

**FOR WHOM
THE BELL
CHOIR TOLLS**
HERMISTON/3A



**SEAHAWKS
UPGRADE
OFFENSIVE
LINE** DRAFT/3B



**Boehner calls
Cruz "Lucifer
in the flesh"**
NATION/2A

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

140th Year, No. 140

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Walla Walla Kennel Club Annual Dog Show
- Hermiston High School FFA plant sale
- Spring into Echo city-wide yard sales

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Catch a movie

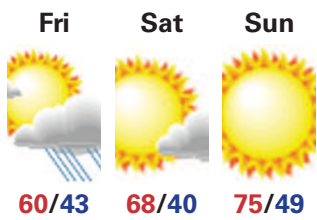


Warner Bros. Entertainment via AP

Two friends posing as drug dealers go to absurd ends to rescue a cat in the action comedy, "Keanu."

For showtime, Page 5A
For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather



HERMISTON Precision Irrigated Ag Center breaks ground

Construction to finish by early next year

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

As technology changes the way farmers grow and harvest crops, Blue Mountain Community College is training students to keep pace with the evolving industry.

The next generation of producers will have to know how to use things like GPS, drones and real-time soil moisture monitors if they want to get the most bang for their buck. That's precisely what they'll be taught at BMCC's new Precision Irrigated Agriculture

See AGRICULTURE/10A

PENDLETON



Armchair Books owner Terry Dallas sells a book to Nick Shackelford of San Jose, Calif., on Monday at Armchair Books in Pendleton.

A farewell to Armchair

Bookstore says 'the end' after 34 years

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Armchair Books isn't the first small, beloved bookstore to close in the wake of e-books, chain stores and Amazon.

Owner Terry Dallas knows this, but it doesn't make her last week in operation any less bittersweet. The bell on the store's front door jingles frequently as customers enter to peruse her few remaining books. They tell her how sorry they are to see the bookstore's existence come to an end. A few apologized for buying so many books from Amazon.

Dallas steps away from the business with reluctance, but she is candid about the reason for the closure.

"There's not enough business," she said. "There were too many days with not even \$100 in sales. It's hard to pay the light bill."

Her worst day in recent memory? "Forty-eight dollars and 48 cents," Dallas said of a day in February.

Since the advent of the Internet and e-books, she said, many customers have disappeared.

"I can't imagine they stopped reading — I figure they went online," she said. "Amazon sells books for less than we can buy them for sometimes."

Dallas smiles, however, when she thinks of good days in the past, such as four midnight parties for the release of Harry Potter books.

"People would start sitting outside on the sidewalk in the afternoon," she recalled. "They wanted to be first in line."

While Dallas and her employees



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The shelves are becoming barren as customers have taken advantage of the 30 percent discount on all books in a going out of business sale at Armchair Books in Pendleton.

Say goodbye to Armchair

Owner Terry Dallas invites patrons to drop by the store Saturday from 2-4 p.m. to have cake and champagne, share stories about their favorite books and authors, and say goodbye after 34 years of business in Pendleton.

rang up books, her son Christian and some of his friends stood behind a refreshment table, serving butter beer (made with cream soda), powdered vervain (nutmeg) and cookies bearing a likeness of Harry Potter's lightning-shaped scar. A life-sized cardboard cutout of Harry stood by.

Since 1990, when she bought the store from original owner Darcy Dauble, many authors have visited the store, including Jane Kirkpatrick,

Patrick McManus and even Pendleton's own former senator, Gordon Smith, who wrote about the suicide of his son, Garrett. During Dauble's seven-year stint before she left to become librarian at Blue Mountain Community College, she hosted author Ken Kesey.

The store is a bit of a time capsule. Not much has changed from the two neon signs in the window to the ancient refrigerator in the back room. Some yellowed *East Oregonian* articles about authors taped on the wall near a tiny sink appeared during Dauble's ownership of the store and Dallas just left them. A couple decades ago, she finally bought a computer for the store. One of the first, an old Key computer with a Princeton monitor still is used for bookkeeping. Dallas said she

See BOOKS/10A

HERMISTON

Taxi business out of service

Umatilla Cab Company now sole service in town

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

A year after the Hermiston City Council voted to open up taxi service in the city to competition, Hermiston seems to be down to one taxi company again.

The phone number for Hermiston Transit Services has been disconnected and the owners have not responded to Facebook inquiries about the company's status, and Hermiston residents have reported not being able to reach the company for about a month.

Umatilla Cab Company, the other service picking up riders in Hermiston since the city did away with Hermiston Transit's exclusive franchise, has seen its call volume shoot up in the last few weeks, owner Sundi Marquez said.

"It's a little bit overwhelming," she said.

The company is working on adding more drivers and cars to its six-person staff to handle the increased client load, but Marquez said hiring qualified drivers and putting them through the city's background check process takes time. People in the meantime might have to wait longer than they're used to for a cab.

"We appreciate the patience while we iron out the wrinkles," she said.

She said calling ahead to arrange rides instead of saying "I have a doctor's appointment in 15 minutes" helps. She also said contrary to rumor, Hermiston Transit has not combined with Umatilla Cab Company, so she doesn't have any answers for the people who have called to ask why Hermiston Transit's dispatch line no longer works.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said Hermiston Transit Services still has a license from the city to operate, so if the business is no longer taking calls, it is a decision on their end.

In October, however, the city revoked Hermiston Tran-

See TAXI/10A

PENDLETON

Listen to her

Women and girls share stories, input

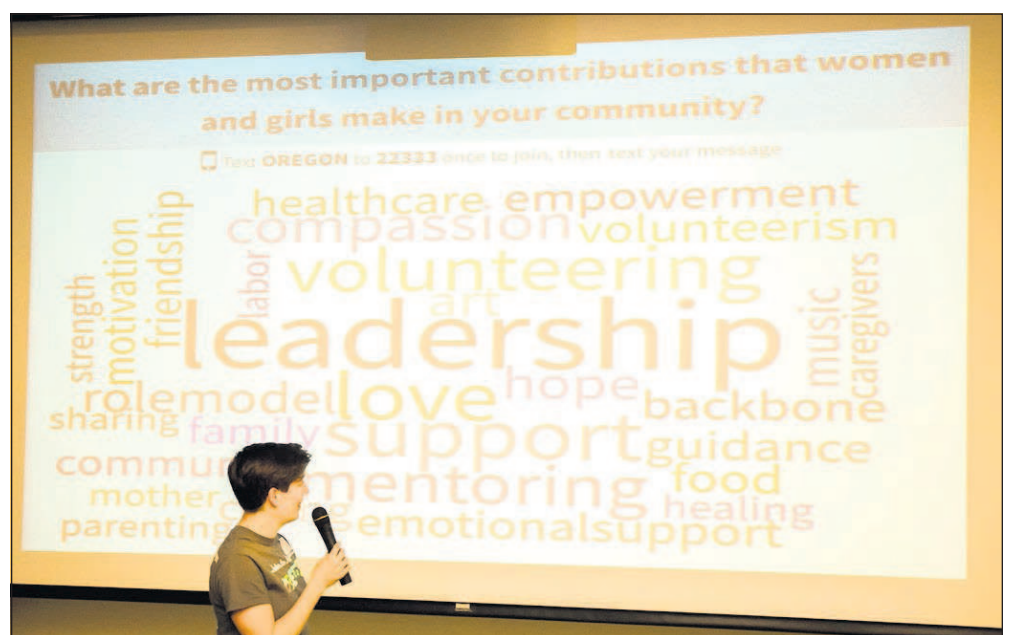
By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

The 70-or-so women and girls gathered in the Blue Mountain Community College lecture room Wednesday evening had their cellphones at the ready. They studied Emily Evans, who stood at the front of the room near a projection screen.

Evans, the executive director of the Women's Foundation of Oregon, asked her next question.

"Has finding affordable, high-quality child care ever been a barrier to participation in the workforce?" she asked. "Text your answer."

The bar graph on the screen exploded to life as the answers dumped into the database. The bars shrank or lengthened depending on the most recent answer. When they settled, the graph showed 36 percent said yes, 14 percent said no,



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Emily Evans, executive director of the Women's Foundation of Oregon, watches a word cloud developing on the screen as audience members at the Listen to Her town hall texted words describing the most important contributions women and girls make in the community. The event took place Wednesday evening at Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton.

See WOMEN/10A



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