



**BLAZERS IN  
SERIES HOLE**  
**NBA/1B**



**New boat ramp  
at Marina Park**  
**REGION/3A**

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

139th Year, No. 135 WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

## MILTON-FREEWATER

### Man admits trying to kill ex-girlfriend

Victim was mother of his child; Gonzalez gets 7 years

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

A 22-year-old Milton-Freewater man is going to prison for seven-and-a-half years for trying to

murder his ex-girlfriend and mother of his daughter.

Ramon Jonathon Leon Gonzalez, 22, pleaded guilty Wednesday in circuit court in Pendleton to burglary and attempted murder. His victim, Angelica Campos-Diaz, told the court Gonzalez remains a frightening figure to their 4-year-old girl.

Gonzalez spoke through a Spanish

language interpreter and appeared via video from the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where he has been since his arrest the night of Jan. 22.

Umatilla County deputy prosecutor Daniel Pachico told the court Gonzalez broke into the Milton-Freewater apartment that was home to Campos-Diaz and the couple's child. Gonzalez stabbed Campos-Diaz

twice in the side and slashed at her throat. The daughter, Pachico said, witnessed the attack.

Campos-Diaz shed tears in court, a handful of supporters by her side. Her daughter was not in court. Campos-Diaz bears a scar beneath her chin. Pachico said a doctor reported

See GONZALEZ/8A



Gonzalez

## PENDLETON



Contributed photo

A clay model of former Pendleton High School football coach was created at the Caswell Gallery in Troutdale and will be unveiled as a bronze July 11 at Brownfield Park.

### Requa bronze location looks set in stone

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

Despite continued protests from some Pendleton residents, the Pendleton City Council has shown no indication that it will reverse its decision to place a statue of former Pendleton High School football coach Don Requa at Brownfield Park.

Interviewed after a Tuesday city council meeting in which a majority of the audience came to engage or listen to discussion surrounding the statue, Mayor Phillip Houk said the council will stand firm.

"From my understanding, the council feels that the decision has been made," he said.

See REQUA/8A



Contributed file photo

This 430.95-kilowatt solar array at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center provides about half the electricity of the planned \$2 million Umatilla Electric solar project east of Umatilla.

## PUMP UP THE POWER

### UEC plans 1-megawatt solar array near Umatilla

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
East Oregonian

As renewable energy requirements increase for Oregon utilities, the Umatilla Electric Cooperative plans to install \$2 million worth of solar panels along the McNary Townsite east of Umatilla.

General Manager Steve Eldridge announced the project Saturday at the co-op's annu-

al membership meeting, with construction expected to begin sometime over the summer. When finished, the new solar array will generate one megawatt of electricity, or enough power for about 164 homes.

UEC first dipped its toes into solar power in 2009, with the development of a demonstration array at its offices in Hermiston. That project consisted of 300 separate panels at 175 watts apiece.

This new array will be about 20 times that size, said spokesman Steve Meyers.

"It is estimated that the levelized cost of the project, over an anticipated 30-plus years of operation, will be close to what our members are paying for energy now," Meyers said in an email. "We think from a price standpoint this is a reasonable investment to make."

Solar energy is one way UEC intends to meet its target under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires Oregon's largest utilities generate at least 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources — not including the existing Columbia River hydro system. Member-owned utilities can also purchase unbundled renewable

See POWER/8A

**"Solar has caught the imagination of the general public and cost effectiveness of the technology is improving, so we will explore its feasibility here in our service area."**

— Steve Eldridge, Umatilla Electric Cooperative General Manager



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

### Sunbeams and flowers

Cheryl Stewart, owner of Calico Country Florist, answers questions about flowers to a group of Salvation Army Sunbeams on Wednesday while on a field trip to the store in Pendleton. The Sunbeams are a youth program run by the Salvation Army, similar to the Girl Scouts.

### Crisis team helps schools in mourning

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian



Berryessa



Shreibner

After years of being there for staff and students when tragedy strikes, members of the Crisis Flight Team know firsthand what grief does to a school.

"I've seen it draw people together," Lizette Berryessa said. "In school you have your little groups but I think tragedy transcends those boundaries."

Volunteer responders like Berryessa, part of the InterMountain Education Service District's crisis team, act as an anchor for schools dealing with the death or serious injury of a student or staff member. They help administrators find the words to tell students what happened, set up a "safe space" for

See CRISIS/8A



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