



**Protest
against
protesters**
NORTHWEST/2A



**VIKINGS
SHOCK
TIGERS**
SPORTS/1B

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

140th Year, No. 68

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

City will partner on Hill Meat upgrades

Improvements planned for water, roads near airport

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The city of Pendleton will seek out state grants to help make \$670,000 in improvements to the infrastructure surrounding Hill Meat Co.

Hill Meat is in the midst of a processing plant expansion that could result in as many as 30 additional jobs, but its water supply is insufficient to complete the project.

The Pendleton City Council unanimously voted to enter an agreement with Hill Meat to help it secure grant funding, in exchange for promised job growth. The council also formally approved applications for two separate state grants.

City staff estimate it would cost \$125,000 to make the proper improvements. The city also wants to install an electrical service upgrade and a backup generator at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport industrial park where Hill Meat's facility is located, bringing the total cost to \$170,000.

The state special public works fund could cover 85 percent of the cost, meaning the city would only have to spend \$25,500 to cover the rest of the project.

The city's share of the grant would come out of the water fund, which has \$1.5 million budgeted for water line expansion at the airport.

If Hill Meat fails to create 30 jobs, it will have to pay back the city the difference, at rate of \$5,000 per job.

The city council didn't stop at Hill Meat's water system, also approving a grant application to improve the street surrounding the facility.

Under the parameters of a grant from the state's immediate opportunity fund, both the city and the state would kick in 50 percent of the \$500,000 cost of road improvements.

If the grant is approved, the city will pay by drawing from the \$880,000 it has left from an Oregon Department

See **HILL MEAT/8A**

County backs \$1.5M EOTEC loan

More inside

Commissioners join call to end Malheur refuge occupation, endorse fire district merger in Hermiston. **Page 3A**

Committee has already raised \$450,000

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Commission has agreed to back a \$1.5 million loan to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center with full faith and credit, provided the city of

Hermiston is willing to make the same guarantee.

The EOTEC fundraising committee is attempting to raise an extra \$2 million for construction of the new fair and rodeo grounds outside of Hermiston by March 1. For donors who want to break up

large contributions over two to five years, the committee plans to access the full sum upfront by taking out a loan for the pledged amount and then using those pledged contributions to pay back the loan.

Committee member Nate Rivera told the commission that the Hermiston School

District had used a similar tactic to raise money for Kennison Field, and as of year four no donors had defaulted on their promised contribution.

He said so far the EOTEC committee had raised about \$450,000 and expected to be able to raise more once the

See **EOTEC/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Fishing fanatic

A man fishes for steelhead in a swollen Umatilla River on Tuesday west of Rieth. River levels won't be dropping anytime soon with rain in the forecast through the weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

MYTHBUSTERS IN BOARDMAN



Photo contributed by Lyndon Jones

MythBusters imploded an oil tanker as part of an experiment filmed at the Port of Morrow in Boardman. The episode aired Jan. 16 on Discovery. **BELOW:** MythBusters hosts Jamie Hyneman, left, and Adam Savage, right, pose with Pacific Ethanol employee David Richards during filming in July 2015 at the Port of Morrow.

Myth confirmed, oil tanker crushed

MythBusters episode filmed at Port of Morrow, airs on Discovery Channel

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Six months after the fact, the myth has been confirmed.

MythBusters was, indeed, in Eastern Oregon last year. And the result was one of the show's biggest experiments yet.

Hosts Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman spent four days in July at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, testing whether a railroad tanker can actually implode if it's filled with steam. The episode aired Saturday, Jan. 16 on the Discovery Channel.

The story goes that engineers



were steam cleaning a freight train tank car when it started to rain. They sealed the car and went home for the day, but as the rain cooled the tanker, it caused the steam inside to condense and contract — creating

a vacuum that crushed the massive steel car.

Producers for the show got in touch with AllTranstek, the largest commercial railroad management

See **MYTHBUSTERS/8A**

Hill headed for Croatia, teaching

BMCC's 'Mr. Business' takes acumen across sea

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Art Hill knows a thing or two about navigating tricky economic climates.

Hill started as director of a Small Business Development Center only months before terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in 2001 and the economy tanked shortly thereafter. From his office at



Art Hill

Blue Mountain Community College, he advised a stream of business owners who suddenly found themselves having to refinance at onerous terms, losing their lines of credit and dealing with other fiscal hurdles.

"It was quite a time to take over business advising," Hill said, shaking his head. "After the go-go late '90s, it was quite a shock to go through four years of recession and 10 years of this one. It's been a challenging 14-and-a-half years."

But Hill likes a challenge. He and his team helped Eastern Oregon entrepreneurs get a

See **HILL/8A**

