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EAST OREGONIAN

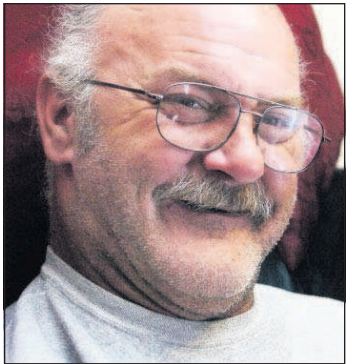
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016

140th Year, No. 72

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Hermiston man dies after fight



Newton

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

A Hermiston man died late Friday night from injuries sustained in a fight that took place north of Hermiston two days before.

David Wayne Newton, 53, died at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane at 10:50 p.m. Friday night after being taken off life support the night before.

According to the Umatilla

County Sheriff's Office, witnesses reported that Newton sustained a head injury during a physical altercation with Lloyd Allan Terpening, 54, from Irrigon, at a commercial property on 81252 Hwy 395 Wednesday night. Both men were reportedly living on the property while helping clean it out.

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield said Monday that Terpening had been questioned and was scheduled to take a polygraph test

but had not been arrested and no charges had been filed.

"After the entire investigation is complete we will turn it over to the district attorney's office," he said, noting that investigating such cases takes time and is "not always cut and dried."

Hilda White, Newton's mother, said Terpening, who goes by Allan, was a close friend of Newton's. When her son was

See **NEWTON/8A**

PENDLETON

City planner resigns, cites 'difference of opinions'

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Pendleton City Planner Evan MacKenzie resigned from his position Monday, ending an almost eight-year stint with the city.

A city press release did not specifically state why MacKenzie was departing city government, but did commend him for his work on the Pendleton Downtown Plan, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and other updates to land use ordinances.

"The City of Pendleton appreciates Evan's commitment to the community and wishes him well in the future," City Manager Robb Corbett said in a statement. "In addition to his work, Evan contributed in many positive ways through volunteering of his time to Pendleton."



MacKenzie

In a Facebook message to the *East Oregonian*, MacKenzie attributed his resignation to differing opinions.

"I had a different viewpoint on the City's goals and policies than management, and a different viewpoint on administering the code as well," he wrote. "It made for an unpleasant environment for all parties, and when Robb asked me to resign I agreed to do so. I had a good seven and a half years with the City of Pendleton but it's time to move on."

Corbett did not return a request for comment.

MacKenzie, who was hired in 2008, previously announced he would resign his job in 2014 to take a similar position in Ketchum, Idaho. He reversed his position a few weeks later, saying there was a "miscommunication" between himself and Ketchum officials about salary.

MacKenzie sometimes attracted public criticism, especially from Sign Men Neon Co. owner Ed Miltenberger, who excoriated MacKenzie for muddling the sign approval process.

According to the press release, the city intends to fill MacKenzie's position and will evaluate how to manage his duties in the interim.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

It has been six months since an explosion and fire gutted the old City Hall building in Pendleton.

Clock ticking on building repairs

Old city hall must be up to code by July 21

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

With shattered windows and charred brick, the old Pendleton City Hall serves as a stark reminder of the July 21 explosion and fire that gutted the building for hours and claimed the life of a 25-year-old man.

The family that owns the 34 S.E. Dorion Ave. building still plans to restore it, but a city ordinance could hasten those efforts.

According to the city's nuisance ordinance, any structure that sustains damage from a fire must be repaired enough to meet city building code within a year of the fire.

The building owners must also take steps to repair the damage within 120 days of the fire, with the possibility of an additional 120-day extension if the property owner can show the city that an engineer or architect is making plans.

City Manager Robb Corbett said he didn't know enough details on the ordinance to comment on it and referred the issue to City Attorney Nancy Kerns.

In an email, Kerns wrote that the building's owner has engaged an engineer to develop reconstruction plans, activating the extension.

That gives owner Jose Quezada and his family until

March 17 to start repairs and July 21, 2016 to bring the building up to code.

Corbett said a representative of the Quezada family has inquired about obtaining funding from the Pendleton Development Commission to help cover the cost of repairs, but an application hasn't been submitted. The commission provides loans and grants to projects in the downtown area.

Marco Quezada, the son of Jose Quezada, said the family has hired an engineer to make plans and are still gathering bids for the repairs.

Repairs won't come cheap — Marco Quezada said the window, exterior brick and roofing costs alone are \$260,000 and the

family is still looking into costs on repairing the structure and electrical work.

Marco Quezada said that if the family can secure the money, they should start rebuilding the old city hall over the summer with plans to make it into a housing complex.

He said city staff have not informed him of the repair requirements of the nuisance ordinance.

The *East Oregonian* filed a public records request to the Oregon State Fire Marshal in August for the investigation into the explosion and fire, but it has yet to be fulfilled.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

HARNEY COUNTY STANDOFF: DAY 23

Tribe asks feds to stop armed group's free travel at refuge

By **REBECCA BOONE**
Associated Press

The Burns Paiute Tribe wants federal officials to bar armed activists from traveling back and forth to a national wildlife preserve they are occupying in southeastern Oregon, fearing tribal artifacts will go missing or the group will disturb burial grounds.

The small group took over buildings at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge more than three weeks ago that store over 4,000 archaeological artifacts and maps detailing where more items can be

More inside
Authorities say demands by leaders defy logic and law
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found. Members of the group, who are occupying the site to oppose federal land use policies, recently posted videos to social media that show them looking at some of the relics and criticizing the way the federal government has stored them.

The artifacts belonged to ancestors of the Burns Paiute Tribe, which works closely with the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service to preserve prehistoric sites and artifacts at the refuge.

The tribe has "grave concerns regarding the present handling of the occupation as well as the prosecution of the militants," tribal chairwoman Charlotte Rodrigue wrote in a letter Friday to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and FBI Director James Comey.

Federal authorities have taken a hands-off approach so far and say they want a peaceful resolution. One of the group's leaders, Ammon Bundy, has been in contact with an

See **STANDOFF/7A**

IRRIGON

Friends, family and colleagues remember councilwoman

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

The conversation was emotional as it was businesslike.

Phyllis Danielson met with her friend, Christine Sorenson, for the last time on Jan. 12. Sorenson's health was failing, and she knew there wasn't much time.

Together, Danielson and Sorenson served on the board of directors for the Irrigon Chamber of Commerce, which they helped revive almost two years ago. Sorenson was appointed treasurer, and vowed to keep working until she couldn't anymore.

The day finally came, and it was time to teach the job to someone else. Sorenson was gentle, but frank,



Sorenson

See **SORENSEN/7A**

