



87/55



WWII plane takes flight
NORTHWEST/2A

BMCC BRINGS HOME
FIRST NATIONAL TITLE
WOMEN'S RODEO/1B

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015

139th Year, No. 178

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

Demolition in the works as bill awaits signature

Cost is \$1.2 million to destroy BMRC, training center

East Oregonian

Despite not yet having Gov. Kate Brown's signature on a bill transferring the land from the state to Pendleton, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services is moving ahead with demolition plans for the Blue Mountain Recovery Center and the Eastern Oregon Training Center.

Spokesman Matt Shelby said DAS has already selected a demolition company, which will start abating the properties on June 29.

Abatement will run through the following six to seven weeks followed by salvaging and demolition, with the property ready to turn over to the city by the end of October.

The project was awarded to 3 Kings Environmental of Battle Ground, Washington, for

more than \$1.2 million, which is slightly above the \$1 million the Legislature appropriated for the project.

"That's just something we're going to have to manage within the DAS budget," Shelby said.

Passage of the land transfer bill has long been considered a formality, allowing DAS to start planning for the demolitions months ago.

Local officials believe that the newly available land could attract new businesses and housing developments and create as many as 80 jobs. The BMRC is near the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution on the south side of Westgate and the training center land is on the north side of the road.

The land will be handed over to the city on Jan. 1, 2016.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Air Nuestel

Taylor Neustel, 17, catches air Sunday at the Rudy Rada Skatepark in Pendleton. Neustel landed rubber-side down.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Carlin Sacco, 26, camped in this grove of trees during her first months of attending Blue Mountain Community College. Sacco overcame homelessness and other challenges to earn a two-year transfer degree.

Homeless, not hopeless

Student earns degree at BMCC while living in tent near campus

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

While most college students drove home after class, Carlin Sacco stowed her books in a locker and hiked to a tent hidden in a grove of trees.

After graduating from Blue Mountain Community College this month, Sacco stood near the bank of the Umatilla River and reflected on home-

lessness early in her college experience. She camped on the woody patch of ground near the college, sleeping under the arched branches of a maple tree and listened to the sounds of cars roaring down Interstate 84. Sometimes she awoke in a puddle of rain that had seeped through rips in the tent.

The 26-year-old admits that her path to homeless was partly due to poor life choices on which she isn't eager to elab-

orate. Despite the turmoil, however, she dreamed of completing college.

To Sacco, the diploma she received this month from Blue Mountain Community College is more than paper, ink and a faux leather cover — it is evidence the human spirit can thrive in difficult circumstances when offered compassion and a hand up.

See GRADUATE/8A

Democrats propose tax hikes

Estimated to raise nearly \$50 million in new revenue over the next two-years

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

SALEM — Democrats in the state House on Monday proposed raising a variety of taxes — on premium cigars, certain businesses and some individual taxpayers — and using the money to extend expiring tax credits that help people with low incomes.

The chairman of the House Revenue Committee said the committee should take up the bill on Tuesday and decide whether to forward it to the full House.

Most Oregon tax credits are set to expire every six years, giving lawmakers a chance to decide periodically whether they should be continued, modified or dropped. The Democratic bill would continue a variety of credits, most of them aimed at helping working families, children and people with disabilities. The Earned-Income Tax Credit, a popular option for people who work for low wages, would be expanded so more people qualify.

"We're trying to do good policy, with

See TAXES/8A

"If this is constitutional, that part of the constitution has no meaning."

— Rep. John Davis, R-Wilsonville, serves on the revenue panel



Photo contributed by Chelsea Pace

Matthew Raz sprays water on a fire behind his neighbors' house Saturday before the Pendleton Fire Department arrived.

PENDLETON

Neighbors pitch in to save house from fire

One home destroyed on Ponderosa Lane

East Oregonian

Two fires in the Pendleton area kept firefighters busy Saturday afternoon.

Tribal fire officials are still investigating the cause of the two-story house fire on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Tribal Fire Chief Rob Burnside said the fire engulfed the house at 69818 Ponderosa Lane in the Poverty Flats area at 1:44 p.m. Although the house was a total

loss, the homeowner got out safely and the fire was self-contained.

The tribal fire department received mutual aid from Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services, Pilot Rock Rural Fire Protection District, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

About an hour earlier and 18 miles away, neighbors pitched in to stop a wood pile fire from spreading to a nearby house on Broadlane Avenue in Pendleton.

The fire started shortly after

See FIRE/3A



7 29467 10001 5