices in Washington.

“I really want Oregon to be the model for what I see as a national trend in this direction,” said Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, co-chair of the joint legislative committee. “I want people to look to Oregon and say, ‘My gosh,

See MARIJUANA/6A

PENDLETON

Requa bronze proves controversial more than a year after city approval

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Pendleton has experienced its fair share of land disputes, but maybe never over one so small.

The site of the latest conflict is over the diminutive Brownfield Park and whether a seven-and-a-half foot bronze of Pendleton High School football coach Don Requa should be located there.

Although not on the agenda, the bronze was unanimously approved by the

Pendleton City Council at a January 2014 meeting to little fanfare.

But opposition to the statue’s placement at Brownfield Park has grown since then, compelling Councilman Al Plute to say the city needed to address the issue at the end of Tuesday’s council meeting.

Plute said he has received “dozens” of calls from constituents asking the city to move the bronze to a different location.

He added that the Requa bronze wasn’t on the top of his priority list, but the statue

was garnering more attention than more important issues like the city’s deferred maintenance and poor roads.

Pendleton wheat farmer Fritz Hill said he grew to dislike the idea when he realized the size and subject of the bronze would clash with the rest of the statues featured downtown, which include brothel madam Stella Darby and Round-Up legends Jackson Sundown and George Fletcher.

He wrote a letter to the

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An artist rendering of the Don Requa statue that Pendleton City Council approved at a Jan. 2014 meeting.

Contributed photo



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