

**INSIDE: LITTLE DARLINGS SPECIAL SECTION**



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# EAST OREGONIAN

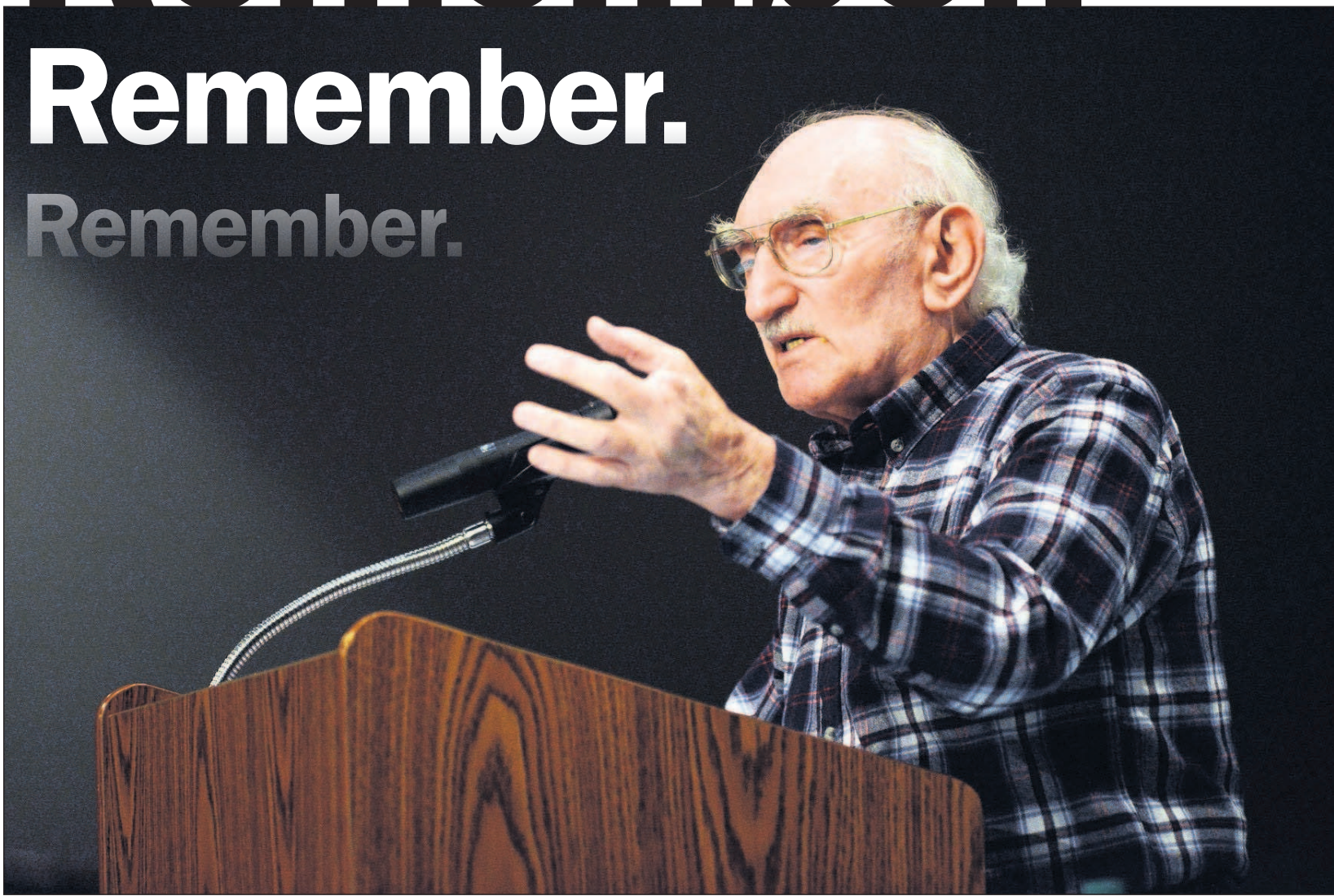
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

140th Year, No. 133

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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# Remember. Remember. Remember.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Manny Taiblum, a Jewish Holocaust survivor from Poland, holds up his hand to show his missing finger he lost while fighting the Nazis during World War II in the Polish resistance during a talk at BMCC on Tuesday in Pendleton.

## Holocaust survivor speaks of horror, resilience

By KATHY ANEY ♦ EAST OREGONIAN

Manny Taiblum's hair is gray and he doesn't hear so well these days.

When he starts telling his personal story, though, he morphs back into the scared 12-year-old boy who returned to his home one day in 1941 to find his entire family gone.

The Holocaust survivor spoke Tuesday morning at the Blue Mountain Community College Arts & Culture Festival. The audience listened as Taiblum told of his chaotic life after the German invasion of Poland and how he survived to eventually settle in the United States.

Life was once normal for Taiblum's family. His father, a Hasidic Jew who wore the traditional white shirt, black pants and yarmulke, ran a store in the Jewish Quarter of Warsaw.

Germany invaded in 1939. One day, armed Nazi police came to the store and ordered the family to move to a place called the Warsaw Ghetto. Their tiny apartment contained only

a table, two chairs, a coal stove and three straw mattresses. Manny slept on the kitchen floor. Warsaw's entire Jewish community, he said, was forced into an area of about a square mile.

"Hitler concentrated a half million Jews there," said Taiblum, who now lives in Portland.

Food was scarce in the ghetto and the boy concocted a plan to sneak out, walk to the farm of a man who had once supplied his father's store and ask for food. One night, the boy stole away and walked through fields paralleling a road. By daybreak, he arrived at the farm. The farmer fed him and loaded him with food. When darkness fell again, he headed back lugging a heavy sack. When he

returned to the ghetto, however, he found a surreal scene.

"My home was empty," Taiblum said. "The streets were empty — I didn't see a lone soul, not even an animal. I walked around the streets crying."

He finally found an elderly man coming around a corner.

"He was shaking," Taiblum remembered. "He said, 'The Nazis came to the ghetto and took away 300,000 Jews including your family.'"

The soldiers shot anyone who resisted, the man said. Taiblum gave him the food he'd carried home and wandered away in shock.

See HOLOCAUST/10A

"I will not be here to speak to you this story forever. Don't let the lessons from this evil fade away."

— Manny Taiblum, Holocaust survivor

## PENDLETON

## Large field characterizes at-large council race

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

No race better encapsulates the wide field of candidates competing in the Pendleton municipal elections than the race for the at-large council seat.

Four names will be listed when ballots are sent to voters April 27, the first four-way race for a Pendleton City Council seat since 2000.

Although people can still cast votes for former candidate Jim Swearingen, the co-owner of J & B Automotive ended his campaign and no longer wants the position.

Paul Chalmers is technically the incumbent, but he will go into the May 17 election with only three months of experience.

Chalmers, the Umatilla County director of assessment and taxation and the owner of a mold abatement company, was appointed to the council in February to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Jane Hill, beating out fellow at-large candidate Paul Rabitaille and Ward 1 candidate James Tibbets.

While Chalmers is making his first run for office, he's been involved in



**Paul Chalmers**

Age: 57

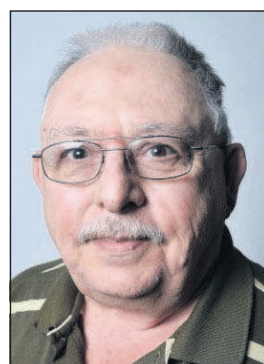
Occupation: Umatilla County director of assessment and taxation, owner of Mold Tek LLC

Hometown: Gresham

Years in Pendleton: 17

Highest Level of Education: Some college at Mt. Hood Community College

Family: Married, Five children, seven grandchildren



**Paul Rabitaille**

Age: 65

Occupation: Retired salesman

Hometown: Palm Desert, California

Years in Pendleton: 21

Highest Level of Education: Some college at College of the Desert

Family: Widowed, one child, one grandchild



**Rick Rohde**

Age: 68

Occupation: Retired, former Wal-Mart Distribution Center worker

Hometown: Pendleton

Years in Pendleton: 30

Highest Level of Education: High school diploma

Family: Single, three children, five grandchildren

See COUNCIL/10A

\*Jim Swearingen is listed on the ballot but ended his campaign after the withdrawal deadline

## Census snapshot of UmCo

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Every year the U.S. Census Bureau publishes a treasure trove of demographic information, but much of it goes unnoticed by entities that could benefit from the research.

A search for Umatilla County brings up more than 30,000 data sets over the past 7 years, containing tidbits of information ranging from the obvious (Hermiston's population is younger than Pendleton's) to the unexpected (slightly more women than men in Umatilla County hold management positions).

The 2014 data — the latest available — is an estimate based on the detailed 2010 Census and subsequent growth. But it provides a series of snapshots of the lives of Eastern Oregon residents.

A sampling of trivia from the database on factfinder.census.gov is found below:

**Transportation:** Pendleton workers tend to spend less time commuting than those from Hermiston, with 40 percent of Pendleton residents driving less than 10 minutes work, compared to 32 percent in Hermiston.

Hermiston residents get up for work earlier, with 10 percent of workers leaving for work between midnight

See CENSUS/10A

## HERMISTON Sheriff seeks to strengthen relationship with Hispanic residents

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Sheriff Terry Rowan sought to strengthen the relationship between his office and Umatilla County's Hispanic residents Monday as he met with Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee.

During a presentation to the committee and 28 audience members, Rowan, who is running for a second term as sheriff, reassured them that his office does not seek out undocumented immigrants.

"Please know that the federal government has advised me that it will not support the deportation of law-abiding people and I agree with that," he said.

In response to questions about whether people without legal status in the country could report crimes anonymously, Rowan said he absolutely encouraged people to report crimes no matter their citizenship issues. Local law enforcement and dispatchers are prohibited from asking crime victims about their immigration status.

"If you're calling as a victim and they start asking about your legal-ness in this country, I should know about it," he said.

He also pointed out that the dispatch center has a 24/7 language line service, so if someone who doesn't speak

See SHERIFF/9A



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