



**BMCC WOMEN
FALL IN OVERTIME
BASKETBALL/1B**

**Two arrested in
weekend stabbing
REGION/3A**

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

139th Year, No. 95 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Search underway for prison escapee



Fox

East Oregonian

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police continued into the night Wednesday searching for a prison inmate who walked away from a 10-man work crew at Finley Buttes Landfill near Boardman. Steven Lee Fox, 49, an in-

mate from nearby Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla, was noticed missing by prison staff around 11 a.m. He was last seen wearing blue jeans and a blue T-shirt, both with the word "inmate" and Department of Corrections logo stenciled in orange. Fox is described as a

white male, 225 pounds with brown hair and hazel eyes. He was sentenced to prison in 2010 on one count of first-degree burglary, unlawful use of a vehicle and second-degree robbery out of Multnomah County, as well as one count of first-de-

See ESCAPEE/6A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A Umatilla County Sheriff's deputy drives down Madison Road during the search for an escaped inmate from TRCI on Wednesday outside of Hermiston.

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

City of Pendleton utility worker Sean Tarter marks a water main on Southwest 16th Street on Tuesday in Pendleton. Tarter uses a radio frequency locator to determine where the utilities are under the pavement.

City uses software to create public database

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Two words continue to pop up whenever Pendleton officials discuss the city's new geographic information systems — "the future."
City officials have promised that the interactive mapping software will change the way employees and the public will access information about the city. But beneath the proclamations of a bright future is a technology that many people use every day.
Pendleton GIS technician Katey Jones likes to use Google Maps as an example for how

the city's GIS works. A Google Maps user enters an address into the search bar and the person is shown a point on a digital map. When users click on the point, they are given relevant information about the location like a street level photo and, if a business, hours of operation and a phone number.
While Google used GIS to create an application that provides the public with directions, Jones is currently applying the technology to city utilities. When she opens her GIS software, Pendleton is rendered through a satellite image with

See MAPPING/6A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Different colored lines running across a map of Pendleton represent different utilities on a computer running the city's GIS software.

BOARDMAN

County OKs permits for truck stop

Project has battled through six years of delays

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

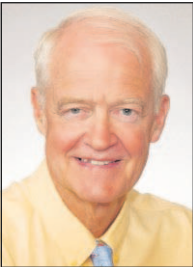
Morrow County has once again approved the permits needed for a proposed truck stop at Interstate 84 and Tower Road west of Boardman.
The planning commission approved a conditional land use permit Tuesday night for Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores to build a full-service travel center — including gas station, convenience store, fast food restaurant and tire shop — along the south-east corner of the interchange.
Based in Oklahoma, Love's Travel Stops have more than 300 locations in 39 states across the country. The family-owned chain has fought for six years to build a truck stop at Tower Road, facing challenges at every turn from a smaller local fuel company.
Planning Director Carla McLane said Love's should have everything it needs now to move forward with purchasing 49 acres of land owned by the city of Boardman. All indications are that Love's intends to break ground on the development as soon as possible, she said.
"I'm hoping they will transfer the property

See TRUCK STOP/6A

Lawmakers urged to move quickly on school aid

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Senate President Peter Courtney says lawmakers should vote soon on a \$7.23 billion state school fund, the largest single item in the state budget.
It's the fund from which Oregon's 197 school districts draw the lion's share of their operating costs.
"I want the co-chairs (of the budget committee) to put the K-12 budget as fast as I can get it," the Salem Democrat told reporters Wednesday.
"I want it out now, and I'm not going to quibble over the amount."
It's been a little over a month since the Legislature's chief budget writers, Sen. Richard Devlin of Tualatin and Rep. Peter Buckley of Ashland, proposed \$7.23 billion as part of their framework for the next two-year budget.
The amount is \$600 million more than in the current two-year cycle that ends June 30, and about \$300 million more than the \$6.9 billion that then-Gov. John Kitzhaber proposed in the two-year budget submitted on Dec. 1.
Gov. Kate Brown, who succeeded Kitzhaber last week after his resignation, has not stated a



Courtney

See SCHOOL/6A

Economist offers positive report at economic outlook luncheon

Says "moderately better times" are in store for Umatilla County's economy

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

In front of local leaders and business owners, an Oregon economist Wednesday delivered a cautiously optimistic economic report for Umatilla County.
Bill Conerly, an economic consultant from Lake Oswego, said at a luncheon hosted by the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce at the Pendleton Convention Center that "moderate-

ly better times" are in store for Umatilla County's economy.
Along with a steadily declining unemployment rate, Conerly said one of the county's unique assets was its growing population, which is unusual for a rural community.
The county's continual population growth might actually work against it, as the job rate hasn't grown at the same rate.
Conerly said local officials will need to monitor those two

rates over the next couple of years because if those numbers don't start to match soon, the economic growth could be unsustainable.
He also advised local communities to create contingency plans in case the national economy goes through another recession.
While the current economic climate is steady, Conerly said the stimulus funds pumped into the economy during the recession will need to be removed at the right time by the Federal Reserve to avoid another downturn.

See ECONOMY/6A



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