



ELECTION DAY
Ballots due by
8 p.m., results
online tonight



HUNDREDS DEAD IN CRASH 5A



CARDENAS
CLAIMS ANOTHER
STATE TITLE
CROSS COUNTRY/1B

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

140th Year, No. 13

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Poker writer Ashley Adams has played poker in all 50 states in the union finishing out his goal last weekend playing at Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Mission.

Player finishes 50-state tour at Wildhorse

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

"There are 15 states where it's not legal."
— Ashley Adams

Ashley Adams picked up his cards, saw a jack and a deuce and folded immediately. The moment was anticlimactic to the other nine sitting around the table, but not to Adams. By playing this hand of Texas hold 'em, he had fulfilled

his dream of playing poker in all 50 states. Oregon was the finish line. The milestone, years in coming, arrived Sunday at a small tournament at the Wildhorse Casino. Adams, professional poker

player, author and radio host, said the quest started one day in 2005 as he drove his car on a long road trip. To stay awake, Adams started counting in his head the states where he had played poker and came up with a surprisingly

high number. "Oh, my gosh," he realized, "I've played in more states than I haven't played in." Adams, who lives in Boston, decided to go for the full 50. This, however, wasn't a simple matter of arriving in each state and going to the nearest casino.

See POKER/10A

Rehabilitation begins in Canyon Creek

Area burned now a risk for flooding

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

It's been nearly three months since a major wildfire erupted in Canyon Creek south of John Day, and helicopters continue to buzz over the charred and blackened hills of the Malheur National Forest. Only now, instead of water or fire retardant, the choppers are dumping thousands of pounds of wood mulch along the ridgetops to slow down soil erosion and prevent flooding in the fall and winter months. Forest officials have started work to rehabilitate the landscape devastated by the Canyon Creek Complex, which raged across 110,000 acres and destroyed more

than 40 homes earlier this summer. Though the blaze has been mostly contained since September, the chief concern now is a sudden flood rushing down Canyon Creek into Canyon City and John Day. Without enough vegetation to soak up rain and snow, runoff threatens to sweep down the barren hillsides as if it were poured onto concrete. Putting down mulch can help keep the ground stable and limit the speed that water drains into the creek, said Todd Gregory, deputy fire staff on the Malheur National Forest. Helicopters have already treated more than 140 acres around Vance Creek south of Canyon City, and will turn their attention next to Rattlesnake Ridge later this week. Mulching is one project identified in the Burned Area Emergency Response plan, or BAER, developed by Malheur Forest staff and

See REHAB/10A



Photo contributed by Malheur National Forest

A helicopter dumps 2,500 pounds of wood mulch over areas burned by the Canyon Creek Complex in order to prevent soil erosion and potential flooding in the Malheur National Forest near John Day.

MILTON-FREEWATER \$15 million with a catch

School district needs \$12.5M in matching funds to build new school

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Milton-Freewater Unified School District was awarded a \$15 million grant from a California foundation to build a new elementary school and sports complex, but there's a catch — the district must raise \$12.5 million in matching funds within one year of the agreement. That's not easy for a district that hasn't passed a bond since 1982, according to a district press release. District Superintendent Rob Clark said in a statement that passing a bond in May will be imperative to realizing the project, especially in a district that hasn't built a school from the ground up since 1922. The district has hired the Wenaha Group of Pendleton and Architects West of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to assist in estimates, community outreach, building plans and finding other third party funding sources and grant programs. Under the terms of the grant, the district would use the money to build a new K-3 elementary school named after Gib Olinger, a former Milton-Freewater city councilor and business owner. The new school would be located at the site of an old cannery across the street from district offices at 1020 S. Mill St.

See GRANT/10A

Committee begins work on new medical marijuana rules

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A committee charged with setting regulations for the marijuana medical industry is set to hold its inaugural meeting Nov. 9. Oregon Health Authority policy and legal staff selected 15 members to serve on the committee and notified applicants earlier this week by email. "This is the very last piece of the regulatory puzzle," said committee member Amy Margolis, attorney with Emerge Law Group and executive director of Oregon Cannabis Association. "Everything else is now regulated: recreational and dispensaries. We know how taxes are going to work, and hanging out there has been this unregulated piece of puzzle: medical growers, processors and edible makers. It's exciting to wrap it up." Setting rules for a statewide system to track

More inside:
Pilot Rock looks to ban marijuana businesses
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HERMISTON

New cultural alliance connects people, resources

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A new nonprofit is working on a two-fold mission to help connect Latino members of the community with helpful resources while also celebrating the diverse culture found in Hermiston. The Columbia Latino Cultural Alliance plans to hold monthly activities that give people the opportunity to share their culture with others. Natalie Contreras, one of the group's founders, said its October activity drew 20 people even though news of the new group is still spreading. "People seem to be interested,"

she said. The activity featured a potluck meal of foods people brought that were unique to the countries or Mexican states where they grew up. The group plans to hold future activities that feature presentations about creating traditional food, art, dance, music, clothing or other aspects of local residents' heritage. "It's all about sharing, trying to keep our culture alive," Contreras said. "We want kids to come and learn about their culture, things they might not be aware of. ... The whole intent is to have people who are willing to

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Christina Sanchez, a medical assistant at Good Shepherd Medical Center, speaks in Spanish to Norma del Rio and her daughter Vicky Franco, 9, at the recent S.E.A. of Health event at the Hermiston Convention Center. The Columbia Latino Cultural Alliance also had a booth at the event.

