



# EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## BMCC bond ready for ballot

Bond would allow college to fix deteriorating infrastructure

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

The Blue Mountain Community College bond measure has been whittled and finetuned during the past year, since voters rejected an earlier version in November 2013.

The \$28 million bond, which would have replaced an

expiring obligation, failed by a margin of 52 to 48 percent. Stunned BMCC board members decided to step back and find out why.

Now the new-and-improved bond is ready to go after rounds of listening sessions, discussions by a blue



Preus

ribbon panel and the use of a sharp pencil — and eraser. On Wednesday, the BMCC Board of Directors voted to place the bond on the May ballot.

The board dropped the bond amount to \$23 million. If the 15-year capital improvement bond passes, property owners will pay 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Since the last version was characterized by detractors as being Pendleton-centric, the college trimmed renovations to the pool and theater and building a new indoor arena for the school's rodeo team at the Pendleton campus.

Four out of five campuses and centers — Pendleton, Boardman, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater — would benefit if voters approve the measure. Bond proceeds

See BMCC/8A

### HERMISTON

## At least one person shot near market

East Oregonian

One person was shot near Hermiston's 11th Street Market on Wednesday about 9:30 p.m.

Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston confirmed one person was shot, but released no further details by press time. The condition of the victim could not be confirmed either.

Initial reports were of multiple gunshots heard in the area around the time the victim was found. Initial information disseminated via police scanner describe a possible suspect as a Hispanic male wearing a blue sweatshirt and white undershirt, a gray hat with a blue brim and LA stitched in blue on the front of the hat.

No arrests were made immediately, and roads around the crime scene were closed through the evening.

This is the second shooting on 11th Street in Hermiston this year, the first coming the night of Jan. 22 at the Foxwood Apartments, where a 21-year-old Umatilla man was shot and another 22-year-old man suffered a head injury in a fight. No arrests have been made in that case.

### PENDLETON

## Basketball bucks

Tournament will bring fans, dollars to town

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Convention Center stood eerily silent Wednesday morning, though evidence of spirited athletic competition to come was all around. In 24 hours, the state's 2A basketball tournament would surge to life.

For now, however, all was peaceful and serene. The game clock remained dark and the maple floor was a sea of undisturbed glossy hardwood. A crew had taken five hours to lay out the former Phoenix Suns floor — all 104 pieces of it — the day before. Fifteen folding chairs comprising each team's bench were vacant. Garbage cans were empty. The only noise was the sound of convention center utility worker Dan Mitzimberg zipping duct tape from a roll as he placed sticky strips around the edge of a floor mat.

On Thursday night, fans from around the state would arrive en masse at the convention center for the three-day tourney. Wednesday's silence would morph into a cacophony of cheers and groans, play-by-play from the announcer and the squeak of shoe rubber.

Pendleton's businesses are bracing for the welcome influx of players and

See PENDLETON/8A

**"This has always been the second biggest event for Pendleton."**

—Cheryl Montgomery, Red Lion Director of Sales



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Kyle Stanfield, assistant executive director for the OSAA, tapes banners to the scorer's table prior to the start of the 2A state basketball tournament.

## Low-carbon fuel bill to Brown's desk

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Democrats in the Oregon House passed low-carbon fuel standard legislation on a nearly party line vote Wednesday, after a lengthy and contentious discussion of whether the cost to consumers will outweigh environmental and health benefits.

The bill is headed next to Gov. Kate Brown, who has not said whether she will sign it. However, Brown's comments during a recent press conference suggested she supports the fuel standard.

Senate Bill 324 would make permanent the fuel standard set out in a 2009 bill. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality spent several years writing rules to implement it, but the existing law is set to sunset this year before the agency can implement the regulations.

Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, D-Portland, said in a floor speech that a survey recently commissioned by the Portland Tribune showed a "wide majority of Oregonians believe that the state should be doing more to limit greenhouse gas emissions." Vega Pederson said a majority of respondents also wanted the state to do more to make alternative fuels available.

"Colleagues, the clean fuels program allows

See FUEL/8A



Brown

## Counties pledge help in case of emergency

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

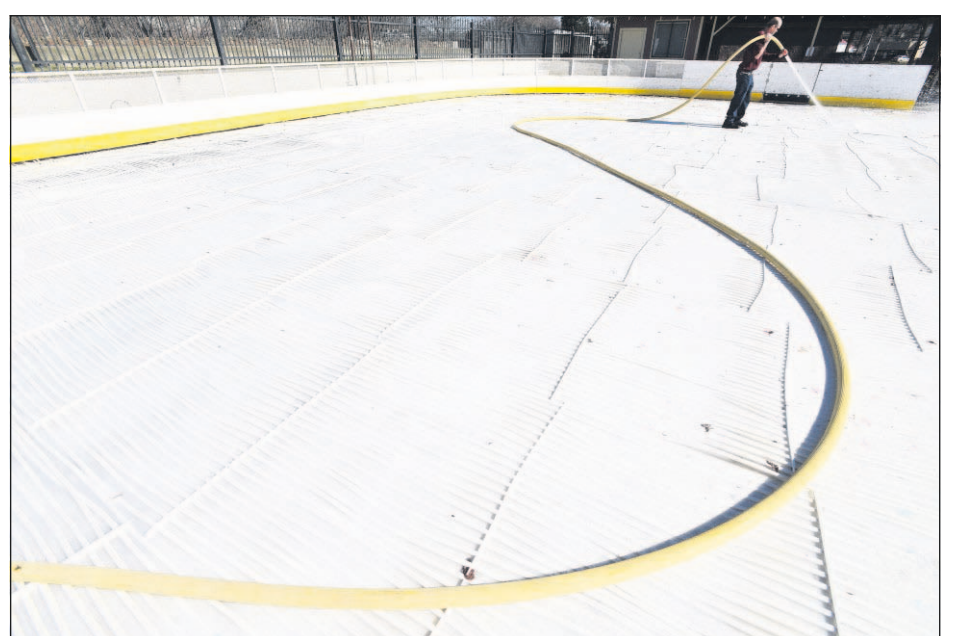
When the big one hits the Oregon Coast, communities statewide will fly into action to lend aid.

Umatilla County will send leadership help to Tillamook County in such an event, and our new sister on the coast will respond in kind if disaster strikes here, per an agreement pending between the counties.

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday to form a "Sister Community Partnership" with Tillamook County to respond to natural disasters affecting either county. The biggest threat to Tillamook County is a big earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone running from Vancouver Island to northern California is a sleeping Leviathan about 50 miles off the Oregon Coast. Every 300-600 years the zone is a source of massive earthquakes and tsunamis that slam the region. That quake may not happen tomorrow, but the U.S.

See DISASTER/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Spraying away winter

Dan Huber, with the city of Pendleton, uses a hose to wash off the cooling system for the ice rink at Roy Raley Park on Wednesday in Pendleton.



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