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MOORE COMMITS TO U OF OREGON BASKETBALL/1B



Paint job on to-do list HERMISTON/3A

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

139th Year, No. 130

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Law enforcement officials from multiple agencies gather at 79532 South Edwards Road on Wednesday after ending a police pursuit that started in Morrow County and ended north of Stanfield.

Lights, camera, crashin'

Woman records herself fleeing police, arrested

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A police chase Wednesday that could have ended in tragedy after the suspect pulled a knife, instead ended with the mere threat of a stun gun.

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack credited sheriff's detective Brian Synder with having the presence of mind to recognize how to handle

the dangerous situation that led to the arrest of 32-year-old Amanda Sue Walton.

Walton led law enforcement on an hour-long car chase that started in Morrow County and ended north of Stanfield at 79532 S. Edwards Road between East Loop Road and East Highland Extension. She even used a smartphone to take video of herself during part of the chase and posted that to her

Facebook page.

"Well, evidently this is what happens when you try and do a good deed," she said in the video. "I'm being chased by the Morrow County police because I'm not stopping, I'm not going to jail."

Matlack said Walton arranged to meet with a man who was a theft victim because she



Walton

See ARREST/10A

RIVER PLAN RUNNING DRY



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A lot sits empty along at the 600 block of Southwest Court Avenue along the River Parkway on Wednesday in Pendleton. In 2010 the city council approved the "River Quarter Enhancement Plan" but has yet to see any improvements or development to the area.

Umatilla Co. extends ban on medical marijuana dispensaries

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday to extend the freeze on medical marijuana dispensaries in the county until Dec. 31.

Tamra Mabbott, county planning director and chairwoman of the county's medical marijuana study group, told commissioners at their meeting the majority of the study group wanted the board to continue the moratorium, which went into effect April 2, 2014 and was set to expire May 1.

Continuing the moratorium, Mabbott said, would give the county planning commission time to consider the study group's land-use proposals to regulate dispensaries.

She then delivered a brief report about the work of the study group, including its concerns with the Oregon Health Authority's lack of oversight of medical marijuana dispensaries. The commissioners then opened the floor for public comments before voting on the moratorium.

Mike Parker of the Columbia Basin Compassion Center north of Hermiston spoke against the extension as well as the draft regulations, which he said were too stringent. He said having a one mile setback from school routes and many other places means that dispensaries will only operate "someplace in a field somewhere."

After he finished, commissioners voted 3-0 to continue the freeze. The moratorium's May expiration meant the issue was an emergency, so the board did not have to wait to take action.

The swift move upset the few audience members who came to talk

See MORATORIUM/10A

Committee suggests scrapping never-used plan

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Since the urban renewal district was established in 2003, connecting the downtown area to the Umatilla riverfront has been a priority for the Pendleton Development Commission.

In 2010, the council approved a "River Quarter Enhancement Plan," which envisioned a walkable stretch on Court Street from the Round-Up Grounds to Main Street that featured two-story commercial

and residential developments.

But deep into year 12 of the district's planned 20-year lifespan, most stretches of the river quarter remain blighted and underdeveloped. And there have been no new developments since the enhancement plan was approved, despite sizable cash incentives.

Between members of the commission, the commission's advisory committee and the now-defunct river quarter committee, about a dozen people weighed in on the direction the river plan should take at a meeting Tuesday.

Too high a shelf

The most dramatic suggestion to fix the river plan came from the commission's own advisory committee.

Representing the committee, member Jordan McDonald said the commission should recommend repealing the river plan and starting over.

While well intentioned, McDonald said the building requirements were too prohibitive.

The river plan requires all developments be at least two

stories tall, have a storefront facing both Court and the parkway while also having setbacks in both directions.

McDonald, who owns the Internet service provider Wtechlink, added his own personal experience to the report.

He said he was interested in locating Wtechlink's office in the river quarter in 2010. The less than 100x100 foot parcel cost \$118,000, which not only meant the property cost was higher the

See RIVER/10A

"It's hard for a person to be the first to build next to a bunch of garbage."

— Al Plute, Pendleton Development Commission

Pot rules still hazy

Beating black market first order of business

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The devil, as they say, is in the details.

The old saying was never truer than with the task of figuring out how to implement Oregon's marijuana laws.

"We've got a lot of issues to work out," said Rob Bovett, legal counsel for the Association of Oregon Counties. "There are all kinds of sticky wickets we're working through."

Bovett spoke at Tuesday night's Eastern Oregon Forum at Blue Mountain Communi-

ty College, part of this week's BMCC Arts & Culture Festival. Considered an expert on marijuana policy, Bovett served on the rules advisory committee charged with making recommendations about Oregon's medical marijuana law, House Bill 3460. He has also testified to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Implementing Measure 91, the recently approved measure to decriminalize recreational marijuana.

Some of the "sticky wickets" include tax structure, licensing, labeling and packaging, distribution of profits, the effect of the black market on retail sales, and a city or county's authority

See MARIJUANA/10A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Rob Bovett, legal counsel for the Association of Oregon Counties, talks about some of the challenges with Oregon's marijuana laws.



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