

**ZIKA VIRUS
'SPREADING
EXPLOSIVELY'
WORLD/6A**



**PENDLETON
STOMPS
THE DALLES
BASKETBALL/1B**

**BLIZZARD
RANKS
FOURTH
WORST
5A**



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016

140th Year, No. 75

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Winter Chamber Music at the Vert Club Room
- Rivoli fundraiser brunch at Sundown Bar and Grill
- "The Murder of Handsome Jack" at Agape House

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie



DreamWorks Animation via AP

Jack Black continues his "legendary adventures of awesomeness" in "Kung Fu Panda 3."

For showtime, Page 5A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
46/35	45/31	41/28

Utilities tout coal transition plan

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

The Oregon Public Utility Commission will hold a special meeting Friday in Salem to discuss a major proposal that would phase out coal from the state's two largest electric utilities.

House Bill 4036, or the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan, would also require Pacific Power and Portland General Electric double their renewable energy mandate by 2040. The companies would stop using coal to serve Oregon customers by 2030.

The deal was negotiated with Pacific Power, PGE and a coalition of environmental groups that previously filed ballot measures to cut coal out of Oregon's electricity mix. Both utilities say HB 4036 includes safeguards that will save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars, compared

See COAL/10A

MEACHAM Umatilla man charged with murder



Photo contributed by Marnie Elder
Thadd Nelson was killed early Wednesday morning near Meacham.

Three jailed after shooting death of Thadd Nelson

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Joseph Aaron McIver of Umatilla was charged Thursday with murder in the shooting death of Thadd Nelson of Meacham.

Two other men also are in Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, in connection to the violent crime.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said he could not provide details of the crime while the police investigation continues. Nelson's family said they are reeling from the loss.

Primus arraigned the trio Thursday afternoon in separate cases. They appeared in circuit court

in Pendleton via video from the jail.

The state charged McIver, 22, of 81765 Harbor Lights Lane, Umatilla, with the lone count of murder with a firearm. The judge set McIver's bail at \$10 million.

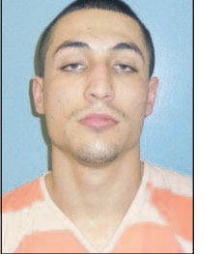
Edward Duarte Ayala, 46, and Armando Vargas, 39, appeared before Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton. They said they live with others at 1065 W. Juanita Ave., Hermiston. The state charged Ayala with felon in possession of a firearm, unauthorized use of a vehicle and attempt to flee police. Vargas faces charges of felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon.

Police used a spike strip to stop Ayala, Primus told the court, and

caught him with at least five guns in his possession. Primus also said both men had substantial criminal histories in Fresno, California, including for domestic violence and weapons crimes. He said Vargas moved to Hermiston in the last week.

Hampton set bail at \$30,000 each and also set preliminary hearings for Wednesday, when they can enter pleas.

See MURDER/10A



McIver



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton High School Spanish teacher Kathryn Youngman addresses the crowd gathered on Thursday at the Happy Canyon Arena in Pendleton to help her with her dream to be on The Ellen DeGeneres Show. More photos online at eastoregonian.com

Teacher feels the love

Youngman supporters gather at Happy Canyon

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The #YoungmanOnEllen campaign rolls on.

A pink-clad crowd filled the Happy Canyon Arena Thursday night. They weren't there to watch Professional Bull Riding

or the Happy Canyon Night Show. There wasn't a horse or bull in sight.

They came to support Pendleton High School teacher Kathryn Youngman, who is battling cancer for the third time. They posed with huge #YoungmanOnEllen banners in

the shadow of the Happy Canyon Saloon.

They will send the photo to Ellen DeGeneres via social media, as part of the campaign to get Youngman on her show. The Spanish teacher has said she would love to meet DeGeneres because of the comedienne's positivity and how she ends her show by exhorting her audience

to be kind.

The #YoungmanOnEllen campaign trended this week on Facebook and Twitter. The hashtag was retweeted by Gov. Kate Brown, former University of Oregon quarterback Vernon Adams, New York Yankee center fielder Jacoby McCabe, Atlanta

See YOUNGMAN/10A

HARNEY COUNTY STANDOFF: DAY 26

FBI shows video of Tuesday shooting of Finicum



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard via AP
Greg Bretzing, special agent in charge for the FBI in Portland, presents video of the shooting of Robert Finicum, shown at center left on the monitor, a spokesman for the armed occupiers of a wildlife refuge, during a press conference in Burns, Thursday.

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
and TERENCE PETTY
Associated Press

BURNS — The FBI released video Thursday of the shooting death of a spokesman for the armed occupiers of a wildlife refuge that shows the man reaching into his jacket before he fell into the snow. The FBI said the man had a loaded gun in his pocket.

Authorities showed the video at a news conference to counter claims that the man killed in the Tuesday confrontation on a remote Oregon high country road — Robert Finicum — did nothing to provoke officers.

Release of the video came as four occupiers remaining at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge refused to leave without assurances they wouldn't be arrested. The occupation began nearly a month ago.



More online

See the full video at eastoregonian.com. Viewer discretion is advised.

During the Tuesday confrontation, the FBI and Oregon State Troopers arrested five main figures in the occupation, including Ammon Bundy, their leader.

The video, shot by the FBI from an airplane, shows Bundy's vehicle stopped by police on a road. He and an occupier riding with him — Brian Cavalier — were arrested. A white truck driven by Finicum was stopped but took off, with officers in pursuit. The video shows Finicum's vehicle plowing into a snowbank when encountered.

See STANDOFF/8A



7 29467 10001 5