



EXCHANGE STUDENT BOOSTING BUCKS GOLF/1B



ADAMS DAY ON THE WAY COMMUNITY/7A

Forrester to retire from DA REGION/3A

# EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

140th Year, No. 127

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Paddling through Pendleton

An American white pelican swims upstream in the Umatilla River on Monday near the 10th Street bridge in Pendleton.

### HERMISTON

## Usher picked as AD

East Oregonian

The Hermiston School Board picked two Sandstone Middle School educators to fill high-profile athletic positions in the school district.

Larry Usher, principal at Sandstone and former boys basketball coach at the high school, was named the district's new athletic director. He will replace Blaine Ganvoa who resigned the position effective June 30.

Usher coached the Hermiston boys basketball team from 2002-2010, leading the team to the playoffs in eight of those nine

seasons. The athletic director's office is at Hermiston High School and the position oversees athletics at the high school and both middle schools.

The district staff also approved Casey Arstein, physical education teacher at Sandstone, to become the boys basketball coach at the high school. He is an assistant coach on the team and replaces Dave Ego, who returned from retirement to coach during the 2015-16 season.



Usher

Other changes include making Ben DeCarlow assistant tennis coach at Armand Larive Middle School; Jessica Edwards assistant girls golf coach at the high school; Kreig Mueller assistant basketball coach at the high school; Juan Rodriguez as assistant boys golf coach at the high school; and Anthony Voelker as assistant baseball coach at the high school.

For more on the school board meeting, see Wednesday's *East Oregonian*.

## Wildhorse considers new hotel, bowling alley

Confederated Umatilla Journal

A second hotel tower and bowling alley are pieces in a master plan being developed for Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Mission.

The Board of Trustees on April 4 approved financing to hire an architectural and engineering firm to take the first step of drafting the preliminary proposals. The anticipated cost of the proposed expansion was not disclosed, and no projects have been finalized.

Plans also would double the size of event space for a total of 30,000 square feet to accommodate larger meetings and other functions, such as conferences and conventions.

"It's time to take over the market," said BOT member Justin Quaempts. "It's there for the taking. We need to think big and move forward. We're at the center of the universe equal distance to Spokane, Seattle, Portland and Boise."

BOT Chairman Gary Burke recalled his first visits to Las Vegas when he saw gamblers 24 hours a day.

"A lot of people here weren't behind (Wildhorse), but now we have a resort and casino. The sky is the limit," he said.

Wildhorse CEO Gary George and Matt Robinson from the firm of Klas Robinson, which did the feasibility study for the planned development options, more thoroughly explained proposals that have been talked about since September.

George told the board the new tower would replace the 20-year-old courtyard hotel, which has 99 rooms. He said last September, 890 requests for rooms were "turnaways" and Wildhorse could support another 140 rooms.

See WILDHORSE/8A

### HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Hermiston Conference Center's viability is in question now that the Event Center at EOTEC is due to open in May.

## Conference center's fate unsettled

Decision pushed to 2017 after EOTEC is operational

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

### Survey results

Percent of survey respondents who said they "loved" an idea:  
Indoor aquatic center ..... 89  
Downtown revitalization... 86  
More parks..... 83  
Family activity center ..... 83  
Arts and culture center.... 64

After a year-long process to determine the future of the Hermiston Conference Center, the city still doesn't know what it is going to do with the building.

The Livable Hermiston Committee that was convened to answer that particular question came back with a recommendation

to ask again in late 2017. But the committee also came back with a

report on where residents want to see the city's money spent overall — including a possible indoor aquatic center and family/youth activity center.

"They recommended that the city step back and take a longer view," assistant city manager Mark Morgan told the city council Monday night.

The conference center's fate came into question in early 2015,

when city staff voiced the opinion that it didn't seem prudent to use the city's limited resources to subsidize both the Hermiston Conference Center and the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, which plans to open its event center to the public on May 13, with full completion of the surrounding fair and rodeo grounds in Aug. 2017.

The Livable Hermiston Committee's recommendation on Monday was that the city's number

See HERMISTON/8A



Staff Photo by Jennifer Colton

Kevin Coleman has served as chaplain for the Pendleton Fire Department for more than 30 years and will continue to, even in his retirement.

### PENDLETON

## Calm in chaos

Kevin Coleman has served as a minister, as a chaplain and as a firefighter/paramedic

By JENNIFER COLTON  
East Oregonian

For 40 years, Kevin Coleman has brought a calming presence to the stressed and weary of Pendleton.

A firefighter, counselor, minister, paramedic and chaplain, Coleman brings calm to people facing the worst days of their lives.

"What Kevin does is much more than bandaging wounds," Pendleton Fire

Chief Mike Ciraulo said. "Kevin holds hands and heals hearts. We are a better community, a blessed community, because of him."

From the fire department to mental health, Coleman has spent his life in chaotic situations, defusing a calm into settings many people would avoid. He has worked with fatal accidents, devastating fires, with those who have lost loved ones and those who

See COLEMAN/3A



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