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FOOTBALL/1B



WEEKEND EDITION



**'HACKSAW RIDGE' STORMS  
INTO THEATERS** REVIEW/3C



**DEMOCRATS COULD LOSE  
SUPERMAJORITY** OREGON/10A

# EAST OREGONIAN

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\$1.50



Reed

## Former *Herald* owner dies at age 81

BY JADE MCDOWELL  
*East Oregonian*

Gerald Michael "Jerry" Reed, 81, former owner and publisher of the *Hermiston Herald*, died Friday morning in Hermiston.

Reed, who bought a minority ownership stake in the paper in 1969, became the sole owner in 1974, building the *Herald's* staff, coverage and page count and garnering multiple awards, until selling the paper to Western Communication Inc. of Bend in 1992.

He was a past president of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Representatives and was one of the charter members of the Hermiston Development Corporation, which attracted employers and jobs to Hermiston throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Around 1978 Reed brought the *Hermiston Herald* into a merger with Dick Nafsinger of the *Hood River News* and Denny Smith of the *Blue-Mountain Eagle Newspaper Company*, forming *Eagle Newspapers Inc.* Reed served as vice president of *Eagle*

See REED/12A



Enjoy a free double scoop of Tillamook ice cream at the SAGE Center



# Trapped inside



Transgender inmates report harassment, isolation behind bars

By KATHY ANEY  
*East Oregonian*

Born a boy, Michale James Wright realized early on that a physical body sometimes doesn't correctly depict the gender of the person inside. He felt he was really a she — with a bad wrapping job.

Wright wrestled with how to change her male body to match her true self and started dressing in female clothing. As a teen, she fell into drugs and alcohol to dim her depression and finally committed a crime. In prison, Wright alleges she became the target of bullying and harassment from other inmates and sometimes even prison staff.

Wright, who goes by Michelle and is incarcerated at the Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla, recently filed suit against the Oregon Department of Corrections. Represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon Foundation, Wright, 25, says the state is withholding critical medical treatment. The denial of treatment, according to the formal complaint, violates the inmate's right under the Eighth Amendment to be free from cruel and unusual punishment.

According to the complaint, a prison physician diagnosed Wright in 2014 with gender dysphoria — when gender identity doesn't match gender assigned at birth — but no hormone therapy was prescribed. Wright requested medical help nearly 100 times.

Wright, in prison for attempted robbery, became increasingly discouraged and suicidal during the last couple of years. She slashed her wrist. She swallowed 14 pieces of a razor blade. She tried to self-castrate several times using a string from her mattress, a rubber band that was left in place five days and finally a razor blade. She wrote "I am female" on her cell wall with her own blood. Prison staff, the complaint says, mocked her and told her to "man up."

"I have been aware for quite some time that I am a female inside, but quite clearly my insides aren't really matched to my exterior," she recently told ACLU legal director Mat Dos Santos during a video interview from prison.

Dos Santos said the DOC is denying life-saving care. He describes Wright's condition as a widely accepted medical diagnosis that has official standards of care that weren't met in Wright's case. The standards, he said, are accepted by the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections and others.

See PRISON/12A

## Legislators support clawback of bad energy tax credits

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Members of a legislative committee assessing the future of the state's energy department agreed Friday that they would "encourage" the Oregon Department of Justice to find ways to recoup money lost to renewable energy projects that may have improperly received tax credits.

The Business Energy Tax Credit program, referred to by its acronym, BETC, has become the bane of the

Department of Energy in recent years, after allegations that the program was improperly administered.

All in all, about \$1 billion worth of tax credits were issued to scores of wind, solar and other renewable energy projects, and more than \$300 million worth of credits have been called into question after auditors labeled scores of projects "suspicious" or "concerning."

Although auditors hired to inspect the program this year

See CREDITS/12A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Hammer out the details

Jane Rodriguez, a fashion designer from Port Orchard, Wash., uses a maul and leather tool to work on a piece of leather art Friday at the Pendleton Leather Show. The leather show will continue Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center.

