



WAR ON 84
A DRAW
BASKETBALL/1B



Hermiston seniors
wary of city plans
REGION/3A

EAST OREGONIAN

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139th Year, No. 94 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

HERMISTON

Schools choose lease to ease growing pains

Board OKs agreement for former grocery store building

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

After adding two dozen portable classrooms to its schools over the last few years, Hermiston School District is trying something new to relieve its latest space concerns.

On Monday the school board approved a lease agreement for the building on the corner of Orchard Avenue and Northwest 11th Street that most recently housed El Gran Chaparral and was once the home of Bob's Red Apple grocery store. The 20-year lease with the option to buy will allow the district to free up classroom space by moving various district operations out of school buildings.

"It doesn't feel right that adults are taking up classrooms in schools when we are buying modulars to put kids in," said deputy superintendent Wade Smith said.

At Hermiston High School, for example, a combination of move-ins and a graduating class being replaced by a larger freshman class means the high school will have about 150 more students

See LEASE/6A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Fir fire
A Pendleton firefighter extinguishes a blaze burning Tuesday in a group of trees outside the CAPECO warehouse near the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton. No structures were damaged.

Mother creates quilt in honor of bomb disposal unit's lost members



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Annette Frye of Pendleton sewed a quilt memorializing fallen members of the U.S. Air Force's bomb disposal unit. Frye's son, Master Sgt. Ronnie "Bo" Brickley, is a member of the unit and has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Stitches and sacrifice

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Some honor their country by using guns and bombs on the battlefield.

Others use a needle and thread.

Nine months ago, Annette Frye of Pendleton began sewing a quilt in memory of her son's fallen military comrades. Master Sgt. Ronnie "Bo" Brickley served five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan doing bomb disposal for the Air Force. Along the way, he received five Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. During one of his 500 missions, he shielded two of his team members from a blast with his armored body, likely

saving their lives.

It's a dangerous career field. Twenty of Brickley's fellow bomb technicians never made it home. He contemplated ways to honor them. When his mom suggested a quilt, he urged her to sew one bearing the Explosive Ordinance Disposal insignia and the names of the fallen.

Frye agreed to give it a go.

"EOD techs don't die, they go to heaven to regroup."

— Sgt. Phil Meyers, bomb technician

See QUILT/6A

More wolves, fewer attacks

Nine packs and 77 animals counted in 2014 report

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Oregon's wolf population grew by 20 percent in 2014, yet the number of confirmed attacks on livestock decreased from the previous year, according to the latest Wolf Conservation and Management Annual Report released Tuesday.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife counted 77 known wolves across the state, compared to 64 a year ago. Nine packs were documented including eight breeding pairs, which was enough to trigger Phase II of the wolf management plan in Eastern Oregon.

Phase II of the plan allows more flexibility to kill wolves that make a habit of preying on livestock. It could pave the way to removing wolves from the state endangered species list entirely. That would apply only to packs located east of highways 395, 78 and 95; wolves remain federally protected in western Oregon.

Todd Nash, a Wallowa County rancher and chairman of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Association, said the report shows that wolves are becoming more elusive and are not attacking livestock as often as they once did.

See WOLVES/6A

Obama vetoes pipeline bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defying the Republican-run Congress, President Barack Obama rejected a bill Tuesday to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, wielding his veto power for only the third time in his presidency.

Obama offered no indication of whether he'll eventually issue a permit for the pipeline, whose construction has become a flashpoint in the U.S. debate about environmental policy and climate change.

Instead, Obama sought to reassert his authority to make the decision himself, rebuffing GOP lawmakers who will control both the House and Senate for the remainder of the president's term.

"The presidential power to veto legislation is one I take seriously," Obama said in a brief notice delivered to the Senate. "But I also take seriously my responsibility to the American people."

IRRIGON

City council approves library deal

\$1.2 million project to open soon

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Barring an unexpected setback, the Irrigon Public Library is poised to reopen its doors.

Irrigon City Council approved a new intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Trail Library District on Tuesday that details joint management of common spaces between the library and adjoining city hall building. The district has already said it is prepared to sign the agreement, and will call for a special meeting next week to make it official.

That means occupancy permits could be restored as early as a week from next Monday, said City Manager Aaron Palmquist.

"We need to move forward, and we can do



EO file photo

The Irrigon Public Library is poised to open after nearly a year of disputes between Irrigon city hall and the Oregon Trail Library district over shared space between the two buildings.

See LIBRARY/6A



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