



5 BODIES FOUND IN BURNED HOME
NORTHWEST/2A



HAPPY CANYON NAMES 2017 PRINCESSES
REGION/3A

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants
OPINION/4A

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

141st Year, No. 59

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- **HHS swim team talent show on Saturday**
- **SAGE Center movie Friday and Saturday**
- **Hymnspiration at Victory Baptist Church**

For times and places see **Coming Events, 5A**

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
21/6	22/18	27/24

Watch a game

vs. **Dallas vs. Hermiston**
Friday, 7 p.m., at Hermiston

HERMISTON

Friend detained after driving stabbing victim to hospital

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

A 30-year-old Hermiston man was released from Good Shepherd Medical Center on Thursday with superficial stab wounds to the head and shoulder.

He was taken to the hospital by the 32-year-old man — a friend, according to police — later detained as the possible attacker.

Hermiston police officers responded at 10:50 a.m. to a travel trailer at the Dun Rollin Trailer Park at 445 E. Jennie Ave., after receiving reports of a stabbing there, but couldn't find anyone involved with the incident.

A vehicle was reported to have fled the area and some officers were diverted to Good Shepherd, where hospital authorities soon told the police they were treating a stab victim.

Police arrived at the hospital and immediately detained the 32-year-old Hermiston man as a

See **STABBING/3A**

Tiny house stolen in Hermiston

Man missing home he left in lot during snowstorm

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Lawrence Thomas is missing his house. The 95-square-foot, custom-made tiny home was stolen after Thomas parked it in Hermiston while passing through the area.

Thomas said most of his possessions were in the house, including important documents like his birth certificate, and sentimental items that can't be replaced.

"I'm trying to get the word out so that if anyone sees it, they can report it and maybe I can get it back," he said.

Because of a snowstorm in the Blue Mountains, Thomas, who was moving from Seattle to Las Vegas, stopped at the One Stop Mart outside of Hermiston in late December. He was driving an SUV and hauling his house, where he'd been living for the last four months.

Unable to drive in the bad weather, he stopped at the travel center at the Westland Road exit of Interstate 84. He spent the night there and realized the next morning that he couldn't take the house with him in the snow. He said he talked to the manager at the truck stop, who said he could leave the house there until he came back to pick it up.

See **HOUSE/8A**



Contributed photo
This tiny house, owned by Lawrence Thomas of Las Vegas, was reported stolen near Hermiston on Dec. 31 after he left it at a travel stop on Interstate 84 due to bad weather.

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Highland Hills first-grade teacher Madeline Laan checks students' answers during a math class Thursday in Hermiston.

New teachers flood HSD



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Katie Montchalin is in her first year teaching fifth-graders at Sunset Elementary School in Hermiston.

District enrollment at 5,651 students

East Oregonian

Hermiston School District has 51 new certified staff members this school year, in keeping with the steady growth the district has seen over the last few years.

The new additions to the district range from recent college graduates to experienced teachers, and there are new staff from out of town as well as locals — including Hermiston High School graduates coming back to the school to teach. There are 21 new teachers at the elementary school level, nine at the middle school level, 16 at the high school and 5 in the district office.

September 2016 enrollment was 5,651 students — a jump of 141 from the previous year, and in line with the district's projections.

Here are three of the new teachers in the district:

Growing up in a family of educators, teaching was always a possibility for Katie Montchalin.

"It was always in the back of my mind," said Montchalin, a new fifth grade teacher at Sunset Elementary School.

Though this is her first year teaching at Sunset, she has a unique connection to the school — her grandmother was a fifth-grade teacher at the same school for 20 years.

A Pendleton native, Montchalin recently spent two years as a substitute in her hometown before coming to the Hermiston School District.

"It's been really good," she said of her first year. "It's been crazy."

In getting used to the new rules and curriculum, Montchalin has found that much of her teaching job has been about learning — especially to manage the needs of 26 other people.

"You have to make sure each one of them is doing well," she said. "Learning where you stand in relation to that — how much influence you have over them."

She has enjoyed getting to know her students.

"Probably one of my favorite things is how much students can impact me positively," she said. "If I'm ever down, they're really quick to bring me back up."

Montchalin said knowing students

See **SCHOOL/8A**

"Probably one of my favorite things is how much students can impact me positively. If I'm ever down, they're really quick to bring me back up."

— **Katie Montchalin**, fifth grade teacher at Sunset Elementary School



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