

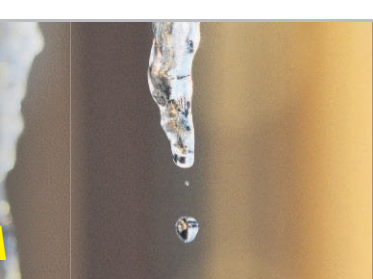


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**DAWGS
WIN A
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SPORTS/1B



**THAW
COMING
SOON**
WEATHER/2A



EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017

141st Year, No. 66

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Electric co-ops feud over service territory

Complaint filed with Oregon Public Utility Commission

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

A high-profile wind farm and mega-dairy are at the center of a territorial dispute between two local electric utilities in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, based in Heppner, filed a complaint Jan. 13 with the Oregon Public Utility Commission accusing its neighbor, Hermiston-based Umatilla Electric Cooperative, of encroaching on its exclusive service territory in deals with the proposed Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility and Lost Valley Ranch.

First, Columbia Basin argues that UEC installed electrical systems for irrigation circles at Lost Valley, located on the former Boardman Tree Farm, which cross into Columbia Basin's service territory and bypass existing infrastructure.

UEC is also in talks with Wheatridge Wind Energy LLC to build a 23-mile transmission line that would cross service territories to connect the wind farm onto the regional electricity grid. If that happens, Columbia Basin officials say they will be forced to use the UEC line to distribute power to its other retail customers. If UEC refuses that request, Columbia Basin might be forced to build a duplicate line of its own, at members' expense.

"Columbia Basin believes in and encourages the development of renewable energy projects in its service territory, and the transmission projects to support such development," said Kirk Gibson, attorney for the co-op. "But not to the disadvantage of Columbia Basin members."

See UEC/8A

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



Ariana Borden, 6, of Umatilla carries a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while walking with her mother, Selene Torres, right, and Alex Hobbs, left, of Hermiston in the B.I.A.C Peace Walk on Monday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Love and courage

Hermiston marchers aim to emulate MLK's example during trying times

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

As the nation prepares for Friday's presidential inauguration, Martin Luther King Jr.'s words are taking on new weight for those who are still struggling to come to terms with the nation's president-elect.

"Thinking about the Martin Luther King Days I've been through, I can't remember one more significant than the one today, given the times we live in," Jordan Chaney said.

Chaney, a black poet from the Tri-Cities, gave the keynote address at Hermiston's annual Martin Luther King Peace Walk. Never before, he admitted, has he been tested so much on following the civil rights leader's teachings about "choosing to love when the invitations to hate are so abundant."

"I wanted to love as indiscriminately as the sun shines," he said. "You ask for

something, you're going to get tested on it, and I failed that test several times."

The tests came as Chaney felt blindsided by friends who came out in support of a candidate who frequently makes headlines for his negative comments about minorities and women. Chaney said he also lost friendships when he decided to join in calling for the resignation of a Kennewick city councilor who made a derogatory post about Latinos on Facebook.

When Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, two unarmed black men, were shot and killed by police within 24 hours of each other, Chaney spent a night praying and worrying for the safety of his son, who was visiting Seattle. Chaney has never been dragged at gunpoint out of his car before, he said, but that didn't make the fear and depression any less real as it hung over his life.

"Inside of my depression I could feel hate forming," he said.

See LOVE/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Poet Jordan Chaney from the Tri-Cities speaks about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday at the First Methodist Church in Hermiston.

"I wanted to love as indiscriminately as the sun shines ... You ask for something, you're going to get tested on it, and I failed that test several times."

— Jordan Chaney,
Tri-Cities poet



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Kathy Beck, from left, Erin McCusker, Margaret Mayer and Georgina Johnson perform "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" on Monday at the Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. in Pendleton.

The music of MLK

Pendleton honors King with song, giving spirit

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Martin Luther King Jr. would have felt right at home.

A packed house at the Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. embraced the music of the Civil Rights Movement on MLK Day. Freedom songs ricocheted off the brick walls, high ceiling and oak floors of the popular Pendleton eatery.

It's been almost 50 years since the pastor, Nobel Prize winner and civil

rights leader was gunned down while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee. He had traveled there to support a sanitation workers' strike. Those gathered Monday night at the Great Pacific focused not on the activist's tragic death, however, but on King's message of freedom, equality and justice.

Bill Young started off the evening by quoting MLK.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," Young quoted.

Young gave up the stage to a string of musicians who unleashed freedom songs of the late sixties. The clear, booming See MUSIC/8A



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