

CLASH AT THE BORDER CONCLUDES 1B



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NORTHWEST/2A



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015

139th Year, No. 121

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- **Battle of the Bars Friday at the Let 'er Buck Room**
- **Arbor Day tree giveaway in Hermiston**
- **Local Easter egg hunts around the region**

For times and places see **Coming Events, 5A**
For Easter egg hunts and other events see **Page 8A**

Catch a movie



The newest chapter in the high action franchise, **"Furious 7"** speeds into theaters this weekend

For showtime, **Page 5A**

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
60/33	56/33	51/36

Hayes asks state to cover legal fees in records fight

SALEM (AP) — Former Gov. John Kitzhaber's fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, is asking the state to cover her legal bills in her fight to keep emails out of the public eye.

The *Oregonian* reports that a lawyer for Hayes made the request in an email last week to Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

Rosenblum has ruled that Hayes was a public official and ordered the former first lady to give her emails pertaining to state business to The *Oregonian*, which requested them under the public records law.

Hayes is suing the newspaper in an effort to block the release.

Since Rosenblum had declared Hayes to be a public official, her lawyer says the state is obligated to pay her legal bills.

Jobless rates lowest since recession

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

February unemployment rates dropped to their lowest totals in Umatilla and Morrow counties since the onset of the 2008 recession, according to figures from the Oregon Employment Department.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment for Umatilla County came in at 6.8 percent, compared to 7.5 percent a year ago. In Morrow County, the

rate was 6.1 percent compared to 7.1 percent at the same time last year.

Unemployment is as low as it has been since May 2008, when both counties had rates less than 6 percent. During the recession, unemployment spiked as high as 10 percent across the Columbia Basin in 2009 and 2010. Oregon's state unemployment rate also plummeted to 5.8 percent in February, down from 7.1 percent a year ago and a 10-year high of nearly 12 percent.

Regional economist Dallas Fridley said the most recent downward trend locally was helped by the final closure of the Umatilla Chemical Depot in November 2014. More than 800 employees were gradually let go since the last of munitions at the former Army weapons base were destroyed in 2011.

Now that the process is finished, Fridley said the facility will no longer

See **UNEMPLOYMENT/10A**

Unemployment rates

Hermiston	6.4 percent
Pendleton	6.1 percent
Milton-Freewater	16 percent
Umatilla	9.7 percent
Boardman	5.5 percent
Stanfield	7.3 percent
Irrigon	12.6 percent
Pilot Rock	19.1 percent
Heppler	4.9 percent
Athena	5.3 percent



Students of Sherwood Heights Elementary School gather in the grass to watch a groundbreaking ceremony for a new school building on Thursday in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The start of a school



Kindergartners walks past a bulldozer after a groundbreaking ceremony for a new school building at Sherwood Heights Elementary School in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PSD breaks ground on new \$13.6M Sherwood

East Oregonian

Principal Theresa Owens said the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Sherwood Heights Elementary School wasn't supposed to happen for a few more weeks, but the recent bout of good weather in Pendleton pushed the event to Tuesday.

"In construction, you don't say 'No thank you,' when they say you can do it now," she said.

Owens made her comments in front of the Sherwood student body, Pendleton School District officials, former Sherwood teachers, alumni and workers from Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co.

As a part of her speech, Owens provided facts about the more than 60-year-old school, pausing occasionally for gasps from the students.

Including the land purchase, Sherwood cost \$192,000 to build when it opened its doors in 1954. At the time of its opening, Sherwood boasted only six classrooms. Comparatively, the new Sherwood building is estimated to cost

\$13.6 million.

Construction will continue through this year and into next, with the new Sherwood slated to open in fall 2016.

To accommodate the construction, the majority of which is taking place where the play field is now, Owens said the students' play area will be moved to the front and side of the school until the project is complete.

Superintendent Jon Peterson thanked the community for supporting the \$55 million bond that made the new school possible.

In addition to Sherwood, other projects covered by the bond include a new Washington Elementary School, renovation and conversion of Hawthorne Alternative High School into the Pendleton Early Learning Center and other facility improvements throughout the district.

After district officials and students used their gold shovels to break ground, the students broke into a "dig more" chant to no avail.

While students were denied the chance to view more digging with novelty shovels, they were allowed to tour the various construction machinery Kirby Nagelhout had on hand for the event.

OSU expert says farmers would swamp pot market

Growers already produce more than state consumes

By **ERIC MORTENSON**
Capital Bureau

Pot quality would suffer and Oregon's conventional farmers would swamp the market if they turned their skill, equipment, land and infrastructure to marijuana production, an Oregon State University expert says.

Seth Crawford, who teaches a pot policy class at OSU, said Oregon al-



Crawford

ready produces far more high-quality cannabis than the state consumes, and could meet the state demand on 35 acres of farmland in Southern Oregon.

Crawford said Oregon's growers could supply the total U.S. cannabis market on just 5,000 acres.

"Throw in another 500 and you'd

See **FARMERS/10A**

PENDLETON

Planning commission drafts marijuana rules

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Although an ordinance in La Grande was used as a template to draft a law regulating recreational and medical marijuana sales in Pendleton, the planning commission made some significant changes at a meeting Thursday night.

Gone is language requiring marijuana facilities to be more than 1,000 feet from a park.

Daycares, preschools and "facilities primarily attended by minors" were also struck from the draft ordinance.

After a more than two hour discussion, these were among the parameters the commission recommended be put in place for marijuana retail facilities. The city council has final approval over the draft ordinance. Other recommen-

See **PLANNING/10A**



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