

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015

140th Year, No. 49 WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

New laws on slate for 2016

Most go into effect on Jan. 1, so be ready

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

As Oregonians prepare to ring in 2016, they're also preparing for a slate of new laws that go into effect on Jan. 1.

Here's a look at how they will affect the lives of Oregonians:

Workplace: Some of the most notable laws are part of the "fair shot" package passed by the legislature this summer in an effort to expand protections and opportunities for workers.

Every business with more than 10 employees will be required to provide sick leave for their workers in 2016 — even those who are part-time or paid by the hour. Sick leave policies can still vary by employer, but each will be required to provide at least one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours a year.

Oregon is also "banning the box" in 2016, making it illegal for employers to ask on a job application whether an applicant has a criminal history. They can still ask during an interview, but the idea is to prevent blanket discrimination of ex-offenders by allowing them to get a foot in the door.

Employers will no longer be allowed to forbid workers to inquire about their co-workers' wages, or disclose their own salaries. And employers will be barred from requiring their employees create personal social media accounts, provide the passwords to their accounts or promote the company on their personal profiles.

Domestic workers like nannies and housekeepers will be extended several new protections in 2016, including mandatory breaks, paid vacation time and recourse against harassment.

Law enforcement: The legislature also worked to provide increased protections to crime victims.

The statute of limitations on rape will double in 2016, allowing prosecution up to 12 years after the crime occurred instead of six. If the crime happened to a minor, the victim has until age 30 to come forward.

Secretly filming someone in a place of "presumed privacy" — including bathrooms and locker rooms — will be upgraded from a misdemeanor to a felony in 2016. That law complements a

See **LAWS/8A**

Staying safe at school



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A new security box at the entryway to Pendleton High School is one of the new security measures taken by the Pendleton School District to increase security at the school.

Survey will scrutinize security concerns

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

InterMountain Education Service District superintendent Mark Mulvihill isn't shouting from a rooftop about school security, but he isn't mincing words either.

Following the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg Oct. 1, something changed for Mulvihill, making him wonder whether he was doing everything he could to protect the 19 school districts and one charter school the IMESD serves.

It also struck an emotional chord.

"If it was (my sons) Patrick, Riley or Nick, I would be speaking differently," he said. "I would want something done and done now."

Instead, Mulvihill has the option of using more diplomatic terms to spearhead an effort to increase the IMESD's security services.

From January to March, Mulvihill and Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts will work together to "solidify the scope of work" for a security assessment that would be available to schools within the IMESD.

He used to share the opinion that many other people from Eastern Oregon had — he didn't want schools to look like "fortresses."

Schools outside metro areas were supposed to reflect rural values: open, inviting and devoid of the heavy fortifications required in urban districts.

But the victims left in the wake of



Mulvihill



Roberts



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A new security fences runs along the exterior of Pendleton High School.

26-year-old Chris Harper-Mercer's attack, which killed nine and injured nine more, changed Mulvihill's mind.

In Roseburg, Mulvihill saw a community similar to Pendleton, a mid-sized rural city with a community college.

Another catalyst was Mulvihill's surprise with how quickly conversation turned away from Umpqua, almost as if the events from Roseburg were a normal occurrence.

While mass shootings, defined by the FBI as four or more people killed in a single incident committed by a single person, have received national scrutiny, they are not terribly common to Oregon. According to a database compiled by Mother Jones, only two out of the 73 mass shootings that have occurred in the U.S. since 1982 took place in the Beaver State.

See **SCHOOL/8A**

"If it was (my sons) Patrick, Riley or Nick, I would be speaking differently. I would want something done and done now."

— **Mark Mulvihill**, InterMountain Education Service District superintendent

Umatilla County favors southern B2H route

Senators ask for extension to comment period

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Upon further review, the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners would rather see the proposed Boardman to Hemingway transmission line built farther south, as opposed to paralleling Interstate 84.

The board sent a memo in October to the Bureau of Land Management supporting the "Umatilla South" alignment that commissioners say would limit most impacts to farm-

land and wildlife.

Boardman to Hemingway is a 500-kilovolt, 300-mile transmission project that, if permitted, would allow Idaho Power to swap electricity between southern Idaho and the Columbia Basin during peak demand. Power lines would run from a substation at Boardman to Melba, Idaho, crossing five Eastern Oregon counties.

Routing the line has become a source of contention in the area due to interference with local farms. A number of route variations have

been studied in the BLM's draft Environmental Impact Statement released in December 2014.

Earlier this year, Umatilla County submitted comments written by Commissioner George Murdock noting that most residents opposed the project. But, Murdock added, if the project must be built in Umatilla County, lines should follow an existing corridor along I-84.

Five months later, on Oct. 6, the board supported a new alternative — Umatilla South — that places the line south of the interstate away from farms near McKay Creek. Commissioner Larry Givens said the route also appears to avoid

significant amounts of Washington ground squirrel habitat.

"Our concern and our obligation is to do what's best for Umatilla County," Givens said. "The I-84 route impacts far more irrigated farmland and residences than Umatilla South does."

The BLM recently made I-84 its preliminary, environmentally preferred alternative for the line running from Boardman to just west of Pendleton. From there, it would dogleg south to avoid the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The BLM is not bound by the

See **B2H/8A**

