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BEAT BUCKS
VOLLEYBALL/1B**

**Nuclear smugglers
sought terrorist
buyers** **WORLD/8A**

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

139th Year, No. 254

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

Council agrees to lease land to \$45M data center

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council unanimously approved a ground lease for a proposed \$45 million data center on Airport Road, but it will be a while before the city will see the benefits.

The 30-year lease gives Makad Corp. of Vancouver, Wash. access to nearly 12 acres on Airport Road halfway between Northwest 56th Street and Stage Gulch Road.

In a report, Pendleton Economic Development Director Steve Chrisman wrote that the

city could receive \$295,970 in tax revenue per year for the next 25-27 years, plus rental fees of at least \$826,612 spread out over 28 years.

The lease also includes several incentives, including no rent for the first two years. It also includes a 5 percent reduction

in permitting fees per job, with a 50 percent reduction ceiling and temporary tax abatement through the city's enterprise zone program if Makad Corp. qualifies, which Chrisman said will most likely happen.

See **DATA/10A**

AP Q&A

Who has the right to die?

SAN DIEGO (AP) — California's governor has signed a bill that will give the terminally ill in the nation's most populous state the right to end their lives with drugs prescribed by a doctor.

Right-to-die advocates have been pushing for decades to get such legislation passed in the state and say Monday's signing is a major victory that could spur other states to follow suit.

Opponents disagree and point to the fact that similar bills in at least a half dozen state have stalled in the past year. The Catholic Church and advocates for people with disabilities say it legalizes premature suicide and puts terminally ill patients at risk for coerced death.

California is the fifth state to allow doctors to assist such deaths.

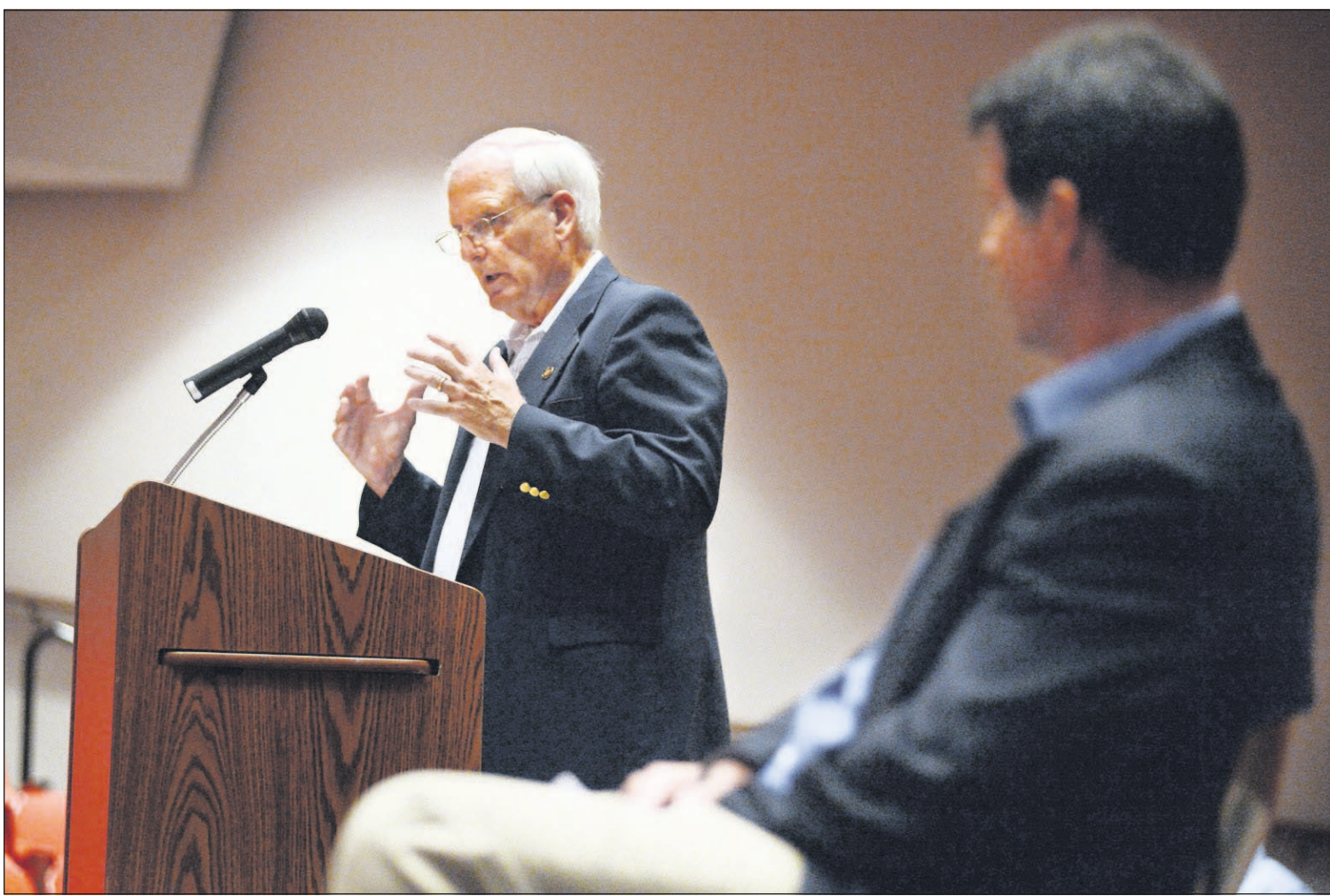
Here is a look at the states where the practice is legal.

Which state has the longest history with such a law? After a ballot initiative went into effect in 1998, Oregon became the first state to make it legal for a doctor to prescribe a life-ending drug to a terminally ill patient of sound mind who makes the request. Another ballot initiative in neighboring Washington made it legal in that state in 2008. In Montana, a 2009 state Supreme Court ruling found that nothing in state law expressly prohibits physician-assisted suicide, and that doctors could use a patient's request for life-ending medication as a defense against criminal charges. Since then, the state Legislature has rejected bills each session that would either prohibit physician-assisted suicide or explicitly legitimize it in state law.

In 2013, Vermont's legislature became the first in the nation to adopt it through legislation and not voter referendum.

How many people have opted for physician-assisted deaths? Since it was enacted, more than 850 people in Oregon have used the law to die as of Dec. 31, 2014. In Vermont, six people had requested life-ending drugs and

See **DEATH/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sen. Bill Hansell talks about "the good, the bad, and the ugly" as he describes the legislative session Tuesday during a town hall meeting with Rep. Greg Barreto at BMCC in Pendleton.

Let's talk taxes



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Rep. Greg Barreto talks about freshman year in the Oregon House of Representatives as Sen. Bill Hansell looks on Tuesday during a town hall meeting at BMCC.

Rep. Barreto, Sen. Hansell conclude trio of town halls in Pendleton

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Eastern Oregon residents concerned about higher state fees, corporate taxes and a minimum wage found a little solace Tuesday night from Sen. Bill Hansell of Athena and Rep. Greg Barreto of Cove.

The pair of Republican lawmakers looked back at the 2015 Oregon Legislature and what is ahead in the 2016 short session and beyond. The event at the Bob Clapp Theatre at

Blue Mountain Community College concluded a trio of town halls in Pendleton. About 30 people attended.

Hansell and Barreto recounted how they viewed the session that ended July 11. But a majority of the time was spent answering audience questions.

Paula Hall said she worked with a local community action program and asked Barreto how to make "Oregon a state of hope" for lower income workers.

See **TAXES/10A**

ACLU LAWSUIT

Benton County jails people who can't pay fines

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
and **GENE JOHNSON**
Associated Press

KENNEWICK, Wash. — The Washington state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sued a local county Tuesday, accusing it of sending people to jail or forcing them to toil on work crews if they fail to pay their court fines — a practice that makes the poor poorer and amounts to a "modern-day debtors' prison," the organization said.

The group has long alleged that Benton County District Court penalizes defendants without investigating whether they can actually afford to pay their fines. It detailed the practice in a report last year that drew objections from the court's judges, one of whom argued that defendants have an opportunity to speak up at sentencing if they can't afford the fines.

"The misnomer is that we're imposing jail time without any due process rights," Judge Joseph M. Burrows told The Associated Press at the time. "We are following the law. We are doing what is just and fair."

The court did not immediately return a message seeking comment Tuesday, but Benton County Prosecutor Andy Miller said he told judges and county commissioners two years ago that he does not agree with the practice.

"The judges do it, and there's not even a

See **JAIL/10A**

HERMISTON

Lighting up downtown

Festival lights to get second life as musical Main Street show

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Decorations from the defunct Festival of Lights are getting a new life as a musical show planned for downtown Hermiston.

Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter said he has obtained permission to drape the old Roemarks building on the corner of Northeast Second and Main streets in lights and choreograph them to music, creating

a "high-energy" show that he hopes will draw Christmas shoppers downtown.

"I hope people say, 'We have 25 minutes to kill before the next show, let's look around,'" he said.

Fetter said he wants to block off the section of Second Street next to the currently empty Roemarks building during December to add bleachers for viewing and a tent where Santa can visit. The idea would be a trial run of sorts for the city's plans to eventually turn that block into a "festival street" with landscaping, brickwork and decorative gates to close

See **LIGHTS/10A**



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

It's early October, but city of Hermiston employees began decorating Main Street for the holidays.

