

DOJ ASKED TO INVESTIGATE PALMER
NORTHWEST/2A



A kick to Governor Kate Brown
OPINION/4A



POPE SAYS TRUMP 'NOT CHRISTIAN'
FAITH/8A

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2016

140th Year, No. 90

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Inland Northwest
- Orchestra in Hermiston
- EOCI career fair
- Friday and Saturday
- His Little Feet concert at Armand Larive

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie

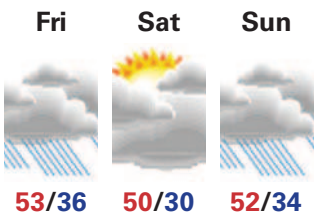


Rafy/A24 via AP

"The Witch" is a horror thriller about Puritan paranoia in the 1600s.

For showtime, Page 5A
For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather



Watch a game



Heppner vs. Weston-McEwen
Friday, 1 p.m., at Pendleton Convention Center

Senators want PUC to weigh in on energy bill

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Republican senators Thursday called for Oregon's public utility commissioners to testify on a controversial bill to double the state's existing renewable energy mandate.

The legislation would also require the state's two investor-owned utilities, PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric, to stop buying coal power to serve Oregon customers.

In a press release, Senate Republicans pointed to an article published Wednesday

See ENERGY/10A

House passes minimum wage hike

Gov. Brown says she'll sign the measure

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A three-tiered minimum wage plan cleared its last hurdle Thursday when the House of Representatives approved the measure 32 to 26.

Gov. Kate Brown said she plans to sign the bill. The Senate approved the bill last week.

"Today's action advances one of my priorities for 2016: raise the minimum wage," Brown said in a statement Thursday.

The plan increases wages to \$14.75

in the Portland metro area, \$12.50 in rural and coastal areas with struggling economies and \$13.50 in the rest of the state by 2022.

The first pay bump starts in July, from \$9.25 to \$9.75 statewide.

"Thousands of working families are in poverty," Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene. "They can't make ends meet. We have the opportunity to address this issue, which hasn't been addressed in 25 years."

"It is time for us as a state to do everything we can to help the needy,"

See WAGE/10A



Paris Achen/Pamplin Media Group

Advocates for a hike in the minimum wage to \$15 pitched their tents at the Capitol Thursday as the House debated and passed a three-tiered plan that increases the wage more slowly than a proposed ballot initiative.

HERMISTON

EOTEC more than halfway to \$2M goal

Six weeks remain to raise funds for phase one

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A little over halfway into a four-month blitz, the fundraising committee for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center is 57 percent of the way toward its \$2 million goal.

"We're very confident that things are on track," committee chair Dennis Barnett of Barnett & Moro said.

The committee had raised \$1,140,639 as of Wednesday. Its goal is to raise \$2 million by April 1.

Barnett said some area businesses are in the process of sending a donation request up their chain of command, while others have indicated they would like to donate but have not yet decided how much to give.

Some donations have come from the east side of Umatilla County, and others from Morrow County, but Barnett said so far the majority of donations have come from Hermiston residents and locally owned Hermiston businesses.

"They're people who live here, who work here, who sleep here," he said.

Barnett said even though EOTEC will benefit the county by bringing travelers to the area and providing larger, higher-quality facilities for the Umatilla County



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A sign marking the fundraising efforts for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on Highway 395 in Hermiston shows more than half of the \$2 million goal has been raised.

"This area is supremely giving. People are very charitable."

— Dennis Barnett, EOTEC committee chair

Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo. In 2015, the Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction raised more than \$492,000.

"When you're talking about the fair, you're talking about the county," he said.

In order to provide donors the option of spreading donations out over a period

of two to five years while still being able to access the entire sum during construction, the county commission and Hermiston City Council have given permission for EOTEC to borrow up to \$1.5 million.

Barnett said it is very hard to say at the moment how much the board will end up

borrowing, but it should be significantly lower than that. He said a large number of "very generous people" are giving their entire donation up front. And although the board needs to know by April 1 how much money it will have for construction in order to design components and send them out to bid, Barnett said they won't actually need all of the money to finish paying contractors until early in 2017, after donors have already made their second payment.

He said the fundraising committee has been making itself available to give an informational presentation about EOTEC to any interested city council, business or civic group. The committee has also been actively soliciting donations from people and businesses identified as likely donors. Some people have donated unsolicited, too, Barnett said, including someone who walked into his office out of

See EOTEC/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Swollen rollin' river

A swollen Umatilla River runs underneath the Bedford Bridge in this image using a three-second exposure Thursday in Pendleton.

Former politician proposes container shipping authority

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

A former Oregon legislator and one-time Republican gubernatorial candidate thinks he has the answer to reviving container shipping out of Portland.

Kevin Mannix, who spent more than 10 years in the Legislature and ran for governor against Ted Kulongoski in 2002, wants to create a container shipping authority that would take over Terminal 6 from the Port of Portland. The authority would be in charge of re-establishing container business after the terminal lost its two main carriers, Hanjin Shipping and Hapag-Lloyd, early last year.



Mannix

Without container service in Portland, Eastern

See SHIPPING/10A



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