



PENDLETON FRESHMAN STEPS UP TO MOUND

SOFTBALL/1B

No cause yet in Meacham train derailment 3A



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015

139th Year, No. 126 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Your Weekend

- Don Rickles tribute show at Pendleton Elks Lodge
- Pendleton Home and Outdoor show
- Portland Gay Men's Chorus at the Vert

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Catch a movie



AP Photo/20th Century Fox

A former champion bull rider tries to make a comeback while looking for love in, "The Longest Ride."

For showtime, Page 5A
For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
		
67/47	55/35	60/39

Pendleton teacher jailed for sex crimes

East Oregonian

Pendleton police Wednesday arrested a Pendleton High School teacher on sex crimes charges.

Police booked Timothy Walter Frey, 26, of 346 S.W. Third St. No. 1, Pendleton, into the Umatilla County Jail for felony second-degree sexual abuse (sexual assault with an object), contributing to the delinquency of a minor and sexual misconduct, according to the jail website.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show the district attorney's office Thursday charged Frey with three counts of the second-degree sexual abuse. Judge Lynn Hampton set his bail at \$150,000. Frey, though, is no longer in county lockup.

His next court appearance is Friday, April 17. That will give the district attorney time to present evidence to a grand jury. Court records also show only one female victim in the case.

School district assistant superintendent Trisha Mooney said the school is cooperating with police but would release no further details about Frey's connection to the school.

Looking toward a healthier future

Commissioner changes habits after health scare

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock can only marvel at being named the county's Public Health Hero.

Murdock, who received the honor Wednesday at a UCo Health fundraising dinner at the Slick Fork Saloon, was once the picture of bad health. He had a weakness for cheeseburgers and his

only exercise was walking to and from his car. After bypass surgery in 2012, his surgeon advised Murdock to change his lifestyle.

"He said, 'Figure out how you got here and take a different path,'" Murdock said.

The county commissioner started eating fruits and vegetables and avoiding processed foods. He walked on the Pendleton River Parkway every day. He shed 60 pounds.

"My wife (Donna) has played a pivotal role," he said, flashing a grin.

Murdock's transformation led to a heightened interest in public health. The 72-year-old commissioner serves as liaison to the county's public health department, recently renamed UCo Health. Murdock helped rebrand the department to one that focused solidly on prevention. In 2014, he oversaw the department after the May resignation of administrator Sarah Williams until the arrival of new director Meghan DeBolt



Murdock

See HEALTH/12A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Children's book author Alane Adams speaks to an English class about writing her book, "The Red Sun," on Thursday at Pilot Rock High School. Adams' book is the first in her series "The Legends of Orkney," about a boy from Pilot Rock who travels to the magical realm of Orkney.

The legends of Pilot Rock



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Author Alane Adams holds playing cards for a game she is developing into a smartphone app that involves characters from her "Legend of Orkney" series of books.

Author visits small town after setting book there

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Out of any city in the world to set a series of fantasy books based in Norse mythology, Pilot Rock seems a pretty unlikely choice.

To author Alane Adams, however, the small Eastern Oregon city was perfect.

"Why would I choose Pilot Rock, right? It's crazy," Adams asked a classroom of English students at Pilot Rock Jr./Sr. High on Thursday during her very first time setting foot in town. "Is this an exciting town?"

"No," the teenagers chorused, looking at her like she was indeed crazy.

But Adams said she wanted the protagonist of the "Legends of Orkney" series to grow up somewhere very "small town U.S.A." — somewhere he felt safe and ordinary before his life was turned upside down by the discovery that he was actually the son of a witch and a Norse god.

Adams started researching towns in Oregon, where her family travels from California to visit extended family in La Grande and take camping trips. When she found out about the actual rock by which Pilot Rock is named, she knew she had hit the jackpot.

"I needed something symbolic to act as a portal," she said.

See AUTHOR/12A

Oregon bill would make school vaccine rates available

SHEILA V KUMAR
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — A month after a bill eliminating nonmedical exemptions from taking vaccines died in committee, Oregon lawmakers could have another fight over the issue after a Senate committee heard testimony Thursday on a bill requiring all schools to make public the rate of students opting out of one or more immunizations.

Bill sponsor Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward has introduced legislation requiring schools to publish

their vaccine immunization rates in easy-to-find places, such as on their website or at the main office. It also requires schools to notify parents of their exemption rates both at the beginning of the school year and a month after exclusion day, the deadline for parents to prove their children have up-to-date vaccinations, she said.

Oregon's highest-in-the-nation rate of non-medical exemptions for kindergartners — 7 percent — has state health officials worried some schools won't be able to achieve "herd immunity," which means

enough people are vaccinated to prevent a disease from spreading. Herd immunity is especially beneficial for people who can't get vaccinated, such as the very young or patients with leukemia.

"It's important to give parents information so they can make an informed choice and if they need to talk about special protections for their child at that school or considering transferring for health reasons," said Steiner Hayward, a Beaverton Democrat.

Opponents of the measure argued this bill would publicly shame par-

ents who decided to opt out of some vaccines. Others, such as Holly Garland, a U.S. Navy veteran who testified against the bill, said the proposal was simply a previous bill Steiner Hayward had introduced, eliminating nonmedical exemptions to vaccines, in a new disguise.

That proposal would have made Oregon the third state in the country allowing exemptions from immunizations only for medical reasons. Steiner Hayward has said she decided to no longer pursue the legislation

See VACCINE/12A



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