

EAST OREGONIAN

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140th Year, No. 82 WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

PENDLETON

Four seek council seat

Hate crime perp, Plute recall supporter among candidates

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

There are two races for the at-large seat on the Pendleton City Council: one to fill the remainder of former city councilor Jane Hill's term, and the other for election to a full four-year term starting in 2017.

In the former category, four people with no elected experience submitted letters of interest to Mayor Phillip Houk for appointment to the at-large seat on Monday.

Of the four, two are already running for the four-year term, one is a man convicted of a hate crime, and another is involved with the recall of sitting city councilor Al Plute.

James Tibbets, a 27-year-old self-employed computer repairman, called himself the "missing technological component" of the city council in his letter to Houk.

Tibbets was convicted of second-degree intimidation, disorderly conduct and two counts of harassment in 2010 after head-butting a man and using an

See COUNCIL/8A



Anderson



Tibbets



Rabitaile



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Chain-up helper David Keimig, of Hermiston, tightens chains on a semi-truck Thursday at the Deadman Pass Rest Area.

THE CHAIN GANG



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Truck drivers wait out a snow storm in the Deadman Rest Area parking lot Thursday, instead of putting on chains. Three to four inches accumulated in the area before snow turned to rain.

Men embrace a cold, dirty job

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

When blizzards hit, most sensible people stay indoors.

Not Doug Nordyke and David Keimig.

Tough as the steel chains they wrap around semi-truck tires, the two private snow chain installers head to icy Interstate 84 to chain up the big rigs each winter. They venture out after the Oregon Department of Transportation declares that trucks over 10,000 pounds gross weight must put on snow chains before navigating the often-treacherous Cabbage Hill.

It's a cold and dirty job. Kneeling under dripping fender wells. Feeling the sting of blowing ice on the face. Fastening chains with frozen fingers.

Thursday morning found Nordyke, of Meacham, and Keimig, of Hermiston, helping Minnesota trucker Mark Turner at the Deadman Pass Rest Area. Turner had spun out in the parking lot and his truck, which carried lawn furniture, was impeding traffic. As snow fell, the two workers draped four sets of single chains on tires on the drive axle

See CHAINS/8A

Pendleton police prepare for shuffle in ranks

Two to be promoted from within department

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pendleton police will soon say goodbye to Lt. Bill Caldera and hello to two new lieutenants. Caldera took an officer job with

the city police 29 years ago and has been the department's lieutenant the past six years. Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said if all goes as planned, Caldera will leave April 1 to become the new chief of the Pilot Rock Police Department.

Roberts said he will fill the vacancy from within. And instead of one lieutenant, Pendleton police will have two.

Generally, Pendleton corporals promote to sergeants and sergeants are promoted to lieutenants. But Oregon laws and regulations dictate the training and credentials police administrators need. Roberts

said Pendleton police also look to education and experience in supervisory roles when deciding promotions, not just the number of stripes on the uniform.

"Right now, I have four that meet the guidelines," Roberts said. "I'm a firm believer if you're doing the job the right way, you'll have people in leadership positions."

Sgt. Chuck Byram, Cpl. Ryan Lehnert, Sgt. Tony Nelson and officer Lance Zaugg have the education, certification and experience to do the job, Roberts said.

But that does not mean all four are interested in the position. Lehnert, for example, is running for

See POLICE/8A

HERMISTON

Weekend house fire under investigation

East Oregonian



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services are still investigating the cause of the fire that gutted this home on Lorraine Avenue on Saturday in Hermiston.

The cause of a house fire on Lorraine Avenue in Hermiston on Saturday night is still under investigation.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services battalion chief Jeff Adkins said a neighbor called 9-1-1 to report the fire about 9:45 p.m. and told emergency responders that there had been people at the home at the time the fire started.

"They had all gotten out but they scattered in the wind pretty quickly so not a lot of information is known," Adkins said.

The fire department posted an update on its Facebook page on Saturday night, asking people to stay away from the area due to "dangers of smoke" and close their windows if they lived nearby.

Adkins said on Monday that the warning was posted because of "possible contaminants" at the house but declined to elaborate further.

He said firefighters stayed on scene that night to preserve the scene for investigation the next morning and to watch for possible re-ignition.

The fire caused extensive damage to the inside of the

home. On Monday afternoon no one was on the property, which was still cordoned off with yellow caution tape. Red graffiti, not visible in photographs the fire department posted on Saturday night, surrounded the door, with messages including "Cooley's were here," "Live and love life" and "ABCD."

The house at 80625 Lorraine Avenue is listed as the arrest location of Jenifer Lee Foster, an inmate in the Umatilla County Jail who was booked on Jan. 20 on an aggravated harassment charge. Her bail is set at \$25,000.