



**DAWGS LOSE IN  
EXTRA INNINGS  
BASEBALL/1B**



**Hermiston  
cleans up  
REGION/3A**

# EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

139th Year, No. 139

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Teacher Brianna Conlon plays with four-month-old Oliver (last name withheld), on Monday at the Pioneer Relief Nursery in Pendleton.

## PENDLETON Police, airport get boost in budget

Property tax revenue falls short of projections

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

Despite being hot topics for city council discussion, the major development in Pendleton's 2015-2016 proposed budget wasn't related to streets or the airport's unmanned aerial systems range.

Instead, parts of the \$53.2 million budget will provide a significant boost to public safety.

At a meeting Tuesday morning, the city's budget committee reviewed the general fund, which covers police, emergency services and many other city departments.

Though the general fund will see a decrease from \$15.7 million last year to \$15.4 million, small increases were made to the police and emergency services budget to accommodate hiring four new personnel.

One new officer will be added to the ranks of the Pendleton Police Department.

According to the budget, the position was agreed upon during negotiations with the police union in 2013 and will be the first sworn position added to the department since the late 1960s.

See PENDLETON/8A

## Relief nursery grapples with funding shortfall

Children overcome lives of uncertainty, stress and poverty

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

Barb Ceniga worries about money — that's part of her job as executive director of the Pioneer Relief Nursery in Pendleton.

The worry ratcheted up a notch, however, when Ceniga learned last month that the nursery wouldn't receive expected funds from United Way in 2015. Support for United

Way has eroded over the past several years and the nursery was one of five organizations to have funding requests rejected. The local United Way campaign raised about \$137,000 this year, compared with \$353,000 in 2005.

"We expected to get \$10,000 from United Way in a grant," Ceniga said. "We'll still get \$1,300 in pledges, but it leaves a hole. We need to find replacement funds."

The center provides respite care and therapeutic early learning for kids at risk for abuse and neglect.

"These children live in toxic stress," Ceniga said. "They live in uncertainty. Many of them experience dire poverty."

Parents are in survival mode, battered by unemployment, drug addiction, domestic violence or other stressors. Their children,

### Benefit concert

**What: Dakota Brown and Luke Basile**  
**Where: Pendleton Center for the Arts**  
**When: Thursday, April 30, 6:30-9 p.m.**  
**How much: \$40 for music, light dinner and one pour of wine or beer.**  
**Proceeds go to Pioneer Relief Nursery.**

immersed in the upheaval, pay a steep price. "Most of the children have reduced language ability," Ceniga said. "They come with hostility. They are withdrawn."

Over time, she said, they learn to share, trust, make choices and form bonds with other children. The instructors, trained as

See NURSERY/8A

## MILTON-FREEWATER Gun club a go to grow

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners approved changes in local land use laws that would allow gun clubs to expand facilities for firearms training. The End Rod & Gun Club of Milton-Freewater has been waiting for this since last year.

The approval came during a land use hearing Tuesday morning at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, and it follows the county planning commission's unanimous vote Thursday night in favor of amending the county code.

County planning director Tamra Mabbott in a memo explained the amendment fills in a blank because the county code "does not expressly permit nor does it prohibit expansion of firearms training facilities." The "code conundrum," Mabbott wrote, came to light when property owners neighboring the

See GUN CLUB/8A

## State considers gun bill targeting domestic abusers

By SHEILA V KUMAR  
Associated Press

SALEM — Advocates of gun control often say states that have expanded background checks have far fewer women gunned down by their domestic partners. Now, lawmakers in Oregon are targeting convicted domestic abusers directly with legislation making it harder for them to keep their firearms.

Under the bill, Oregon law

**"Research shows that domestic abusers who possess guns tend to use them as part of their pattern of abuse."**

— Ellen Rosenblum, state Attorney General

enforcement officials would have the authority to confiscate the firearms of people convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence against an intimate partner or subject to a restraining order that was upheld

after a hearing.

There is a federal law prohibiting certain domestic-violence offenders adjudicated by the courts from possessing a firearm. But there are only 14 federal agents in the state capable of

enforcing it and no current Oregon statute matching the federal version, said bill sponsor Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, a Democrat from Gresham. The measure closes that gap and brings Oregon in line with 19 other states that have passed similar bills, she said.

The bill's backers say women are more likely to be killed if their abuser owns a gun. Of the

See VIOLENCE/8A

### BOARDMAN

## Controlled burn gets away from city crews

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
East Oregonian

Firefighters raced to contain a five-acre blaze Tuesday afternoon in Boardman after a controlled burn got away from city employees.

Boardman Fire Chief Mark Rogelstad said the Public Works Department was burning tumbleweeds at North Main Street and Marina Drive when winds picked up and spread the flames into dry cheatgrass and sage brush.

The fire pushed northeast — away from downtown — before it was surrounded by crews from

Boardman and Irigon. No buildings were damaged and no one was hurt.

City workers had taken safety precautions before burning, Rogelstad said, but were caught unprepared by the wind that picked up to about 10-15 mph.

"The wind picked up and carried it into the sagebrush, and away it went," he said.

Additional water trucks were brought in from the Port of Morrow and Dodge Logging Company to help catch the fire. Public works also remained on scene to assist firefighters.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Firefighters work to douse a five-acre fire Tuesday afternoon in Boardman after a controlled burn got away from city employees.

