



**GROGAN
DRAFTED
BY TWINS**
BASEBALL/1B



**HARNEY COUNTY
BRACES FOR
RECALL ELECTION**
NORTHWEST/2A

The scope
of the
Orlando
carnage
OPINION/4A

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

140th Year, No. 172

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

Victim vignettes: A look at those killed

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT**
and **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
Associated Press

A gunman wielding an assault-type rifle and a handgun opened fire inside a crowded gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, early Sunday, leaving at least 49 people dead in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Here are stories of some of the victims.

Last Monday, Akyra Murray, who turned 18 in January, graduated third in her class of 42 students at West Catholic Preparatory High School in Philadelphia, where she had also been a 1,000-point scorer on the basketball team. She had recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Mercyhurst University in Erie.

"She was very loving, caring, out to help anybody," her mother, Natalie Murray, recalled.

To celebrate her graduation, Akyra, her parents and her 4-year-old sister traveled to Orlando for a family vacation.

On Saturday, Murray told her parents she wanted to party in downtown Orlando. They dropped her off at Pulse at 11:30 Saturday night.

At about 2 a.m., Akyra Murray sent a text message to her mother, saying that she and her cousins wanted to be picked up. She said there had been a shooting.

Moments later, the phone rang. "She was saying she was shot and she was screaming, saying she was losing a lot of blood," Natalie Murray said.

Murray said her daughter was hiding in a bathroom stall, cowering from the shooter, her arm bleeding for hours with no medical treatment.

Akyra Murray told her mother to call police and send help.

They never spoke again. "It was devastating," Natalie Murray said.

Leroy Valentin Fernandez recently had found a job as a leasing agent for an Orlando apartment complex, said his friend, Jennifer Rodriguez. "He had finally found something he liked. He was taking care of his mom," she said.

He was her hair stylist and became one of her best friends, she said. "He was like a brother," she said. "He was

See **ORLANDO/8A**



Crowd members hold up candles during a vigil downtown for the victims of a mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub Monday in Orlando, Fla. *AP Photo/David Goldman*

PENDLETON



EO file photo

A SeaPort flight prepares for departure in February at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.

SeaPort subsidy denied

Pendleton, airline dispute federal order

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The U.S. Department of Transportation has tentatively decided to eliminate the Essential Air Service subsidy to Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, which could deal

a huge blow to commercial flights from Pendleton to Portland.

The city and SeaPort Airlines, Pendleton's commercial provider, filed an objection to the department's May 20 order, which lists 30 small airports across the country that

it now deems ineligible for the subsidy.

While eight airports received waivers because of significant interruptions in service, Pendleton and 21 other cities are still on the chopping block because they exceeded the \$200 per

passenger subsidy cap.

Tracking the Pendleton airport from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 1, 2015, the department determined the passenger rate by dividing Pendleton's yearly subsidy — \$1,797,333 — by its number of boardings — 8,422. The resulting \$213 per passenger rate is just over the

See **SEAPORT/8A**

MILTON-FREEWATER

No arrest, charges in infant's death

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

The investigation continues into Wednesday's death of a 5-month-old Milton-Freewater boy. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said on Monday he is not aware of any arrests in the case and he has not charged anyone with a crime in relation to the death.

Walla Walla County Coroner Richard Greenwood reported the child died at 6:23 p.m. Wednesday at Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla. Primus said that led to the activation of the Umatilla-Morrow County Major Crime Team, which consists of detectives and officers from local agencies.

Primus also said he has the results of an

See **DEATH/8A**

HERMISTON

Council OKs smaller hike on electric rates

Also approves \$49.2M budget

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The Hermiston city council approved an electric rate increase of 2.59 percent Monday.

The change was smaller than the 4.4 percent increase Hermiston Energy Services superintendent Nate Rivera originally recommended during a May 23 work session.

"We were able to tighten our belts and find some cost savings," he said.

The rate adjustments vary by account type. The charge per kilowatt hour will remain the same for residential customers but their base charge will increase from \$10.50 per month to \$14. Small commercial customers will see a .71 percent increase, large commercial customers a .4 percent increase, industrial no increase and irrigation customers a 6.43 percent increase.

The changes will take effect on bills calculated after Sept. 1.

The rate increase follows an 11 percent increase adopted a year ago, but prior to that Hermiston Energy Services had not raised rates for 12 years. The utility had instead built up a sizable reserve fund when the cost of wholesale power from Bonneville

See **COUNCIL/6A**

Grant County pays \$12,000 settlement after botched arrest

By **LES ZAITZ**
The Oregonian

JOHN DAY — A deputy protected his relatives from blame in a random shooting by arresting the 9-1-1 caller who reported it, resulting in a foul-up that raises fresh questions about embattled Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer.

The district attorney didn't pursue a case, instead rebuking Palmer and his deputy. The county quietly paid the caller \$12,000 from its insurer to fend off a lawsuit.

"This incident is the most egregious abuse of power I have ever

seen," said attorney Edie Rogoway, who represented the arrested man.

The botched arrest comes to light as Palmer faces a state criminal investigation for allegedly tampering with official records. He also faces a state administrative investigation into whether he's fit to retain his police certification.

Palmer gained national notice earlier this year for his sympathy for militants who took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He considers himself a



Palmer

"constitutional sheriff" and vows to protect citizens from abusive government.

In the shooting case, Palmer approved the arrest and later promoted the deputy to undersheriff, his second-in-command. This is the latest in a series of questionable actions by

Palmer to come to public attention in recent months. He faces 10 complaints that he violated standards for police officers. The complaints, including two from

See **SETTLEMENT/6A**

