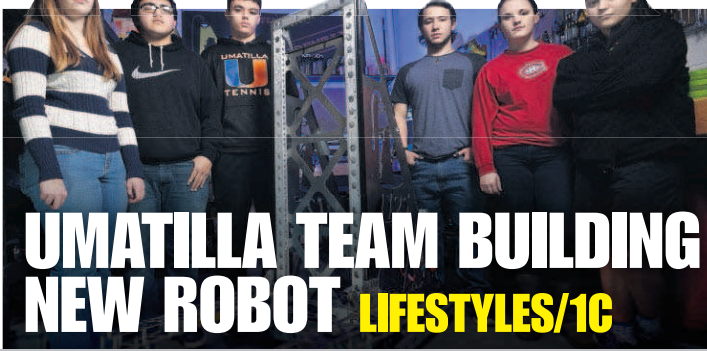


**GREB TIES SCHOOL 3-POINT RECORD**  
BASKETBALL/1B



WEEKEND EDITION



**UMATILLA TEAM BUILDING NEW ROBOT** LIFESTYLES/1C



**BANQUET HONORS CITIZENS, BUSINESS**  
PENDLETON/3A

# EAST OREGONIAN

JANUARY 23-24, 2016

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**PENDLETON**

## PNNL signs with drone range

Richland-based science laboratory to soon begin flights at airport

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

More than two years in, Steve Chrisman remains optimistic about the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range. And with its first big-time client on the

books, his confidence may soon be rewarded.

The range still has all the potential that was advertised by local officials when it was designated by the Federal Aviation Administration as a drone test site on Dec. 30, 2013: Accessibility, clear skies

and a wide variety of terrain and climates for customers to choose from.

But the range has had trouble turning that potential into business, jobs and dollars. To date, no paying test flights have been conducted there, an essential part of ensuring

the range is sustainable.

"We believed that we were acquiring a turnkey, federally sanctioned monopoly," Chrisman said.

In May, the FAA undercut the value of a certified range by granting blanket flight authorization to any UAS operator who

See **DRONE/10A**

## Planning for the unthinkable

Bus crash, Sandy Hook topics at Safety Summit

By **KATHY ANEY**  
East Oregonian

Disaster can come in seconds.

A gunman opens fire in school. A tornado rolls. A mud slide buries homes. A neighborhood goes up in flames.

Recovery takes much longer. In the aftermath, chaos and confusion often complicate matters as officials deal with law enforcement, media attention, clean-up, traffic and a multitude of other details.

As with most everything else in life, advance planning and networking can help. That was the idea behind Thursday's Safety Summit at the Pendleton Convention Center, hosted by Blue Mountain Community College. The crowd of about 100 from three counties included representatives from law enforcement, education, health care, government and other organizations.

Keynote speaker Mary Schoenfeldt, who has worked in emergency management and crisis response for more than 30 years, shared observations gleaned during multiple disasters, including the mudslide in Oso, Washington, and two school shootings. She served as the Director of Recovery in her home town of Marysville, Washington, after a teenage shooter killed five and injured another. She also helped in Newtown, Connecticut, where a gunman fatally shot 20 children and six adults in 2012 at Sandy Hook

See **SAFETY/10A**

# Farewell to a forest

AgriNorthwest to buy Boardman Tree Farm

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
East Oregonian

The trees are coming down.

AgriNorthwest, a farm operator based in the Tri-Cities, has entered into an agreement to buy the Boardman Tree Farm from Greenwood Resources.

Part of the 25,000-acre tree farm already sold to a local dairy that will raise approximately 8,000 cows south of Homestead Lane. The rest will now go to AgriNorthwest, which farms mostly potatoes and other irrigated crops.

The deal is expected to close soon. Terms were not disclosed.

In the meantime, Greenwood Resources will continue to harvest what trees are left under a leaseback agreement. The Collins Companies operates a sawmill at the tree farm, and Columbia Forest Products runs a veneer mill that helps make decorative plywood.

Logs are also sold for pulp and biofuel. ZeaChem, a company located at the nearby Port of Morrow, used sawdust from the tree farm to make ethanol.

The tree farm has also hosted "A Very Poplar Run" since 2011, with 5K and 10K races to benefit the Agape House in Hermiston. Don Rice, director of North American operations for Greenwood Resources, said the decision to sell the property has been met with mixed emotions.

See **TREE/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Rep. Greg Walden, right, listens to swing shift team leader Richard Lewellen talk about the veneer production line at the Greenwood Resources tree farm Friday near Boardman.

## EOTEC leaders give tour to Walden

Representative completes busy two-county tour

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon, stopped by Hermiston for a tour of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on Friday during his trip across Eastern Oregon.

Standing in the mostly-completed event center building, EOTEC board member Dan Dorrnan told Walden the project represented a unique partnership between city, county, school district and private industry.

"We're very proud of this project," Dorrnan said.

Dorrnan explained the center's history, starting with the purchase of the EOTEC property in 1983, when the Umatilla County Fair had 12,000 visitors per year. Today the same fairgrounds draw in 80,000 people a year and close to as many for the Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

He noted that in addition to planned events, the project could also serve as an evacuation point in an emergency, just like the current fairgrounds did in 2014 after an explosion at the LNG natural gas plant in Plymouth forced residents across the river.

"Our plan is to have everything in place to be able to do that again,"



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

EOTEC board member Dan Dorrnan gives a tour of the event center to Rep. Greg Walden on Friday in Hermiston.

Dorrnan said.

He told Walden that if he had any federal grants or other pockets of money needing to be spent, the EOTEC project was "shovels in the ground" ready.

"We do have our hand out all the time," Dorrnan said.

Walden didn't make any promises that he could conjure up federal funding for the project, but he did ask questions and make suggestions during a detailed tour of the facility. While discussing the acoustics in the great hall, he told Dorrnan he was interested to see a computerized PA system at the Readiness Center in The Dalles that automatically senses the level of noise in the room and adjusts accordingly.

The EOTEC board is planning a community open house of the event center facility sometime in March, once the building is completed.

Earlier in the day, Walden made a stop at the Boardman Tree Farm with state Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, where the two met behind closed doors with Greenwood Resources officials. The tree farm is undergoing a change of ownership, with roughly one-third of the property having been sold to Willow Creek Dairy and the rest of the land to AgriNorthwest.

The lawmakers toured both the Collins Companies' Upper Columbia Mill and Columbia Forest Products veneer mill after their meeting. Walden said he was impressed with the operations, and is pleased to know the land will remain under local management and ownership.

Much of Walden's recent focus has been on the situation in Harney

See **WALDEN/10A**

**HERMISTON**

## Man beaten, in critical condition

East Oregonian

A Hermiston man is in critical condition in a Spokane hospital after a Wednesday assault.

Witnesses told the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office that David Wayne Newton, 53, and Lloyd Allan Terpening, 54, from Irrigon were in a fight Jan. 20 at a commercial property at 81252 Highway 395, just south of the Hermiston Super Oval racetrack.

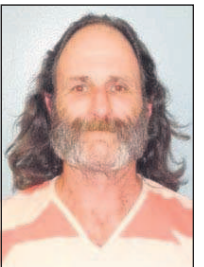
Newton sustained a serious head injury in the fight and was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, by his daughter and later transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, for treatment.

Newton's condition remains "critical," according to the hospital as of press time Friday.

Terpening was located by police Friday afternoon, according to a release from Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan. It was not immediately known if he has been charged with any crimes.

The assault was not reported to police until the owner of the property arrived Thursday morning to find blood inside the building. The property owner said Newton

See **ASSAULT/10A**



Terpening

**"We need to get back to the point where people feel like the government listens to them, and they're getting a fair shake."**

- U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon



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