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Avoid, deny, defend

CRASE trains civilians to respond to active shooters

HAST REGONIAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2016

140th Year, No. 225

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Molly's Revenge live at the Pendleton arts center
- Wheatstock at Quantum 9 Arena, Helix

For times and places

see Coming Events, 5A Catch a movie



"Don't Breathe" The perfect heist goes awry when a trio of thieves break into the house of a wealthy blind man.

For showtime, Page 5A

Weekend Weather







Sat

92/61

ODOT's

control

raises

lax quality

questions

By NICK BUDNICK

Capital Bureau

average Oregonian driver

hundreds of dollars in vehicle

Matt Garrett prepares to ask

lawmakers for hundreds of

millions of dollars in increased

taxes and fees on Oregonians

to fund new roads and bridge

upgrades, documents show

that his department has for

more than a decade resisted

basic quality improvements

intended to stop construction

fraud, combat premature

potholes and make roads last

See ODOT/10A

Federal highway officials have warned ODOT repeat-

longer.

repairs every year.

Potholes and ruts cost the

But as Oregon Department Transportation Director

of fraud

87/57

Sun



caused by enemy action.

Last year, Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs Operations Director Ed Van Dyke began researching

Esselstyn's service record and found that he was eligible for the Purple Heart and seven other medals, ribbons and badges.

On Thursday afternoon at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, the 73-year-old veteran finally

free by the Hermiston Police Department gives people tools to reduce their chances of being harmed.

"Nobody in here is helpless," Sgt. Bill Osborne told Umatilla-Morrow Head Start staff members during a training on

The message shared over and over again during the three-hour course: In an

Hermiston Police Sgt. Bill Osborne talks about mass of being harmed. The Civilian Response to See CRASE/10A shooters during a CRASE training Thursday in Hermiston. Active Shooter Events course offered for

Helicopter blade slammed into soldier's

Decades after a helicopter blade struck Ron Esselstyn's head, he finally received his

Army helicopter carrying him and other soldiers landed in a rice paddy and Esselstyn hopped out. When a Viet Cong sniper popped up from the weeds, the soldier jumped off balance into the chopper's moving tail rotor. The blade hit with such force that it mashed part of Esselstyn's fiberglass helmet into his brain.

His parents got a telegram calling their son's prognosis "guarded." When he awoke, speech eluded him. His doctors suspected he would never walk again.

The Pendleton man, once called "The Cat" by basketball teammates, surprised everyone by not only walking, but eventually running more than 100 marathons. He finished college and started a career as a tax appraiser at the Umatilla County Assessor's

accidents that

51 years later, Veteran receives Purple Heart

By JADE MCDOWELL

East Oregonian

a person can be in: A gunman enters a

building, opening fire on everyone in sight

or do other things that increase their chance

as crowds attempt to flee or hide.

It's one of the most high-stress situations

In the panic, it's easy for people to freeze,

head in Vietnam By KATHY ANEY East Oregonian

Purple Heart. The Pendleton soldier almost died 51 years ago in Vietnam at age 22 after an

Esselstyn didn't receive his Purple Heart. The veteran believed he wasn't eligible because he was technically an "advisor," not a combat troop. Possibly he was passed over because of a misunderstanding of Army regulation, which bars soldiers from receiving Purple Hearts for vehicular weren't



TOP: Ron Esselstyn has

Staff photos by Kathy Aney

tears come to his as Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Operations Director Ed Van Dyke pins a Purple Heart on his chest Thursday afternoon at the Jonathan M. Wainwright
Memorial VA Medical Center. The awards ceremony comes 51 years after a helicopter blade hit him in the head during conflict in Vietnam.

LEFT: A Purple Heart was one of eight medals, badges and ribbons received by Ron Esselstyn 51 years after a helicopter rotor hit him in the head during conflict in Vietnam.

got his medals in front of a crowd of about 75 gathered in the Outpatient Center Atrium.

Esselstyn sat in his

See VETERAN/10A

PENDLETON

Boy recovers from brain surgery with help from community



Seamus Gunnels, 3, shows his mother, Drew Gunnels, a Lego action figure at their home Wednesday in Pendleton.

Tumor removed from 3-year-old's brain

By WILL DENNER East Oregonian

Life is returning to normal for Drew Gunnels and her family a month after doctors removed a tumor from her three-year-old son's brain.

Seamus, an outgoing boy, started showing symptoms in July when he would suddenly stop moving. The family first thought he was acting, but soon found out that he was having seizures.

An MRI revealed Seamus had a ganglioglioma tumor — usually benign — on his frontal lobe. Seamus underwent a six-hour operation at Portland's Doernbecher Children's Hospital in which the whole tumor was successfully removed.

A few weeks of recovery later, Seamus has rejoined his six-year-old brother, Atticus, at Lil Angels day care. Drew is back at her Columbia Care Services job, and the Pendleton community continues to support the family. A scar on his scalp reminds the family of a whirlwind month, but also a lesson not to take life for granted.

"We were very lucky in the sense that it wasn't anything worse, but it could've been, Gunnels said. "That's a big eye opener."

Doctors told Gunnels there is a chance the tumor could return cancerous.

Atticus was the first person to tell Gunnels of

See SEAMUS/10A

