



**HONOR A LOCAL VETERAN**  
EVENTS/10A



**SIT. STAY. GOOD DOG.**  
LIFESTYLES/1C



**ROAD ENDS FOR HHS**  
FOOTBALL/1B

# EAST OREGONIAN

NOVEMBER 7-8, 2015

140 Year, No. 17

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

## County scours budget to cover EOTEC check

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners voted to give \$600,000 to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, but where that money will come from remains a question.

Commissioner Bill Elfering said he identified two funds with more than enough: economic development money and an EOTEC reserve fund. But county budget officer Robert Pahl said those funds won't cover the tab.

Pahl said Friday that the county had \$255,646 in its economic development fund and \$275,969 in a reserve fund to cover shortfalls in EOTEC operating costs. Even if both were drained the county would be \$68,385 short.

Elfering contended there was more money available, but the two men have not been able to go over the budget numbers together. Elfering also said he did not know if the county would replenish the reserve fund.

Pahl said the county's economic development fund should receive another \$160,000 from the state later this fiscal year. But EOTEC board members and backers told commissioners Wednesday the project needs money now. Elfering said the urgency comes from a need to finish the event center in time to house the county fair and Hermiston rodeo in 2017. At the meeting Wednesday, Pahl asked commissioners to delay any action until he could get a more accurate idea of funding possibilities. However Elfering, along with Larry Givens, voted to give the \$600,000 anyway. Commissioner George Murdock declined to vote.

The county's contributions match the amount Hermiston City Council approved last week. Elfering said for that

See EOTEC/8A

## First snow falls as elk season opens in the Blues



Hunters Justin Schulman, of Bend, Brent DeWolf of Portland, Preston Osteen, of Terrebonne, and Tim Milldrum, of Salem, stand around their campfire talking elk hunting strategies on Thursday in the Umatilla National Forest southeast of Heppner.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## TO THE HUNT

### Heppner Unit herd larger than expected

By GEORGE PLAIVEN  
East Oregonian

A light dusting of snow fell Thursday morning on the Blue Mountains between Heppner and Ukiah as elk hunters Justin Schulman, Brent DeWolf, Preston Osteen and Tim Milldrum arrived to set up camp.

The four men quickly got a fire started, though the weather wasn't nearly as cold as last year when they hunted in

minus-15 degree temperatures. To make matters worse, none of them managed to find, let alone shoot an elk in 2014 — the only time in four years the group has come away empty-handed from the Heppner Unit.

Saturday marks the start of second season for rifle elk hunting in Eastern Oregon, which runs through the following Sunday, Nov. 15. First season

See ELK/12A



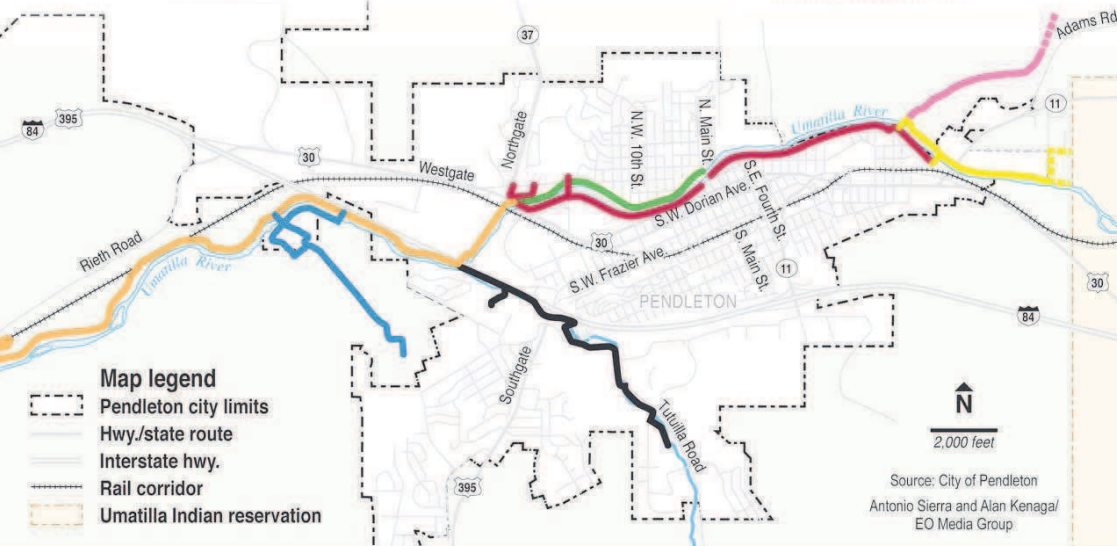
Tim Milldrum puts the blade on his chainsaw while preparing camp for elk hunting Thursday in the Umatilla National Forest southeast of Heppner.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Potential expansions to the Pendleton River Parkway

These are some of the route extensions city officials have proposed adding to the river walk:

- Existing river walk trail
- River walk extension east
- North side of Umatilla River
- Trail along Flood District No. 1 levee
- Sewer easement to Grecian Heights Park
- McKay Creek drainage
- Trail to Adams/Athens



## A river walk forward

### Pendleton cautiously considers parkway extension

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

When the first section of the Pendleton River Parkway was dedicated Nov. 4, 1985, it extended from Roy Raley Park to Southwest 18th Street.

In the decades that followed,

the city of Pendleton extended the paved trail to encompass almost three miles, from Northgate to the west to just short of Southeast Court Place to the east.

Just as the first 30 years have seen some significant additions to the river walk, the next 30 could see expansions beyond

Pendleton's confines.

Pendleton City Planner Evan MacKenzie said the city has considered lengthening the parkway for years and community surveys have shown support for the river walk and pedestrian

See RIVER/12A

## PENDLETON

## New distillery to tap local wheat, mint

Oregon Grain Growers buy old Comrie lot downtown

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

For a town famous for its bar culture, Pendleton doesn't produce all that much alcohol.

Rodney and Kelli Bullington are looking to nudge the town's spirits supply.

The Bullingtons recently purchased the old Comrie auto dealership at 511 S.E. Court Ave., which they plan to turn into a micro-distillery called Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery.

**"Distilling and agriculture go hand-in-hand."**

— Rodney Bullington, Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery

Rodney Bullington said Oregon Grain Growers will be the umbrella brand for a variety of liquor labels, which will be made with grain from local farmers.

Bullington knows a thing or two about grain, having worked as the seed operation director at Pendleton Grains

See DISTILLERY/12A



7 29467 10002 2