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BATTLE OF THE BARS
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HAWKS BEAT BMCC
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EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

140th Year, No. 94

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High water temperatures led to a massive die-off of sockeye salmon on the Columbia and Snake rivers in 2015.

Groups seek emergency measures to protect salmon runs

Hot summer led to massive sockeye die-off in 2015

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Last year took a massive toll on sockeye salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers, as high water temperatures killed hundreds of thousands of fish returning from the Pacific Ocean.

Conservation groups are pointing the finger at federal dam operators, and have asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to come up with emergency measures to avoid a repeat in 2016.

On Feb. 9, groups sent a letter to Col. Jose Aguilar in Portland criticizing the Corps' "inability to protect returning adult salmon from high water temperatures," and said another major die-off could push Snake River sockeye to the brink of extinction.

"If the Army Corps fails to adopt and implement emergency measures, it risks causing further massive fish kills, unauthorized take, failure of mandatory legal duties to protect endangered species and jeopardizing the continued existence of the Snake and Columbia rivers' salmon and steelhead populations in 2016 and future years," the letter states.

Both Columbia Riverkeeper and Snake River Waterkeeper signed onto the letter, which does not propose any specific measures but points to several statistics underlining the urgency of the situation. They emphasized 96 percent of endangered Snake River sockeye died before ever making it to Lower Granite Dam in 2015.

The Clean Water Act requires

See FISH/8A

Bundy, others plead not guilty

Several doubt that they enjoy the presumption of innocence

By **STEVEN DUBOIS**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Ammon Bundy and another 15 defendants pleaded not guilty Wednesday to federal conspiracy charges related to the 41-day occupation

of an Oregon wildlife refuge. Several of the accused, however, expressed doubt that they enjoy the presumption of innocence.

Bundy sat at the main defense table while most of his co-defendants sat in the jury box as they listened to a government prose-

cutor read the indictment and U.S. District Judge Anna Brown tell them their rights.

Brown reminded the defendants they are considered innocent until proven guilty. One by one, she asked them if they understood. Bundy simply said "yes,"

but four co-defendants took the opportunity to express skepticism.

"It's difficult to understand presumption of innocence when I've spent the last month in a jail cell and been led around in shackles and chains," Ryan Payne said.

Another, Jason Patrick, told the

See REFUGE/8A

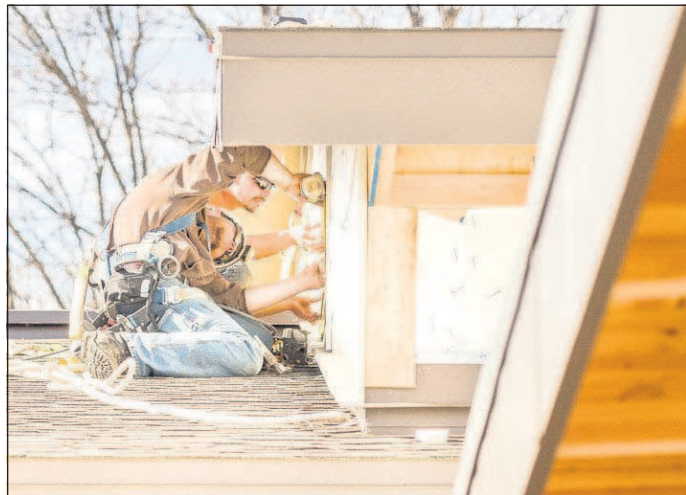
Workforce needs study underway for Umatilla County



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Lead carpenter Steve Leigh, an employee of Dura-Top, runs a saw Wednesday as he works on the interior of the new Washington Elementary School in Pendleton. Dura-Top is a subcontractor under Kirby Nagelhout Construction, based in Bend.

What local employers want



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Two employees of Northwest Framing work on the new Washington Elementary School in Pendleton. Northwest Framing is a subcontractor under Kirby Nagelhout Construction, based in Bend.

Many local businesses concerned about their aging workforce

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

A comprehensive study on Umatilla County's workforce needs is in the works, and input from area employers is needed.

The study is a joint project between Blue Mountain Community College and Umatilla County, run by consultant Susan Bower of Eastern Oregon Business Source.

The goal is to use surveys, interviews and focus groups to fully understand what skills and qualifications local companies are looking for

and how those needs could be met. The results will be compiled into a report that will be made available to the public and shared with local schools, civic groups and businesses.

"The college and the county acknowledge they can't be the only people coming up with solutions," Bower said. "They're saying 'Let's do this research and put it into an objective, academic report and share it.'"

Casey White-Zollman, spokeswoman for BMCC, said the college will use the data and insights collected by Bower to look at what programs it should add or expand.

She said when the Port of Umatilla and Port of Morrow approached the college a year ago about the data

See WORK/8A

Republicans barrel toward Super Tuesday

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
and **CALVIN WOODWARD**
Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Republicans are barreling toward Super Tuesday with another debate in the offing and Donald Trump's opponents reaching for perhaps their last best chance to knock him off stride for the presidential nomination.

Expect a nasty turn, Trump warned, as if the roiling GOP race were anything but that already.

The New York billionaire predicted that the relative civility between Marco Rubio

More inside

For some turned-off GOP voters, grudging acceptance of Trump
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and himself would fall away in the frantic grasp for hundreds of convention delegates in the 11 states that hold Republican primaries Tuesday.

Even John Kasich, a trailing contender whose calling card has been a positive campaign, went sharply negative Wednesday in a campaign broadside against

See ELECTION/8A

BENT arrests more than a dozen for meth delivery

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team arrested 13 people Tuesday in connection with a 10-month investigation in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Additionally, BENT authorities recovered a handgun, a semi-automatic rifle and a half ounce of methamphetamine.

Jesus Cardenas Garcia, 43, of Boardman, David Ramirez, 33, of Irrigon, Dustin Rodriguez, 25, of Irrigon, Jose Cortez-Ibarra, 27, of Boardman, Cesar Guzman-Madrigal, 25, of Umatilla and a 17-year-old juvenile male from Boardman were

arrested for delivery of a controlled substance.

When Guzman-Madrigal was arrested, BENT members found a handgun hidden in his waistband, a rifle in the passenger seat of his car and meth, leading to unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of a controlled substance charges.

Candelario Escobedo, 35, of Umatilla, Alex Hansford, 19, of Irrigon, Amy Riley, 34, of Irrigon, Gloria Rodriguez, 48, of Boardman and David Taylor, 49, of Irrigon were charged with conspiracy delivery of a controlled substance.

See METH/8A



Guzman-Madrigal



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