

EOTEC: Needs \$2M by March 1

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do it, neither could EOTEC. But Oregon courts, he said, have interpreted the restriction to mean different things, and a full faith and credit pledge from the county might be the solution. Full faith and credit is one entity’s unconditional guarantee to back another entity’s debt. The county has done this before, Olsen said, to create the Stafford Hansell Government Center, also in Hermiston. EOTEC is \$2 million short of the \$16 million it needs by March 1 to start construction on the final elements of the first phase of the project. The money would pay for the following in this order: building a 210-foot-by-74-foot barn for \$625,000; 2,000 permanent seats for rodeo for \$600,000; all pens, panels and stalls for \$700,000; and water and electric hook-ups in exhibitor extended stay area for \$75,000. EOTEC has asked Banner Bank for a loan, Olsen said, and the bank

wants some kind of security — in this case, the land of the EOTEC site. And the U.S. Department of Agriculture could provide \$325,000 to the project. Olsen said the county is waiting for a letter this week from the federal agency to explain how it would do that. “Once we have that we can act on it,” he said. The possibility of the deal depends on what the financial institutions are looking for, Olsen said, and then how the county would structure a transaction to meet the law. Olsen said he expected to know Tuesday if the county commissioners will hold the discussion and vote at their public meeting Wednesday that starts at 9 a.m. at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. Without the information from the USDA, he said, the vote would have to wait. Meanwhile, construction on the event center is well underway on the 55 acre property, and is expected to be complete and occupied in March.

SNOW: Warmer, drier conditions expected over next three months

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remains in the forecast for Pendleton through Tuesday night before yielding to patchy and freezing fog through the rest of the week. The national Climate Prediction Center is calling for warmer and drier conditions over the next three months as a strong El Niño begins to peak. El Niño typically produces mild winters for Oregon, though the precipitation forecast is less certain, according to a seasonal climate forecast by the Oregon Department

of Agriculture and Department of Forestry. Storms in January should split as they come ashore in Oregon, weakening as they track either north or south. G.K. Hepburn, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton, said there’s no guarantee one way or another how the season will shape up. Other than light flurries, he said there shouldn’t be much more accumulation in town before the new year.

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NEIGHBOR: Loves the dialed-down pace of small-town life

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projects using the skills she gained while earning her degree in urban planning. She would assist in the city’s transportation plan update and do community outreach for an Energy Trust of Oregon/city project aimed at improving energy efficiencies. Her boss, Public Works Director Bob Patterson, sings Meisenholder’s praises. “She takes a lot of notes,” Patterson said. “She’s very quiet and unassuming, but a bundle of energy when she gets going. She’s a real go-getter.” Meisenholder describes herself as a workaholic. She graduated college in three years despite holding down multiple part-time jobs. A barista for four years, she mastered the art of latte art, fashioning leaves, hearts and swans from foam. Meisenholder says she loves the dialed-down pace of small-town life and enjoys seeing acquaintances

wherever she goes. You might bump into her at Great Pacific, which she describes as “my second home,” sipping a pale ale and tapping keys on her laptop as she surfs the web for the latest world news. The coffee and wine bar is kitty-corner from the St. George where she lives with a tuxedo cat named Sid. During other down time, she enjoys designing and reading. Right now, she’s deep into “Norwegian Wood,” by Haruki Murakami. Meisenholder once had career aspirations as an architect, but veered into urban planning after she started college. Maybe, she said, it was all that SimCity she played as a kid. As far as plans for after she completes her time in Pendleton, she is leaving her options open. “The world’s my oyster,” she said.

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White officer won’t face charges in death of black Ohio boy

CLEVELAND (AP) — A grand jury on Monday declined to indict a white rookie police officer in the killing of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black boy who was shot while playing with what turned out to be a pellet gun. In explaining the decision, Cuyahoga County prosecutor Tim McGinty said it was “indisputable” that the boy was drawing the pistol from his waistband when he was gunned down. McGinty said Tamir was trying to either hand the weapon over to police or show them it wasn’t real, but the officer and his partner had no way of knowing that. “Simply put, given this perfect storm of human error, mistakes and miscommunications by

all involved that day, the evidence did not indicate criminal conduct by police,” McGinty said. He said patrolman Timothy Loehmann was justified in opening fire: “He had reason to fear for his life.” Tamir’s family condemned the decision but echoed the prosecutor in urging those who are disappointed to express themselves “peacefully and democratically.” Barricades were set up outside the county courthouse in Cleveland in case of protests, and about two dozen people gathered in the cold rain at the recreation center where Tamir was shot, some holding signs with photos of the boy and others killed by police in the U.S.

GRAND JURY: ‘Recording testimony reduces prosecutorial overreach and abuse’

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and voting. In case of indictment, the transcript would be released to the district attorney and defense counsel. If there were no indictment, the transcript would not be released except when the accused was a public servant such as a police officer. High-profile cases of police officer-involved shootings in which grand juries declined to indict officers have fueled national interest in adding transparency to the grand jury process. But well before that debate was sparked, critics say, Oregon had multiple examples of abuse of the grand jury system. Proponents of Prozanski’s bill have argued that electronic recording would have served as a deterrent to abuse in those cases. “One of the reasons is to impress upon the witness that this is on the record, this is important,” Meyer said. “It has to be accurate because important decisions will be made based on what you say. It also makes viable the threat of perjury should someone testify contrary to the truth. It has been recognized that recording testimony reduces prosecutorial overreach and abuse.” One of the most scandalous examples of prosecutorial abuse came out of Clatsop County in 1993. Then-Clatsop County District Attorney Julie Ann Leonhardt won grand jury indictments against two Astoria police officers. One of the officers, Cpl. Tim Thurber, had given Leonhardt’s ex-convict boyfriend a traffic ticket earlier that year, according to a Oregon Supreme Court ruling and media reports at the time. Leonhardt accused

Thurber and Sgt. Bill Stowell of trying to sell drugs through an informant with the Drug Enforcement Administration and failing to turn over all confiscated contraband. While the informant never testified in front of the grand jury, Leonhardt falsified the indictment to suggest he had. Charges against the officer were ultimately dismissed after other members of the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office acknowledged in court the indictment was poorly founded. Leonhardt was convicted of four counts of first-degree forgery and two misdemeanor counts of tampering with public records for falsifying the indictment. In 1994, she was disbarred. Josh Marquis, who replaced the disgraced prosecutor as Clatsop County district attorney and still is in office, said he thinks Oregon’s grand jury procedures work well, but the public rarely hears about the system’s successes. “Those cases are usually ones that never see the light of day like a plane landing safely; nobody ever hears about,” Marquis said. “You only report on planes where the landing gear malfunctions.” He opposes Prozanski’s proposal and believes it will cost millions of dollars to implement because more staff will need to be hired to record testimony. “The proposal as written essentially is one of the criminal defense bar,” Marquis said. “What they are proposing is recording all grand jury proceedings on the theory this would make the process transparent. The problem is grand juries are inherently secret to both protect people under investigation who may not be guilty

and to protect child abuse and rape victims.” The Oregon Association of District Attorneys headed up opposition to the legislation last session. Prozanski said he has been meeting with association members, as well as criminal defenders, to try to address their concerns. In a memo to the Senate judiciary committee in March, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill estimated the requirement would cost Multnomah County about \$2 million a year in recording staffing, transcription service, staff time used to distribute transcripts and audio recordings and to review cases, administrative overhead and maintenance and technical support. Grand juries, made up of seven jurors, are the most common method used to indict suspects on felony charges in Oregon. Dean Gushwa, Pendleton defense attorney and former Umatilla County district attorney, contended the cost could be minimal but the payoffs significant. Grand jurors in Oregon can take notes, he said, but usually they jot down the names of witnesses but not what anyone says. A digital recorder would suffice to capture testimony from witnesses, he said, and district attorneys could keep the recordings sealed, just as they do notes from grand juries. And if there was a reason to release the recordings, then a judge would decide. “I don’t see it’s going to be a drain on the county,” he said. Gushwa said he has a client now that would benefit from that kind of system. The client is facing criminal accusations across a span of four years, Gushwa said,

but nothing in police reports indicates just what the person did or when. A recording or transcript of the grand jury proceedings could provide those crucial details, he said. Gushwa also said grand jury deliberations and voting “should be sacrosanct” and not subject to recording. Meyer, of the defense attorneys association, said Oregon’s heavy reliance on grand juries to charge people is more of a reason to record proceedings. But Marquis said the system is fairer than in other states, such as California, because jurors are selected at random, and the prosecutor has no authority to weed out the selections. “You are stuck with the seven people pulled out of the batch,” Marquis said. “In a community of my size it may include people who have been writing letters that I need to be thrown out of office, but that’s a good thing because it is a general slice of the community.” During the proceedings, grand jurors hear only from the prosecutor and witnesses. There generally is no record of the testimony, except if jurors decide to take handwritten notes. If the jurors agree to an indictment, the names of the witnesses also must be included on the indictment document. Marquis said even in the Leonhardt case, the system worked: She was discovered, charged, disbarred and removed from office. “We hold our prosecutors politically responsible,” he said. “They get recalled if they abuse that power. These cases aren’t private; they’re tried in public.”

East Oregonian reporter Phil Wright contributed to this story.

BRIEFLY

South Korea, Japan reach landmark deal on WWII sex slaves

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An apology from Japan’s prime minister and a pledge of more than \$8 million sealed a breakthrough deal Monday in a decades-long impasse with South Korea over Korean women forced into Japanese military-run brothels during World War II. The accord, which aims to resolve the emotional core of South Korea’s grievances with its former colonial overlord, could begin to reverse decades of animosity and mistrust between the two thriving democracies, trade partners and staunch U.S. allies. It represents a shift for Tokyo’s conservative government and a new willingness to compromise by previously wary Seoul. A statement by both countries’ foreign ministers said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “expresses anew his most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women,” the euphemistic name given the women. Historians say tens of thousands of women from around Asia, many of them Korean, were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers. It wasn’t immediately clear if Abe would be issuing a separate written statement or if it would be directly delivered to the 46 surviving former Korean sex slaves, now in their 80s and 90s.

Cruz taps evangelicals, tea partiers to fuel campaign

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — When Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz first ran for U.S. Senate in Texas, the only thing lower than his name recognition was the expectation that he’d win. Then the state solicitor general, Cruz amassed a coalition anchored by tea party conservatives and evangelicals on his way to defeating a sitting lieutenant governor who entered the primary with the financial and organizational muscle of the GOP establishment. Now Cruz is trying to take the model nationwide, even as some of his White House rivals, especially Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, compete for the same voters in a scrambled GOP race.

Relatives of drowned Syrian boy land in Canada

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Relatives of a Syrian boy whose lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach, sparking worldwide concern for the refugee crisis, have landed in Canada. Mohammed Kurdi, his wife and their five children arrived in Canada as refugees on Monday, sponsored by Mohammed’s sister Tima Kurdi, who wiped away tears as she greeted her relatives at Vancouver airport’s arrival gates. Speaking through his sister, who translated from Arabic, Mohammed Kurdi thanked Canadians and the government for making his dream come true. “I’m happy! Very happy!” he said in English to a crowd of reporters gathered around the family.



Kilmister Motorhead frontman, ‘Lemmy’ Kilmister dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ian “Lemmy” Kilmister, the Motorhead frontman whose outsized persona made him a hero for generations of hard-rockers and metal-heads, has died. He was 70. Agent Andrew Goodfriend tells The Associated Press that Kilmister died on Monday in Los Angeles after a brief battle with aggressive cancer. Known simply as “Lemmy” to most, he was as famous for his mustache, mutton chops and the mole on his face as he was for his music. But he was deeply respected and revered as a rock master and innovator, from his time with the seminal psychedelic band Hawkwind in the early 1970s to his four decades in Motorhead, best known for their 1980 anthem “Ace of Spades.” The band announced Kilmister’s death on its Facebook page, describing him and “our mighty, noble friend” and urging fans to “...play Motorhead loud, play Hawkwind loud, play Lemmy’s music LOUD. Have a drink or few. Share stories. Celebrate the LIFE this lovely, wonderful man celebrated so vibrantly himself. HE WOULD WANT EXACTLY THAT.”

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