



**HOMER IN
10TH LIFTS
MARINERS**
BASEBALL/1B



**TWO JACKPOT
WINNERS IN
TWO MONTHS**
HERMISTON/5A

**Idaho possible
site for nuclear
waste storage**
NORTHWEST/2A

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

140th Year, No. 129

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

UMATILLA-MORROW HEALTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Diagnosis: Still unhealthy

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian

Residents of Umatilla and Morrow counties weigh too much, exercise too little, overuse alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, and feel worse than they did five years ago, according to a community health survey released this week.

Last year, more than 800 residents of Umatilla and Morrow counties responded to the Umatilla-Morrow Counties Community Health Assessment Report, a mail-in survey collecting data on health of local residents. Sponsored by a slew of local entities, including Good Shepherd Health Care System and St. Anthony Hospital, the survey was conducted by researchers at the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio and the University of Toledo.

Britney Ward, director of community health improvement for the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio, presented the results of the survey Wednesday in both Pendleton and Milton-Freewater. Ward and Ron Harwood, health assessment chair and director of mission services for St. Anthony Hospital, will host events Thursday in Boardman and Friday in Hermiston. During the release events, attendees view a presentation on the results, receive a copy of the 122-page report and are able to ask questions and provide feedback on the results.

The next steps will include choosing priority health concerns and developing initiatives to help combat them. Harwood said a similar study was conducted in Umatilla County in 2011, but the current study will allow local stakeholders to compare data with Morrow and Union counties, both of which conducted similar studies under Ward's group.

"When it comes to prevention, one of the key things is that you get groups to work together," he said. "What I have seen in the last four to five years is that is happening."

For the 2015 study, 2,400 surveys were sent out to residents of Umatilla and Morrow counties. About 38 percent of those surveys were returned. Targeted studies were also conducted in tandem with Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center to study health of the American Indian population in Umatilla County and with Hispanic community groups for targeted surveys on residents of Hispanic heritage. Information



13 percent
of adults are
tobacco smokers

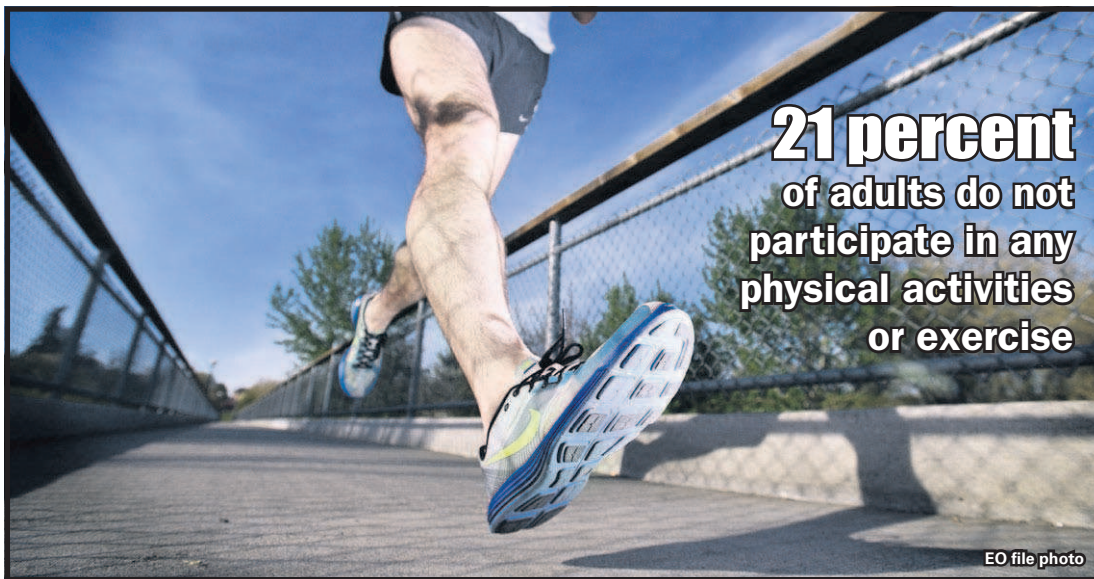
EO file photo



36 percent
of adults
are obese

38 percent
of adults are
overweight

AP Photo/David Duprey, File



21 percent
of adults do not
participate in any
physical activities
or exercise

EO file photo

on each of those groups is included in the spiral-bound report, and information on specific areas of Umatilla and Morrow County — the greater Hermiston area compared to the greater Pendleton area, for example — will be released separately.

Ward said the report showed both positive and negative trends for the area.

The greatest positive change from 2011 to 2015 came in the form of insurance. In 2011, 16 percent of adults in Umatilla County self-reported as uninsured. In 2015, that number had fallen to 8 percent, well below Oregon's average of 11 percent and the U.S. average of 13 percent.

The greatest negative change between the reports, however,

was a drop of 17 percent in respondents' perception of their own health.

In 2011, 53 percent of Umatilla residents rated their health as "very good" or "excellent." However, in 2015, that number fell to 38 percent. In 2011, 15 percent of Umatilla County residents rated their

See HEALTH/8A

PENDLETON

City may lift ban on EOCI work crews

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council is set to reconsider a nearly 20-year-old ban on Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution work crews working in Pendleton.

EOCI Superintendent Jeri Taylor pitched the idea to a receptive city council at a workshop Tuesday.

The city signed an agreement with EOCI prohibiting inmates from working outside prison grounds in 1987, a few years after the former mental institution was converted to a state prison.

EOCI was the first state prison located outside the Salem area and Mayor Phillip Houk said citizens at the time had public safety concerns about inmates leaving the facility to work, spurring the ban.

Taylor argued that how EOCI selects inmates for work crews has come a long way since 1987 and they're doing beneficial work across the state.

See EOCI/8A

LA GRANDE

Two students arrested in attack plot

Parents fully cooperating with the investigation

By JOSH BENHAM
La Grande Observer

Two La Grande High School students are in juvenile custody, held on charges of conspiracy to commit murder after an alleged threat against students at the school.

La Grande Police Department Chief Brian Harvey said Wednesday that the department received second-hand information from La Grande High School staff Monday night regarding students who discussed potentially harming others.

Harvey said the youth were identified and kept out of school Tuesday, initially being taken into custody on charges of disorderly conduct.

"We go through an exhaustive process to see if (the threats were) credible," Harvey said. "We started working (Tuesday) morning, and based on that investigation, these two youth had talked about doing a

See STUDENTS/8A

California transplant asks Oregonians to pay for him to leave

By LUKE HAMMILL
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Daniel Bullington is challenging Oregonians who complain about Californian transplants to put their money where their mouths are.

Bullington, 29, of West Linn, arrived in Oregon from Southern California about 18 months ago, seeking "the promise of green pastures," he said. He found a job selling cars. He and his wife had a baby daughter, who is now 15 months old.

But what Bullington

"Oregonians are not keen on Californians. It's clearly apparent."

— Daniel Bullington

didn't expect, he said, was the attitude some in Oregon displayed toward Californians like him. So he created a GoFundMe page, and if he raises \$3,500, he'll move back to the Golden State, he said.

Oregon is "a beautiful

See OREGON/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

New hotel under construction

A construction worker hands a tool up to a coworker Monday out of an unfinished window of the Holiday Inn Express that is under construction in Hermiston.

