





## REGONIAN AST

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2015

140 Year, No. 22

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50



Pastor Mark and Karen Woolbright brace themselves as the youth of Helix Community Church take turns spraying them with whipping cream and layering that with cereal. The "Plaster the Pastor" event was a reward for finishing a certain number of days of scripture study. The Woolbrights are part of a ministry that revives country churches that are struggling.

## Mission of salvation

Helix pastor and wife face dwindling church attendance head on

By KATHY ANEY East Oregonian

Pastor Mark Woolbright grins when he thinks back to a career aptitude test he took in high school. When the teen opened the results, he looked dumbfounded at the suggested profession.

"I was sitting in class with some of my drinking buddies and they asked what I'd gotten," Woolbright said. "I couldn't wad it up quick enough."

Being a pastor was not yet on Woolbright's radar. Instead he worked for 37 years as a farmer with a Sauvie Island agricultural operation that produced peaches, berries, pumpkins and other crops. He attended church, but admits "I warmed a pew.

Then something inside him changed. "I was convicted to do more," Woolbright said. "I told God whatever you want me to do, I'm going to do it.

God doesn't generally ignore such promises, he said, grinning again, and opportunities to learn and lead seemed

"Before Mark and Karen came, we were not sure we were going to be able to keep the doors open."

- Sharilyn Newtson,

church member

to flow his way. Eventually, he and his wife Karen both attended a Bible college and prepared to enter the ministry.

Three hundred miles east, Helix Community Church was fading away. The tiny church struggled to find a pastor and the congregation was dwindling. Member Sharilyn Newtson and others worried. She said they requested prayer from an organization called Village Missions, which specializes in reviving country churches that are the only one left in town. Instead of letting these churches disappear, the

See CHURCH/12A

### **Faith among Oregon adults**

Belief in God	2007	2014
Absolutely certain	63 %	<b>57</b> %
Fairly certain	19%	19%
Not at all certain	5%	<b>7</b> %
Don't know	4%	4%
Do not believe	9%	13%
Attendance at services	2007	2014
Once a week	32%	29%
Few times a year	<b>27</b> %	33%
Seldom/never	40%	<b>37</b> %
Don't know	1%	<b>1</b> %
Frequency of prayer	2007	2014
At least daily	48%	45%
Weekly	18%	<b>14</b> %
Monthly	6%	<b>7</b> %
Seldom/never	27%	33%
Don't know	<b>1</b> %	<1%

Source: Pew Research Cente

#### **IRRIGON**

## Library a literary labor of love

Dream becomes reality after 17 years

> By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

Barb Huwe could barely contain her excitement Friday as she greeted friends, neighbors and city officials during the grand opening of the new Irrigon Public Library.

'We finally did it," Huwe said with a wide, friendly grin.

It was Huwe who formed the Friends of the Irrigon Library 17 years ago; who went door to door collecting signatures to join the Oregon Trail Library District; who served 13 years on the OTLD Board of Directors seeing the project through to fruition.
So it only made sense Huwe

would be asked to cut the ribbon in front of the crowd gathered around the library entrance.

'This is what we were after,"



Mrs. Eastern Oregon, Lori McNeil of Baker, reads the book "Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf" to a group of children Friday during the opening ceremony of the Irrigon Public Library

Huwe said. "Now we just have to use it and enjoy it."

Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen, Irrigon's library has officially Mrs. Eastern Oregon Lori McNeil been open since March, but finally got around to celebrating Friday

See LIBRARY/12A

afternoon with visits from State

# **PARIS UNDER FIRE**

### 120 dead in worst violence in 'City of Light' since WWII

By LORI HINNANT and GREG KELLER Associated Press

PARIS — A series of attacks targeting young concert-goers, soccer fans and Parisians enjoying a Friday night out at popular nightspots killed at least 120 people in the deadliest violence to strike France since World War II. President Francois Hollande condemned it as terrorism and pledged that France would stand firm against its foes.

The worst carnage was at a concert hall hosting an American rock band, where scores of people were held hostage and attackers ended the standoff by detonating explosive belts. Police who stormed the building encountered a bloody scene of horror inside.

Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins said as many as five attackers were killed, though it was not clear how many there were altogether and how many, if any, were still at large. Other officials said seven attackers had been killed and that police were searching for other possible accomplices.

Authorities said the death toll could exceed 120 for at least six sites, including the national stadium and a tight circle of

popular nightspots.

Hollande declared a state of emergency and announced that he was closing the country's borders, although officials later said they were just re-imposing border checks that had been removed after Europe created its free-travel zone in the 1980s.

Metro lines shut down and streets emptied on the mild fall evening as fear spread through the city, still aching from the horrors of the Charlie Hebdo attack just 10 months ago.

The attack unfolded with two suicide bombings and an explosion outside the national stadium during a soccer match

See PARIS/10A

## UP plans to hike oil shipments through Gorge

By HILLARY BORRUD

SALEM — Union Pacific Railroad plans to increase shipments of oil from North Dakota's Bakken formation through the Columbia River Gorge, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The notice, which ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division Administrator Hal Gard said the state received on Thursday, means the railway could increase shipments through the Gorge by as much as 3 million gallons or more per month.

Gard told the Oregon Transportation Commission during a briefing session Thursday that the state had just received notice that morning that Union Pacific planned to haul up to three train loads of Bakken oil per month through the corridor. Under a 2014 order by the U.S. Department of Transportation, railways must notify state emergency officials of estimated weekly Bakken oil-by-rail shipments that are 1 million gallons or larger, the equivalent of approximately 35 tank cars. Railways only file the reports when the volume increases

See OIL/12A

