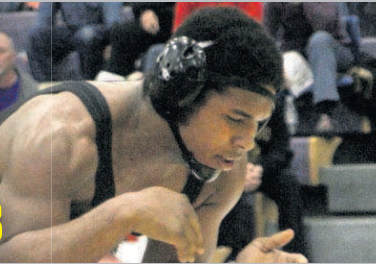


**FESTIVALS  
WILL RETURN  
IN 2016**  
PENDLETON/3A



**COLBRAY  
RANKED  
NO. 1 IN  
NATION** 1B



**2015 was  
hottest year  
on record**  
WORLD/7A

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016

140th Year, No. 69

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Molly J. Smith/Statesman-Journal via AP  
**Gov. Brown outlines her 2016 policy agenda at a press conference at the State Capitol in Salem, Wednesday.**

## Brown says feds must end refuge occupation

Governor lays out full agenda for 2016 as short session nears

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Besides occupying the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Harney County, armed protesters now occupy a place on Gov. Kate Brown's list of 2016 policy priorities.

During Brown's unveiling of her agenda Wednesday, the governor said that one of her priorities is to pass a funding package to offset expenses associated with responding to the occupation. The governor said her administration would "scour the budget to make sure that we have the resources at the state level to subsidize the cost for Harney County."

The cost of responding to the occupation, which started Jan. 2, is running about \$100,000 per week, Brown said.

The state would later ask the federal government to reimburse the state for those costs, she said.

Ammon Bundy and his armed followers seized the remote refuge Jan. 2 in a protest against federal public lands policies.

"The situation is absolutely intolerable," Brown said. "The very fabric of this community is being ripped apart. The residents of Harney County have been overlooked and underserved by federal officials' response thus far."

Brown said she has expressed her concerns to federal officials "at the highest levels of our government, the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House."

"Federal authorities must act quickly to end the occupation and hold all of the wrongdoers accountable," she said. "The spectacle of lawlessness must end. Until Harney County is free of it I will not stop insisting federal officials enforce the law."

Some of Brown's other 2016 priorities were no surprise. She wants the Legislature to enact her plan to boost minimum wage to \$15.52 in the Portland area and \$13.50 in the rest of the state by 2022. The plan is intended to thwart two ballot measures that would raise minimum wage in three years

See **BROWN/8A**

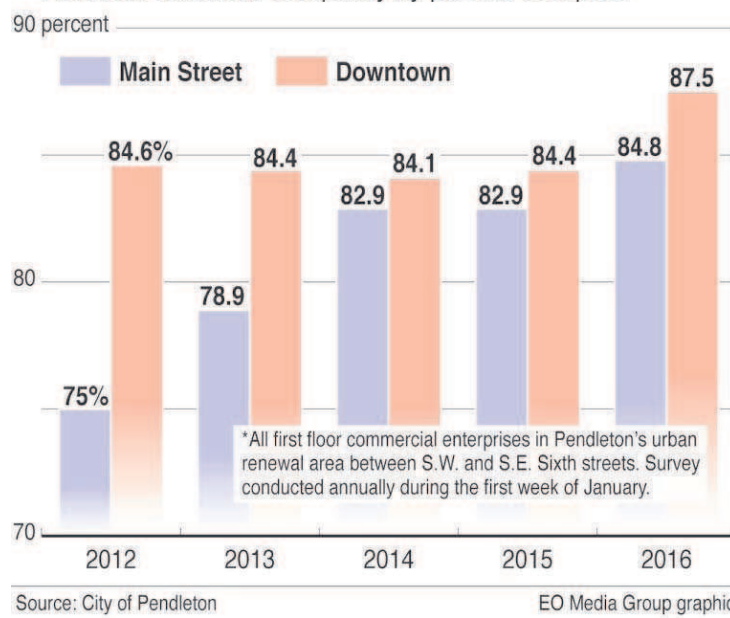


Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**Madeleine Winn, left, and Lindsey Markgraf talk while eating lunch Wednesday at the Pendleton Coffee Bean & Bistro on Main Street in Pendleton.**

## Downtown on the rebound

### Downtown Pendleton occupancy\*

First floor storefront occupancy by percent occupied.



### PDC reports high occupancy rates in Pendleton downtown

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

Rural Oregon has taken longer than the Willamette Valley to recover from the recession, but local entrepreneurs are taking a chance on downtown Pendleton.

The Pendleton Development Commission recently released its annual survey, which showed a 10 percent increase in Main Street occupancy in the last five years. Storefronts in the downtown area as a whole were filled at an 88 percent rate, also a five-year high.

In a press release, city coun-

#### More inside

**Sushi restaurant to open in town within two months**  
Page 8A

cilor and commission chairman Chuck Wood directly attributed the growth to the grant and loan programs offered by the commission.

"We see this as a steady, long-term process," he said in a statement. "The programs of the Pendleton Development Commission that operate under the urban renewal plan have

See **PENDLETON/8A**

## HERMISTON

### School district unveils emergency crisis app

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

In the event of an emergency, community members will have more information from Hermiston School District than ever before.

The CrisisManager smartphone application provides everything from push notifi-

cations to maps of emergency routes for fire drills. Mike Kay, director of operations for HSD, said three different levels of security clearance should allow parents, staff and emergency responders to receive the information they need in a crisis without compromising any of the district's security measures.

"It's just another step to provide as much accurate information as quickly as possible," he said.

For parents and students, information contained in the app includes a database of contact information, emergency procedures, maps of

See **APP/8A**

## Coal curtailed

Exporter remains optimistic despite decrease in demand, supply obstacles

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
East Oregonian

The company behind a proposed coal export terminal in Boardman is not happy about the government's freeze on mining new coal on federal land, but remains optimistic about the project moving forward.

Specifically, Lighthouse Resources says the moratorium doesn't affect Asian demand for coal. Other researchers, however, point to a recent downturn in China as a sign of things to come.

On Jan. 15, the U.S. Depart-

ment of the Interior announced a sweeping review of its coal leasing program that could take up to three years to complete. Lighthouse Resources — formerly Ambre Energy North America — owns an interest in two coal mines in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming.

In a statement Tuesday, the company said it is still reviewing how the moratorium will affect pending applications to mine new coal at both the Black Butte and Decker mines. Lighthouse

See **COAL/8A**



EO file photo  
**The Boardman Coal Plant will stop generating electricity with coal in 2020.**

