

Turn the clocks back

Remember to move
your clocks
back one
hour.
**LITTLE
HOUSE OF
HORRORS**
LIFESTYLES/1C

**DAWGS
BEAT THE
BUCKS**
FOOTBALL/1B


EAST OREGONIAN

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140 Year, No. 12

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50



A new layer of asphalt is applied to Southwest Nye Avenue early last summer in Pendleton. EO file photo

The price to pave

Cities use different methods to budget street maintenance

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

In the waning days of the campaign for a Pendleton gas tax, both the pro and anti-tax political action committees are still battling for votes.

While the Oregon Fuels Association PAC has asked followers of its Facebook page to change their

profile picture to an anti-gas tax slogan, the Lets Move Forward PAC has continued to woo the members of service organizations and recently earned the endorsement of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce.

One consistent line of attack against the 5-cent per gallon gas tax is that the city could generate more revenue for street pavement if it diverted more of its share of

the state gas tax toward pavement preservation.

"The City of Pendleton expects to receive \$950,400 in state shared fuel tax revenue in 2016," an Oregon Fuels Association PAC mailer states. "If the City of Pendleton would commit the fuel tax money it has to repaving our streets, it would not

See **ROADS/12A**

HERMISTON

EOTEC discusses Byron Smith joining board

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center authority board discussed the implications of the city of Hermiston's \$600,000 contribution during its Friday meeting.

The city council voted unanimously on Monday to kick in the \$600,000 toward construction costs with the stipulation that a city administrator join the EOTEC board.

During Friday's EOTEC meeting chairman Ed Brookshier said he and the other executive committee members "absolutely" felt that city administrator should be Byron Smith, and that he should replace Brookshier on the board when his term is up at the end of December.

Brookshier, who was Hermiston city manager himself when he first joined the EOTEC board, said he felt confident that Smith is committed to making EOTEC a success and would be a good addition to the board.

Kim Puzey said while he agreed that Smith would make a great addition to the board, he also wanted to express that Brookshier's vision had been crucial to the project, as had his willingness to step up into the chair position after former board chair Chet Prior died.

"You certainly have my appreciation," Puzey said.

Don Miller agreed, noting that he was concerned about losing Brookshier's expertise and wondered if a non-voting

See **EOTEC/12A**



Smith

"We need to have those kids in seats so we can teach them."

— **Tricia Mooney**, Assistant Superintendent, Pendleton School District



American Indian students and high school seniors have high chronic absentee rates both locally and statewide. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Problem of high absenteeism, especially for high school seniors and tribal students

By **SEAN HART**
East Oregonian

Mirroring statewide trends, many local American Indian students and high school seniors are chronically absent from school.

The Oregon Department of Education recently released data

about the percentage of students who missed 10 percent or more of the school year in 2014-15 and are considered chronically absent. At the state level, 17 percent of all students were classified thus, but the rates were far worse for "American Indian/Alaska Native" students — 30 percent — and even worse

for high school seniors — 32 percent.

Pendleton High School seniors beat the state average with 21 percent chronically absent, but American Indian attendance was slightly worse at 34 percent. With a large American Indian population of 401 students, 13 percent of the

district population, the rate has a significant impact on the total district rate of 18 percent.

Assistant Superintendent Tricia Mooney said the district focuses on the American Indian subgroup and collaborates with the Confederated Tribes of the

See **STUDENTS/12A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Candy crush

Dorothy Smith, owner of O So Kleen, hands out Halloween candy to children dressed as Batgirl on Main Street on Friday in Hermiston. For more Main Street trick-or-treaters see **Page 3A**.

Police chiefs applaud Obama's gun safety reform proposals

Chief Edmiston shakes President's soft hand

By **SEAN HART**
East Oregonian

President Barack Obama addressed a large crowd at the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police conference this week in Chicago, and Hermiston police chief Jason Edmiston was sitting in the fifth row.

Edmiston was lucky enough to be in the right place to shake the president's hand as he left after the speech.

"I don't necessarily agree with everything this president has done,"

he said. "However, I don't disagree with some of what he said, specifically at this conference. I really do respect the office of the president. I think that's about as thankless of a job as a police officer."

Obama focused on three main topics: ensuring officers had the necessary resources to perform their job, making criminal justice reforms to "make the system smarter and fairer" and reducing risks to officers through "commonsense gun safety reforms."

Edmiston said while federal resources for local police agencies sounds appealing, the real difficulty for smaller, rural agencies is the bureaucratic red tape. While larger

See **OBAMA/10A**

