PENDLETON TIES WAUKIE 2-2 **BOYS SOCCER/1B**

Last witness to Depot explosion dies at 93 REGION/3A

HAST REGONIAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

139th Year, No. 231

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

BOARDMAN **One dead** in crash

East Oregonian

One person died Thursday night in a crash on Interstate 84 near Boardman.

The call for emergency services went out at about 9:25 p.m. to respond to a head-on crash on the Tripcheck.com interstate. reported the crash affected the eastbound lanes between the downtown and Port of Morrow exits.

Morrow County under-sheirff Steve Myren said he was not yet at the scene but understood there was a vehicle fire and one person died. He did not say if the fire caused the fatality.

Emergency radio communications reported a vehicle was on fire and there may have been a victim inside. They also stated a small child suffered injuries in the crash, and a Life Flight helicopter transported the child.

Brown to fix energy tax credit problems

By HILLARY BORRUD Capital Bureau

SALEM -– Oregon energy officials have decided



Pendleton fire personnel load a victim of a single vehicle rollover into a Life Flight helicopter Thursday in the middle of the eastbound lanes of Interstate 84 near mile marker 209 in Pendleton.

Four hurt, three flee

Life Flight takes one away from I-84 wreck in Pendleton

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

Four people were injured Thursday in a car crash in Pendleton that blocked the freeway for hours, and an emergency helicopter flew one victim from the scene.

A 1995 Ford Explorer was heading east on Interstate 84 when it crashed a little before 2:30 p.m. near milepost



IRRIGON School leaders queried by TSPC

Teachers commission investigating response to McElligott allegations

> **By SEAN HART** East Oregonian

Three administrators who worked for Morrow County School District in 2013 are being investigated by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said the commission is looking into the administration's response to allegations of a sexual relationship between a former teacher and student. He said he reported information about a former student who said she had sex with Jake McElligott, a former math teacher and coach at Irrigon Junior/ Senior High School, to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission immediately when he received the information in September 2014.

The commission confirmed it has open investigations on Dirksen, Blaine Ganvoa and Craig Bensen. Ganvoa was the Irrigon Senior High School athletic director from 2008 to March 2014 and was hired as the athletic director at Hermiston High School in June 2014. He confirmed the investigation was regarding the administration's response to the allegations about McElligott.

not to follow through on their plan to rewrite the rules for sales of energy tax credits, and Gov. Kate Brown says questions raised about the program are being addressed.

Both developments come in response to an audit by the Secretary of State's Office that confirmed reporting by the EO Media Group/ Pamplin Media Group Statehouse Bureau that raised questions about the pricing of those credits when sold to third parties.

Publicly, the Oregon Department of Energy has since March portrayed the proposal as a routine tweak to administrative rules.

However, interviews and public records revealed energy officials had allowed some companies and wealthy individuals to purchase the tax credits at deeper discounts than allowed under state price regulations, and the deals appeared to contradict

See CREDITS/8A

209, according to a written statement from Oregon State Police. The preliminary investigation revealed a tire blew out, which contributed to the vehicle leaving the roadway. The Explorer entered the center median where it struck a dirt embankment and rolled at least once.



Pendleton firefighters treat one of the victims of a single vehicle rollover Thursday near mile marker 209 on Interstate 84 in Pendleton.

Seven people were in the vehicle and at least two men were ejected, when it crashed, according to passenger and witness statements,

See WRECK/10A

See IRRIGON/10A

Buffer against the blaze

'Firescaping' protects property

By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

Hidden among a dense stand of trees on Jerry Wyland's mountain property stands a single white fir, split deep down the middle by lightning where a potential wildfire smoldered for days.

Fortunately, Wyland said the incident happened sometime in June while the shrubs were still green enough to resist burning. He knows he might not be so lucky today.

'If that happened now, it could be a completely different story," he said. Wildfire is weighing especially heavy this year on

the minds of private forest owners like Wyland, who has 1,250 acres up Narkus Lane near Weston. Numerous large blazes continue to wreak havoc across the Northwest, destroying dozens of homes and leaving the environment in limbo.

Given the intensity of recent fire seasons, Wyland said landowners can't avoid thinking about managing their forests in a way that gives them the best chance to survive bigger, hotter blazes looming in drought — a prac-

tice known as "firescaping." For years, Wyland has secured grants through



A white spruce tree stands split by a June lightning storm on the heavily forested property of Jerry Wyland outside of Weston.

the Oregon Department of Forestry to thin overcrowded trees on the property his family purchased back in 1960. His most recent project involves removing smaller trees and ladder fuels along a

dry dirt road up the hill from his cabin.

'It's a lot of hard work out there with the chainsaw, I'll tell you that," Wyland said.

See FIRE/10A

Kentucky clerks to license marriages as their boss is jailed

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

ASHLAND, Ky. — A defiant county clerk went to jail Thursday for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, but five of her deputies agreed to issue the licenses themselves, potentially ending the church-state standoff in Rowan County, Kentucky.

U.S. District Judge David Bunning said he had no

choice but to jail Kim Davis for contempt after she insisted that her "conscience will not allow" her to follow federal court rulings on gay marriage.

"God's moral law conflicts with my job duties," Davis told the judge before she was taken away by a U.S. marshal. "You can't be separated from something that's in your heart and in your soul.'

Bunning offered to release Davis if she would Davis

promise not to interfere with her employees issuing marriage licenses on Friday morning. But Davis, through her attorneys, rejected that offer and chose to stay in jail.

Gay and lesbian couples vowed to appear at the Rowan County clerk's office for the fifth time on Friday to see if the deputy clerks would keep their promises.

We're going to the courthouse tomorrow to get our marriage license and we're very excited about that," said April Miller, who has been engaged to Karen Roberts for 11 years.

As word of Davis' jailing spread outside the federal courthouse, hundreds of people chanted and screamed, "Love wins! Love wins!" while Davis' supporters booed.

Davis' lawyer, Roger Gannam, said it was the first time in history an American citizen has been jailed for

See MARRIAGE/10A



