



EAST OREGONIAN

MARCH 26-27, 2016

140th Year, No. 116 WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD \$1.50

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Ricardo Mendoza, portraying Jesus, lies on the ground at the seventh station, where Jesus falls for the second time, during the Way of the Cross pageant Friday in Hermiston.

WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

Good Friday pageant demands sacrifices of participants

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

As hundreds of Catholics prepared to celebrate Good Friday in Hermiston, Ricardo Mendoza felt a special burden to give the day his full reverence. The 18-year-old was portraying Jesus in the Way of the Cross pageant — a role he was stepping into for the second year in a row knowing it would be emotionally and physically draining. “I just pray and hope and ask God to give me strength to deliver his message,” Mendoza said, mixing together ingredients to form a blood-red paint that would later splatter his robes and drip



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Ricardo Mendoza portraying Jesus.

down his back as the men and boys dressed as Roman soldiers whipped him with ropes. Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church puts on the pageant before hundreds of parishioners every year. They move through 14 stations, starting with the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate in the church parking lot and



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Yessenia Garcia-Sanchez as Mary, mother of Jesus.

ending with Jesus’ crucifixion and burial atop the Hermiston Butte. Mendoza said dragging the cross, made of sturdy four-by-four beams, up the Hermiston Butte is no easy task. “Going up the hill, it’s tiring, but it’s also emotionally tiring because you’re getting hit and yelled at and you’re thinking



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Mario Contreras portraying a Roman soldier.

about what Jesus went through, and you just want to sit down and cry,” he said. Mendoza has been participating in the Way of the Cross for the past five years, first as a soldier and then by playing Jesus his senior year of high school and

See CROSS/12A

EOTEC PROGRESS

Rodeo arena timeline raises concerns

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

There are concerns that the rodeo arena at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center will not be finished by next year’s deadline. Contractors building both the barns and rodeo arena for EOTEC will be asked to complete construction of those projects by July 21, 2017. The 2017 Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo are planned for August 8-12. But Rob Drier of Frew Development Group told the EOTEC board Friday he is concerned about having construction of the rodeo arena finished by the July 21 deadline. In his written report to the board he noted that they had retained local firm Michaels Design to create architectural drawings, but in January he had notified the board’s executive committee that the drawings were “insufficient” and a second architect was hired to bring the drawings up to standard. “The rodeo arena bid documents will require every respondent to agree to complete work by July 21, 2017, but

See EOTEC/12A

Idaho arrest related to Jimenez homicide

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A second suspect from Saturday’s deadly shooting on the Umatilla Indian Reservation is in an Idaho jail. Julian D. Simpson, 22, faces a felony probation violation in Lewiston, Idaho. Local law enforcement officials confirmed police and the FBI had been looking for Simpson in connection to the crime. The Lewiston Police Department in a written statement reported officers there arrested Simpson Wednesday in a federal and tribal police investigation. FBI spokesperson Beth Ann Steele said federal prosecutors have not charged Simpson in the shooting. “Because this is an ongoing investigation, we simply can’t say more at this point,” she said. Violence erupted early March 19 outside Brian Welch’s home on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton. Welch, 31, suffered a severe gunshot wound above his left ankle, while Antonio “Tony” Jimenez of Pendleton lost his



Simpson

See HOMICIDE/12A

ATHENA

King of micro-chips

Pendleton man founded Tim’s Cascade Snacks

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

If you ask Tim Kennedy, Frito-Lay pretty much ruined potato chips in the mid-1980s. “Flat and flavorless” says Kennedy, who in 1986 started his own company to make a thicker, crunchier style of chip. Thirty years later, Tim’s Cascade Snacks is an iconic Northwest brand distributed in 13 states, parts of Canada, Mexico and overseas to Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Kennedy, 68, was born in Pendleton and raised in Athena, where

See CHIPS/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Tim Kennedy of Athena founded Tim’s Cascade Snacks 30 years ago after feeling that potato chips at the time lacked flavor.



7 29467 10002 2