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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

140th Year, No. 107

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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Boardman schools get resource officer



Boardman Police officer George Shimer gets a high five from first-grader Juan Luis Flores Hernandez in the halls of Sam Boardman Elementary School recently in Boardman. Officer Shimmer is the school resource officer for the Boardman School District.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

More than police

Officer builds positive rapport with students

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Officer George Shimer walks into a class of first-graders at Sam Boardman Elementary School, where he is enthusiastically

greeted by kids celebrating their 100th day of school by making necklaces and bracelets out of Froot Loops.

Though Shimer is on duty and in uniform, there is no apprehension about his visit. In fact, the

kids have to be reminded several times about his “no hugs” rule — Shimer worries about fingers getting pinched in his police belt. Instead, he gives high fives to everyone who comes up to say hello.

As Boardman’s first ever school resource officer, Shimer said he wants to be a friendly face to young students who might otherwise grow up afraid of the police. That means he spends a good part of his day dropping in on classrooms to help out with

See **OFFICER/8A**

HERMISTON

Breckheimer gets 8 years for fatal DUII



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Alicia Breckheimer talks with her attorney during her sentencing at the Stafford Hansell Government Center.

Ione man killed in freeway crash

By **JENNIFER COLTON**
East Oregonian

Alicia George Breckheimer, 33, of Hermiston, was sentenced to more than eight years in prison Monday for manslaughter in a drunk-driving car crash that killed an Ione man in 2014.

Breckheimer was sentenced to 100 months for second-degree manslaughter, plus a year for each of three counts of recklessly endangering another person and reckless driving and a year for driving while under the influence of intoxicants. The

sentences are to be served concurrently, followed by a period of probation and post-prison supervision. She also must pay \$2,600 in fines and her driver’s license was suspended.

At 1:27 a.m. March 7, 2014, Breckheimer was driving westbound in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 82 near milepost 4. Her vehicle collided head-on with a vehicle driven by Robert Henry Baker, 66, of Ione. Baker died at the scene, and Breckheimer was extricated from her Cadillac CTS by firefighters and was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center. She later was transported by air ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland.

See **BRECKHEIMER/8A**

HERMISTON

Committee recommends \$104M bond

By **JENNIFER COLTON**
East Oregonian

Hermiston could place a \$104 million school bond on the ballot next year.

The Citizens Review Committee, a volunteer board of 16 community members, presented its capital needs recommendations to the Hermiston School Board on Monday night, including two bond proposals: a “recommended” \$104 million and a “minimum” \$84 million.

The committee was tasked with taking a previous recommendation of more than \$130 million and deciding what needs were immediate and what needs the community could handle.

“There’s no doubt that there’s a number of tough decisions to be made,” committee member Phil Hamm said. “Through this process, we have truly wrestled with these.”

Both bonds would replace Rocky Heights Elementary and build a new elementary school on district-owned property on Theater Lane. Each bond would also add a new wing onto Hermiston High School to extend the school’s capacity to 2,000 students and provide access and safety upgrades to Sandstone Middle School.

The “minimum” bond would provide \$1 million in access and safety upgrades to Highland Hills Elementary. The “recommended” bond would replace the school entirely.

Wade Smith, deputy superintendent, said replacing Rocky Heights and

See **SCHOOL/8A**

Remembering Kip Rand

Charisma, passion for the outdoors made fallen Avalanche Center director stand out

By **STEVE TOOL**
EO Media Group

It was the last leg of a simple journey, a route completed several times by Kip Rand, executive director of the Wallowa Avalanche Center, and friend Ben Vandenbos, who set out for a day of backcountry skiing. They planned a route that took them from Ice Lake to Mt. Joseph. Sometime around dusk, on the last leg of the route, the two men stood on an outcropping of hardened snow on a ridge of Mt. Joseph after a long day of exploring.

In an instant the cornice split and disappeared beneath Rand, leaving Vandenbos standing, watching in shock as his friend was carried by the treacherous snow on a 1,200-foot journey down the mountainside.

After skiing down to his friend, Vandenbos immediately applied first aid and CPR, but due to massive injuries and no means for a quick rescue, Rand couldn’t be saved. He’s the fourth backcountry skiing fatality in the Wallowa Mountains since 2009.

See **RAND/8A**



Kip Rand

