



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016

140th Year, No. 95 WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Your Weekend



- “Eleemosynary” at Bob Clapp Theatre, Pendleton
 - Oregon Mandolin Orchestra at the Vert
 - Tillamook Cheese Days at SAGE center
- For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Catch a movie



‘Gods of Egypt’
For showtime, Page 5A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
58/42	56/39	59/39

Watch a game

vs.

Lost River vs. Heppner
Saturday, 2 p.m., at Heppner

HERMISTON Drotzmann running for re-election

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann has announced he plans to run for re-election. Drotzmann, an optometrist and owner of Lifetime Vision Source, has been mayor since January 2013. He said on Thursday that he planned to file paperwork at city hall later in the day to run for a third term. Candidates have until 5 p.m. on March 8 to file for mayor or municipal judge.

See MAYOR/12A



Drotzmann

STANFIELD Policies ignored, no laws broken

DOJ investigation finds no criminal activity

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Stanfield police chief Bryon Zumwalt and Lt. Troy LaMonte Toombs failed to log evidence and did not conduct a mandatory criminal background check on a reserve officer. But the Oregon Department

of Justice found their ineptness was not criminal. The town’s top officers were subjected to a justice department investigation that began Nov. 9, 2015 into allegations of misconduct. The department Wednesday afternoon released digital copies of its seven-page report, an audio recording of

investigators questioning Zumwalt and a Jan. 19 letter from senior assistant attorney general John Tseng to Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen. That letter stated that while Zumwalt and Toombs failed to meet professional standards, they did not break the law. The justice department began its investigation after Stanfield officer

See POLICE/12A



Zumwalt



Toombs

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Darrin Umbarger plugs a charging cable into his wheelchair at a recharging station on Thursday at Community Park in Pendleton. This is the first electric wheelchair recharging station in the city.

Leading the charge on wheelchair mobility

State grant starts program to install charging stations

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Darrin Umbarger wants to give Pendleton wheelchair users their mobility back. Umbarger, the CEO of Clearview Mediation and Disability Medical Center and a wheelchair user, has dealt with his electric wheelchair running out of power. “You’re at the mercy of everybody,” he said. His solution was to start a pilot program to



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The new wheelchair recharging station should accommodate 98 percent of all electric wheelchairs.

install wheelchair charging stations across the city. Umbarger applied for and received a \$18,000 state grant to start the program and the first charging station

was installed Wednesday at Community Park with help from the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Department. Marked by a bright blue sign, the charging station

is a small gray box under a shelter on the east side of the park. Protruding from the box is a short cord that Umbarger estimated is compatible with 98 percent of electric wheelchairs and scooters. After 15-20 minutes of charging at the station, which elicits a quiet hum when activated, the wheelchair is fully charged and ready to go. Umbarger said there isn’t definitive information on how many wheelchair users live in Pendleton because many of them stay indoors. Umbarger said a wheelchair with a brand new battery will give a

See WHEELCHAIR/12A

Bill would allow states to buy national forest land

Legislation intended to boost logging

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

An Alaska congressman wants to allow states to acquire up to 2 million acres of national forest land from the federal government to manage primarily for logging. Republican Rep. Don Young introduced the State National Forest Management Act of 2015 in September, four months before armed militants began occupying

the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns. The militants, led by Ammon Bundy, decried the perceived mismanagement of public lands during the 41-day standoff and demanded they be returned to local control. Young’s bill — the State National Forest Management Act of 2015 — would let state legislatures decide if they want to buy national forest land from the Forest Service, or exchange land of equal value with the feds. The goal is to spur timber

See FOREST/12A



EO file photo

Horseshoe Lake as seen from August Island in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Eastern Oregon.

House tries to revive energy bill

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Lawmakers in the Oregon House used a last-ditch maneuver Thursday evening to revive a renewable energy bill that had stalled due to Republican opposition in the Senate.

Last week the House passed a bill that would double the state’s renewable energy mandate to require the state’s two investor-owned utilities, PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric, to use sources such as solar and wind to serve 50 percent of their customers’ energy demand by 2040. It would also require the two utilities stop using coal power to serve their customers.

Republicans in the Senate, who oppose the bill, are drafting a minority report. Because they have no deadline to produce the report, the move could effectively keep the measure from coming to a vote before the end of the session.

The House Committee on Rules voted 7-2 Thursday night to pass a separate piece of legislation already passed by the Senate in which supporters inserted the renewable energy bill. That bill now goes to the full House for a vote.

House Republicans quickly responded with a move to employ the same tactic as their Senate colleagues, although it is unlikely to buy much of a delay. Under House rules, the minority report must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday. If passed by the House, the new bill must then go back to the Senate for approval. The energy bill was drafted privately by PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric, environmental groups, the renewable energy industry and Citizens Utility Board of Oregon. It has been controversial since before the legislative session began, because of news reports that Gov. Kate Brown’s administration instructed the Public Utility Commission not to go public with concerns the bill would be expensive for customers and do little to reduce emis-

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At the Capitol



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