

**STEWART
A SELFLESS
LEADER**
BASKETBALL/1B



**CONVERTER
STATION GETS
UPGRADE**
REGION/3A

**Kick in the
pants to the
Bundy Bunch**
OPINION/4A



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016

140th Year, No. 70

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- James Dean Kindle & The Eastern Oregon Playboys
- AARP Smart Driver classes Friday, Saturday
- Charity Bingo for Relay for Life at Prodigal Son

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
53/38	48/35	46/32

HERMISTON Sheriff's office investigating serious assault

East Oregonian

A serious assault Wednesday in Hermiston had the attention of law enforcement for most of Thursday. Even still, little information on the incident was available by press time.

Umatilla County Under-sheriff Jim Littlefield said the assault was first reported by Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston after a patient was brought to the hospital. But Littlefield said few other details were known.

According to sources, at least one man was hospitalized with severe, life-threatening injuries.

Littlefield and several other deputies were at the former Parkins Garage Door Company building at 81252 Highway 395 on Thursday morning, where the assault allegedly took place. The parking lot was roped off with police caution tape and Littlefield said officers were waiting for an affidavit to enter the building.

Later in the afternoon an Oregon State Police forensics unit arrived and examined the property and the building assisted by Umatilla County deputies. At one point a ladder truck from Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services was brought in and a deputy used it to survey the scene from above.

Authorities remained at the scene into the night, but Sheriff Terry Rowan said his office didn't have much information to release at the time.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and Hermiston Police continue to investigate.



Pendleton High School Spanish teacher Kathryn Youngman goes over some Spanish phrases with her fourth year students on Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

That bully cancer

Teacher takes on third battle as students work to get her on 'Ellen'

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Kathryn Youngman treats her third bout with cancer as she would a mean playground bully who regularly shoves her to the ground and steals her lunch money.

Those who know the Pendleton High School Spanish teacher say Youngman concedes no power to the bully. She deals with the tyrant when she must and quickly switches her focus to things that matter more: her family, her students and her faith.

On a recent day, the veteran teacher worked her Pendleton High School classroom with the precise timing of a Vegas comedian or Fortune 500 CEO. She wandered among the students firing questions and instructions.

"Turn to your partner and ask, 'Are you hungry?'" Señora Youngman directed. "Answer in a complete sentence."

The volume in the room rose and fell. Youngman plunged back into the fast-paced dialogue with her students. They dared not daydream, lest they be left in their teacher's wake. Their eyes followed the constantly moving Youngman with the concentration of a tennis crowd watching the ball at



Teacher Kathryn Youngman greets junior Cade Anderson before the start of her advisory period Wednesday at Pendleton High School.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Wimbledon.

Though her style is fast and furious, her students say she is kind and inspirational. If someone falls behind or fails a test, Youngman spends time encouraging and coaching the student. She stands at the doorway before each class greeting pupils as they enter and taking the effort to know them personally. She posts a fresh motivational quote in the classroom each day.

Her students know all about the

cancer. They realize Youngman's strawberry blonde hair with wispy bangs is a wig that covers a head bare from multiple rounds of chemo. Her older students traveled down this road with their teacher two years ago when a tumor was discovered in her sinuses. This time, it popped up as breast cancer.

When Youngman learned she would face yet another cancer battle,

See CANCER/12A

"I don't want to die. I'm not ready to die. But if I have to die, I hope to accept it graciously. I know I'm going to a better place. I will leave life with no regrets."

— Kathryn Youngman, Pendleton High School Spanish teacher



EO Media Group file photo

Cattle graze in this file photo. Ranchers and legal experts worry that withholding government grazing fees could have a long-term impact on ranches.

Grazing fee protest may have long-term impact

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

Hamey County rancher Travis Williams says he's "riding the fence" on a recent anti-government proposal to stop paying fees for grazing on public lands.

Armed protesters occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters in Southeast Oregon have urged local ranchers to tear up their grazing contracts with federal agencies to challenge the government's control over the area.

Williams said he doesn't support the protesters' actions, such as removing fences at the refuge, but thinks the grazing fee proposal may be a legitimate form of protest.

"If there's enough people involved, I think it would work," he said.

On the other hand, Williams is concerned about how violating grazing contracts with

More inside

Leader of armed group at wildlife refuge is speaking with FBI
Page 2A

the federal government would affect his two sons and daughter, who hope to run the family ranch someday.

"My actions right now are going to play over to their future," he said.

The consequences of using federal grazing allotments without paying the required fees can be serious and long-lasting, said Scott Homgren, an attorney with the Western Resources Legal Center who has represented ranchers in grazing lawsuits.

While the penalties would not be criminal, serious breaches of grazing contracts may

See GRAZING/12A

UEC tabs Echenrode as new GM

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

The Umatilla Electric Cooperative has found a new general manager from within its own ranks.

Engineering Manager Robert Echenrode will be promoted to the co-op's top job beginning March 8. Echenrode takes over for Steve Eldrige, who announced his retirement last spring.



Echenrode

"It was an honor to be considered to follow such a distinguished group of leaders," Echenrode said in an announcement Thursday. "I want to help build on the

See UEC/12A

Ed board passes exception to Indian mascot ban

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Board of Education approved a compromise Thursday that makes an exception to its strict ban on American Indian mascots.

The rule allows Oregon's 15 school districts with Indian mascots to keep the mascot if the district obtains approval from one of the state's nine federally recognized tribes.

A previous proposal put out for a public hearing in December also would have required the mascot to include the name of one of the state's federally recognized tribes, which would have limited the exception to only three of the 15 districts.

The ban, enacted in 2012, is due to take effect July 1, 2017. Fifteen school districts are affected, including Mollala River.

Legislation in 2014 forced the Board of Education to develop rules by January 2017 providing for an exception to

See MASCOT/12A



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