

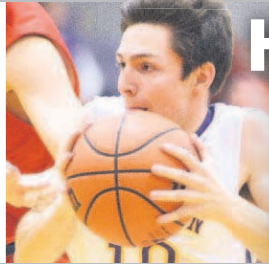


58/37

**DICTIONARIES  
PUT TO GOOD  
USE IN SCHOOL**  
HERMISTON/3A



**HERMISTON  
BOYS  
ADVANCE**  
BASKETBALL/1B



**Man charged in  
Milton-Freewater  
drive-by murder**  
REGION/6A

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016

140th Year, No. 99

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## UMATILLA

# Council considers homeless camp

### Mayor calls for collaboration to provide services, space

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

The city of Umatilla's ban on living in tents effectively pushed the homeless population outside city limits.

But city leaders said they are willing to spearhead the effort to help the transient community now living near the Umatilla River.

On Tuesday Mayor David Trott said he wanted to put together a workshop between cities, county representatives

and state agencies to come up with a comprehensive plan for addressing problems caused by homeless camps. That plan could include a designated transient camping area with toilets, dumpsters and fire pits.

"We need to discuss what we can do and what we probably ought to do," Trott said. "We need to have a game plan."

After several homeless camps were cleared out in Umatilla and Hermiston last

fall, a group of former occupants moved to a spot along the Umatilla River between the two cities. Rising water levels have recently pushed the camp to a more visible location along Old River Road, generating complaints to the city and Umatilla County.

The camp is in the county's jurisdiction, and an email from county code enforcement officer Gina Miller indicated the plan was to have someone from the

sheriff's department inform the campers they were trespassing and needed to move, then make arrangements with County Corrections to clean up the waste left behind.

Trott said that approach was "kicking the can down the road."

"I'm going to say it straight out: I'm very frustrated with the county's position," he said.

One solution the city

See **HOMELESS/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Douglas Robertson, of Umatilla, unzipped the front of a tent in February at his campsite along Old River Road south of Umatilla.**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Jeanette Herron is the only Pendleton-based Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteer. CASA volunteers advocate in the judicial system on behalf of neglected or abused children.**

# A voice in the courtroom for children

By **KATHY ANEY** ♦ *East Oregonian*

Court Appointed Special Advocates fill void in kids' lives as they navigate the courts

**T**hirty-nine years ago, Seattle Superior Court Judge David Soukup listened to both sides of a case involving a 3-year-old girl named Sarah. Doctors at Seattle's Harborview Medical Center had noticed a suspicious pattern of bruises on her body. Her mom said she'd fallen off a slide.

"I had to make a decision about this case," he recalled decades later in a video. "Was I going to take her away from the only home and the only parent she'd known all her life? What kind of emotional trauma would that cause for her?"

The case was among Soukup's first in juvenile court after years of deciding civil cases. He awoke at 4 the next morning re-analyzing his decisions that day. He would have many more restless nights in the following years as the fate of hundreds of abused and neglected children rested in his hands.

It was, Soukup realized, a heavy load.

The judge created Court Appointed Special Advocates — volunteers who get to know foster children and advocate for them in the court system. Starting with 50

See **CASA/8A**

## PENDLETON

# 'One of the guys'

### Berentsen first career woman hired by fire department

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

It's not unusual for family and friends to pack city council chambers for a public honor or promotion, but attendees were also treated to a small piece of Pendleton history at a meeting Tuesday.

After Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo pinned a paramedic badge on Jaclyn Berentsen, making her the first woman to hold a career position in the fire department, she faced a supportive crowd of Pendleton and Hermiston firefighters and paramedics waiting to shake her hand.

"I know it's supposed to be a big deal," Berentsen said after responding to all the congratulations outside council chambers. "But I just want to be one of the guys."

Ciraulo, who was hired in September 2015, said he was surprised that Berentsen's hire was a first for the city. Ciraulo said he has never worked at a fire department that didn't have a full-time female firefighter or paramedic. Ciraulo said Berentsen was the most qualified person for the job "irrespective of sex."

Berentsen grew up in Portland before moving to Pendleton when she was 16. She caught the emergency services bug as a Pendleton High School student when she did a ride-along with the fire department.

After completing a resident internship with Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services, Berentsen enrolled at Portland

See **BERENTSEN/8A**



Berentsen



## Hoops on the horizon

**Kevin Hernandez, with the Pendleton Convention Center, and Kyle Stanfield, OSAA assistant executive director, hang sponsor banners under a basket Wednesday at the convention center. The OSAA 2A state basketball championships begin Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in Pendleton. For tournament preview and schedule, see Page 1B.**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Senate passes renewable energy bill

By **HILLARY BORRUD**  
*Capital Press*

**SALEM** — A controversial bill that requires Oregon's two largest utilities to get 50 percent of their electricity from sources such as wind and solar by 2040 is on its way to Gov. Kate Brown's desk for a signature, after the state Senate voted 17-12 to pass the measure Wednesday.

Brown has suggested that

See **ENERGY/8A**



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