



**PENDLETON GIRLS
BEAT UMATILLA
SOCCER/1B**



**Kentucky clerk
released from
jail NATION/8A**

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

139th Year, No. 234

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

Schools push trades, tech training

Bond projects coming in under budget

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Having already hired a full-time administrator and dedicated a building for it, the Pendleton School District is going full speed ahead in bolstering its career and technical education program.

Curt Thompson, who was named CTE coordinator after

serving as Washington Elementary School's principal for six years, presented the district's early ideas for the program to the Pendleton School Board at a meeting Tuesday.

Pendleton High School already offers 23 CTE classes — courses that specialize in a vocational track — including food service, graphic design and marketing, but the district wants

to expand the program further.

As a part of the school district's \$57 million bond, West Hills Intermediate School will be turned into the Pendleton Tech and Trades Center, its working title.

While not every CTE class, like metalworking, will be housed at the center, the building will focus on CTE classes in addition to hosting the district's alternative school.

District staff will try to grow

their CTE offerings by applying for money from the CTE Revitalization Grant Program, a \$2 million fund created by the Oregon Legislature in 2011 expressly for that purpose.

Although the district already boasts a couple dozen CTE classes, Thompson sees room for improvement.

In addition to their current career tracks, Thompson said

See **SCHOOL/8A**



AP Photo/Bilal Hussein

Syrian refugees sit outside their tents as they cover their face with masks Tuesday during a sandstorm in a refugee camp in the town of Bar Elias in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

U.S. vows to help migrants

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration wants to help its allies across the Atlantic with an escalating migrant crisis, but is unlikely to open America's doors to vast numbers of Syrian and other refugees arriving each day by the thousands in Europe.

While Germany braces for some 800,000 asylum seekers this year, many of whom are fleeing Syria's civil war, the U.S. isn't saying if it will increase its worldwide quota for resettling refugees from 70,000. Only a fraction of those would be Syrians, who must first navigate a multiyear application process before learning if they can start a new life in the United States.

Secretary of State John Kerry plans

See **MIGRANTS/8A**

PENDLETON

Man dies three days after rollover

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Oregon State Police have identified five people involved in a single-vehicle rollover crash Sept. 3 on Interstate 84 in Pendleton, including one man who was ejected from the vehicle and later died from his injuries.

Gary Elkins, 42, of Stayton, died Sunday while being treated at Oregon Health & Science University, Portland. Four others were also identified by OSP on Tuesday — including three local residents — while authorities continue to search for two men who reportedly fled the scene.

State police Lt. Mike Turner of the Pendleton command said, "We have one tentatively identified," but that is not 100 percent certain. He also said it is unlikely the public could help in this case. The man

See **WRECK/8A**

HERMISTON

City compromises on landscaping rules

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston has revised its proposed landscaping ordinance after fielding complaints from business owners who would be affected by the rules.

A public hearing on the revised ordinance will take place on at the city council's Monday meeting at 7 p.m. at city hall.

The city held firm on requiring specific percentages of new developments to be

landscaped but did respond to other concerns, like resident Don Skeen's point that the ordinance's provision about "preserving natural vegetation" wherever possible didn't always translate well in real life.

"In our area natural vegetation is goatheads," he said at the Aug. 24 public hearing.

In response the city added new language to the ordinance specifying that natural vegetation does not include noxious weeds or prohibited tree species.

It also added language

allowing for drought-friendly xeriscaping, clarified how enforcement will take place, put a cap on commercial zone landscaping at 20,000 square feet if the property is more than 10 acres and changed the amount of non-plant ground cover allowed from 35 percent to 50 percent.

Under the new language failure to follow the landscaping requirements would result in the same process of notice and abatement as violations of the city's nuisance codes.

At a previous public

hearing Hermiston Chamber of Commerce director Debbie Pedro said the chamber had sent out a survey with a copy of the original ordinance and 71 percent of the 69 respondents agreed with implementing some sort of landscaping ordinance, although many of them had worries about the wording of the ordinance.

According to a news release from the city, staff sat down with Hermiston Chamber of

See **HERMISTON/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Al-packed up

A pair of bushy-haired alpaca stand in a field off Highway 395 on Tuesday south of Pendleton. Alpaca are a domesticated type of camelid from the Andes Mountains in Peru. Alpaca, which are smaller than their cousins the llama, were not bred as a beast of burden but rather for their soft fiber that can be used for knitted or woven items of clothing.



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

In this April 22 photo, Wesley Graves looks over a crater left after a saltwater disposal pipeline ruptured on his ranch near Snyder, Texas. Equipment failure is a major cause of oilfield wastewater spills.

Salting the Earth

Drilling boom means more harmful spills

By **JOHN FLESHER**
AP Environmental Writer

CROSSROADS, N.M. — Carl Johnson and son Justin, who have complained for years about spills of oilfield wastewater where they raise cattle in the high plains of New Mexico, stroll across a 1 1/2-acre patch of sandy soil — lifeless, save for a scattering of stunted weeds.

Five years ago, a broken pipe soaked the land with as much as 420,000 gallons of wastewater, a salty drilling byproduct that killed the shrubs and grass. It was

among dozens of spills that have damaged the Johnsons' grazing lands and made them worry about their groundwater.

"If we lose our water," Justin Johnson said, "that ruins our ranch."

Their plight illustrates a side effect of oil and gas production that has worsened with the past decade's drilling boom: spills of wastewater that foul the land, kill wildlife and threaten freshwater supplies.

An Associated Press

See **SPILLS/8A**



7 294671 10001 5