



**LOCAL
EASTER
EVENTS
REGION/3A**



**MAN
COMES
DOWN
FROM TREE
SEATTLE/5A**



**Bucks
beat
Sandy
SPORTS/1B**

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016

140th Year, No. 114

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

MISSION
Still no charges in Jimenez homicide

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said he has “no evidence” to bring a murder charge in the recent shooting death of Tony Jimenez of Pendleton.

Jimenez, 27, was attending a party March 17 at the home of Beau Welch, 31, on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, according to an FBI affidavit. Saturday morning they had a confrontation with party-goer Victor Contreras, 23, of California. Contreras opened fire, and Welch was shot in his lower left leg.



Jimenez

Jimenez was also shot in the head at roughly the same time and he died later that day. But Primus said there is nothing to link Contreras to Jimenez’s death.

Tribal police and the FBI arrested Contreras for shooting Welch, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Federal prosecutors in Portland charged Contreras with several felonies, including the attempted murder of Welch.

Chuck Sams, communications director for the tribes, said federal courts have jurisdiction in murder or attempted murder cases when the crimes occur on Indian lands and involve Indian victims. State courts have jurisdiction to prosecute non-Indian victims on tribal lands, though the Umatilla Tribal Court also can prosecute non-Indians.

Primus said he would file charges for Jimenez’s death if he could, but right now he cannot. No state charges are pending.

“Has there been an arrest for murder?” Primus asked. “I don’t have anyone to charge.”

That could change. Primus said investigators continue to look for evidence, including the .40-caliber Glock pistol Contreras claimed he used to shoot Welch’s home Saturday morning. The FBI affidavit

See HOMICIDE/8A

Umatilla County Health to tobacco advertisers:

TEAR DOWN THIS WALL

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Tobacco companies can no longer advertise through billboards, radio or television, but they can still pour millions of dollars into “power walls.”

The walls are hard to miss, located behind the cashier at many convenience stores — an expanse of hundreds of tobacco products, logos and colorful posters. The vibrant barrage of tobacco advertising worries many who work to keep kids from smoking.

“We don’t have tobacco billboards or tobacco ads on TV, but in Oregon, the tobacco industry spends \$112 million every year on ads and promotions,” said Janet Jones, community health educator for Umatilla County Public Health. “The tobacco industry spends an inordinate amount of money at the point of sale.”

Umatilla County recently won a \$133,000 grant to fund a tobacco prevention coordinator. The mission? To make tobacco less appealing to youth.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research, power walls and other displays seduce young, would-be smokers. The opposite is also true for adolescents: If smoking is out of sight, it’s out of mind. However, more than 90 percent of middle school and high school students reported seeing tobacco ads inside convenience stores, on store fronts or online. Research has established a causal relationship between advertising and teens starting to smoke.

“We know kids who regularly see tobacco advertising are more likely to experiment with tobacco,” Jones said.

Grant funding will allow the county to explore the issue. Coordinator selection is in process. Jones expects the 18-month effort to spark “an open and honest conversation about how tobacco is sold in our local communities,” starting in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater

See TOBACCO/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The tobacco industry spends \$112 million a year in Oregon just on in-store advertising and promotions. It’s called a “power wall,” and it is located behind the counter in most convenience stores.



Jones

12,700 Umatilla County residents that smoke

23% Umatilla County adults that smoke **19%** Statewide average of adults that smoke

3,000 Oregonians with serious illness caused by tobacco

148 Oregonians that die of tobacco-related death each year

Information from statewide survey by the Oregon Health Authority

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— Janet Jones, community health educator for Umatilla County Public Health



Contributed Photo

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are working on a stream bank and floodplain restoration project at the former Southern Cross Ranch on Catherine Creek. The project is part of a larger, four-phase restoration effort involving six properties along the creek.

Unchanneling Catherine Creek

CTUIR purchased former working ranch

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

A century of ranching has taken its toll on Catherine Creek in the Grande Ronde Valley.

The creek is home to three different species of threatened or endangered fish — including

chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout — while at the same time providing irrigation for hay fields and cattle pastures.

Over the years, portions of middle Catherine Creek were pinched off from its natural floodplain to make room for farms, resulting in a loss of

habitat and increased erosion along the stream bank.

It’s a familiar refrain in Eastern Oregon, where the needs of agriculture tend to overlap with the needs of fish and wildlife. Faced with chronic flooding caused by erosion, several private landowners on Catherine Creek

See CREEK/3A

Voters have until April 26 to pick party for primary

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon’s 540,000 non-affiliated voters have begun to receive mailers from the Secretary of State’s Office, laying out their options to participate in the May 17 primary.

The ranks of Oregon’s non-affiliated voters have grown at a fast pace since the state’s new automatic voter registration law took effect in January, because the new system registers people as non-affiliated by default. Eighty-six percent of voters registered through the new system were non-affiliated as of February, according to the Secretary of State’s Office.

These voters cannot cast ballots for Democratic or Republican candidates, because those parties will have closed primaries this year. Non-affiliated voters can vote in the Independent Party of Oregon’s primary, but only if they request that ballot.

Oregon’s automatic voter registration law is the first of its kind in the nation and

See PRIMARY/8A



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