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SIGNS WITH
LINFIELD SOFTBALL/1B**



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approves school
reconfiguration 3A**

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

139th Year, No. 85 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

MEACHAM

Man charged with killing moose

East Oregonian

A Meacham man was arrested Tuesday morning for allegedly killing a young bull moose last summer near his home on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Thad Nelson, 44, was arrested at his 67457 Old Oregon Trail home in Meacham for illegal taking of wildlife. Sara Tune, 29, and Alex Abell, 28, were also arrested at the scene on state warrants.

In addition to the head, hide and remains of the moose, police also recovered two stolen vehicles, an all-terrain vehicle and a handgun. Authorities also seized a pound of marijuana, three grams of suspected methamphetamine, an illegal short-barreled shotgun and the hunting rifle allegedly used to kill the animal.

The investigation began a month ago when Oregon State Police and Umatilla Tribal Police received a tip that a person had killed a moose.

As authorities gathered more information connecting the Meacham site to stolen property from Baker and Morrow counties, the investigation expanded to include the Pendleton Police Department, the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team, the FBI and the Umatilla and Morrow County sheriff's offices.

Umatilla Tribal Police Chief Tim Addleman said the suspect was uncooperative in revealing his motive in allegedly killing the moose. Addleman said there were apparent efforts to preserve the moose head.

Addleman said this is the first moose killing case he's dealt with during his five year tenure, but the animals are not entirely uncommon in the area. After discussions with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Addleman learned 50 to 75 moose come to the reservation each year.

There were an estimated 60-70 moose in northeast Oregon in 2013, and hunting is prohibited in the state. It is legal to hunt moose in season in Idaho and Washington.



Nelson

Kitzhaber rethinks resignation

By **PETER WONG AND
HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

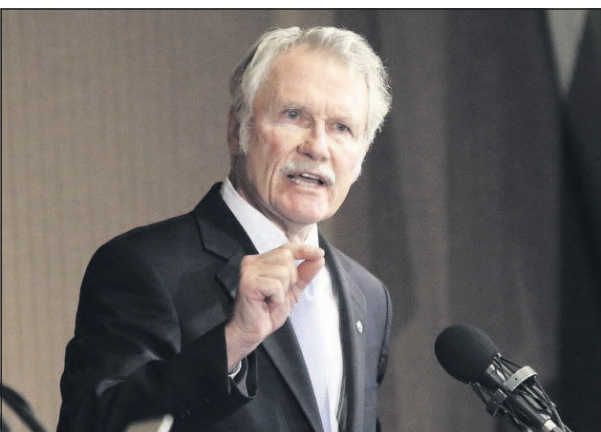
SALEM— Embattled Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber had reached a decision to resign because of an ethics scandal surrounding him and his fiancée, but he changed his mind for reasons that are unclear, three people with direct knowledge of the situation said Wednesday.

They said the Democratic

governor informed some of his aides on Sunday that he was going to resign and on Tuesday he asked his would-be successor, Secretary of State Kate Brown, to rush back from a conference in Washington D.C. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk about private discussions.

Brown's abrupt and unexpected

See **KITZHABER/8A**



In this Oct. 2014 file photo, Gov. John Kitzhaber speaks during a gubernatorial debate in Portland. The governor reached a decision to resign but changed his mind Wednesday and said he would not be resigning.

AP Photo/Don Ryan, File



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Vitner Steve Robertson of College Place points to buds on a Syrah vine at his vineyard in the newly designated American Viticulture Area, The Rocks District outside of Milton-Freewater.

WINE ON THE ROCKS



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Rocks District, the newest American Viticulture Area, is named in part due to the large concentration of basalt rocks in the soil.

Milton-Freewater is home to country's newest viticulture area

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Line up a thousand different Syrah wines from across the world and Steve Robertson is confident connoisseurs would be able to tell which come from The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater.

"It's because the wines here are so distinctive," Robertson said. "There's a lovely perfumed bouquet, with a savory palate and prominent minerality on the finish."

Robertson, 62, owns SJR Vineyard on the western boundary of The

Rocks District. He said the region is unique for its cobbly soils that not only allow for better drainage, but absorb more surface heat to grow high quality grapes of different varieties.

On Monday, the federal government approved The Rocks District as Oregon's newest American Viticultural Area, or AVA, which provides another tool for local wineries and vineyards to promote the special features of the Walla Walla Valley. The Rocks name can now be used on any

See **WINE/8A**

Loss of major ocean carrier 'devastating' to ag exporters

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

PORTLAND — The loss of a major ocean carrier at the Port of Portland will effectively eliminate export opportunities for some agricultural shippers, experts say.

"This is a very devastating blow," said Bill Wyatt, the port's executive director during a Wednesday port commission meeting.

Farm products — including peas, lentils, beans, french fries, grass seed, potatoes, onions and hay — are commonly shipped from the port to Asian markets.

With the Hanjin shipping line no longer calling on Portland, those exporters will now have to spend up to \$800 more

per container to truck those crops to ports in Seattle and Tacoma, Wyatt said.

For some shippers, the cost of getting farm goods to port will now exceed the price of ocean freight, he said.

"Some of these commodities cannot bear the added cost because they would not be competitive," Wyatt said. "For people who depend on the service for their business interests, this is very consequential."

Hanjin, a carrier that shipped farm products from Portland to South Korea and China, announced it will stop calling the port on March 9.

A dispute between the longshoremen's union and the terminal operator, ICTSI

See **PORT/8A**

PENDLETON

City asks for public's help in road repairs

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

When put on the spot, the Pendleton City Council admitted funding the replacement and maintenance of the city's streets is more important than building a new fire station.

The question was asked by Southwest Perkins Avenue resident Foster Odom during a Tuesday workshop on road repair.

Odom's name was one of 49 signatures attached to a petition to the city to address the poor quality of Perkins. Orig-

inally presented in November, Perkins petitioners comprised the majority of the audience Tuesday night at city hall.

When pressed by Odom to list their priorities, the city council almost universally agreed that streets should be city's top focus, with the caveat that the fire station was still in need of attention.

Councilwoman Jane Hill declined to say which issue she would fund over the other, adding that she wants to fund both.

"It's a little like saying to

See **ROAD/8A**



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