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WEEKEND EDITION



LOGGING HISTORY THROUGH MODEL TRAINS
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AN ENCOUNTER WITH ALL
OPINION/4A

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Skills trainer Rex Holcomb holds out one of the therapeutic tools called a feeling buddy, he uses with students at the Lifeways Day Treatment Program.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Treating trauma

Team of counselors and teachers strive to help kids cope

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Calm and chaos intertwine daily at the Lifeways Day Treatment Program.

Inside the program's cramped cinderblock building on Southeast Third Street, 24 severely traumatized children learn how to cope. The kids, from all around Umatilla County, come to the Pendleton center from unpredictable, sometimes dangerous, environments. The children are often out of control, easily angered and lacking social skills. Mornings at the center are a time of finding equilibrium.

On a recent day, a young



girl entered the front door in full-tantrum mode. Two staff members escorted the grade-schooler to the safe room, a tiny enclosed area where she could calm herself using techniques she has learned at the center. She emerged minutes later looking composed, bee-lining for a beanbag chair and snuggling in.

See TRAUMA/14A



CJ Brunette is one of four teachers working in the Lifeways Day Treatment Program helping children deal with trauma.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

"You would go nuts if you took everything home with you. The stuff that's happened to them — I wouldn't wish it on anybody."

— Rex Holcomb, skills trainer

HERMISTON

EOTEC approves \$9.1M budget

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center approved a \$9.1 million budget on Friday.

The 2016-2017 budget includes \$8.5 million earmarked for construction.

Operating costs have been a question mark for the EOTEC board, as the event center building recently became operational while most of the project remains under construction. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year the city of Hermiston and Umatilla County are budgeted to contribute \$45,190 each to be added to a beginning cash fund of \$55,300 and an estimated event revenue of \$46,200 for the year. An additional \$297,665 from the tourism promotion assessment on hotels will provide funds to be used for marketing.

See EOTEC/14A

Leaders react to concealed-carry ruling

By KRISTENA HANSEN
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Some Oregon political leaders had strong reactions to a federal appeals court finding that carrying a concealed weapon in public is not a constitutional right.

Thursday's ruling upheld neighboring California's requirement that applicants show "good cause" for getting a permit.

It might not have an immediate impact in Oregon. Concealed-carry licenses are much easier to obtain in Oregon than California, and local governments and authorities can't make that process any harder without lawmakers' permission.

But gun control has been a high-profile topic at the Capitol in Salem in recent years — largely stemming from last year's background-check law that Democrats failed to tighten in February and the Umpqua Community College shooting last fall. Some say the ruling could fuel the reform

See GUNS/14A

HERMISTON

Baldo said goodbye to bombs, now to books



Hermiston Public Library director Marie Baldo stands next to a display case full of pigs she has received over the years working at the library.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Librarians often get stereotyped as quiet individuals who do most of their living in the pages of books. But before Marie Baldo was handling returns, she was handling nuclear weapons in Germany.

Baldo, Hermiston Public Library's director since 2004, is retiring at the end of the month. It's her second retirement, after first retiring from the U.S. Army.

"When I was a teen there were two things I wanted to do," she said. "I wanted to be a librarian — big time, I wanted to be a librarian — and I wanted to join WAC (the Women's Army Corp)."

When she left high school she decided to pursue the librarian path, but she graduated from college into a recession and after six months of

not finding work as a librarian she went on to plan B and joined the Army.

The WAC was being phased out, but her college degree allowed her to enter as a second lieutenant and participate for a year before she was transitioned to ordnance work. She spent much of her Army career handling nuclear weapons in Germany, but jokes she was "issued" her husband Fred Allen at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. She eventually transitioned from nuclear weapons to chemical ones and ended up as commander of the Umatilla Chemical Depot in the late 1990s.

The next step would have been the Pentagon, but Baldo didn't want to move to Washington, D.C. Her husband had already retired

See BALDO/14A

