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EAST OREGONIAN

APRIL 1-2, 2017

141st Year, No. 120

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

BOARDMAN

County's dairy cow count to hit 100,000

Lost Valley Farm approved by state

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

largest dairy in Morrow County.

Lost Valley Farm will add 30,000 cows on 7,288 acres at the former Boardman Tree Farm, just 25 miles from where Threemile Canyon Farms operates an even larger dairy with 70,000

Despite a flood of opposition from environmentalists and small farm advocates, Oregon regulators have agreed to permit what will become the state's second-

head of cattle. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Quality announced Friday they have issued what's known as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for Lost Valley, which outlines how the dairy will manage its wastewater and manure

— about 187 million gallons annually.

With the permit now in hand, Lost Valley will start milking cows sometime in the next few weeks. The dairy will start out with 16,500 animals before gradually building the full herd.

Greg te Velde, the California dairyman behind Lost Valley Farm, is no stranger

to Eastern Oregon. He established Willow Creek Dairy in 2002 on land leased from Threemile Canyon Farms. The milk is sold to Tillamook Cheese, which runs a large cheese-making plant at the nearby Port of Morrow.

In late 2015, te Velde purchased land at the Boardman Tree Farm in order to relocate and expand

his business. But first, he needed state approval for a new confined animal feeding operation, or CAFO.

ODA and DEQ received more than 4,200 public comments about the proposal, with opponents railing against the dairy's impact on air and water

See **DAIRY/12A**

UMATILLA

Roxbury's 2016 crash unreported, Trott seeks investigation

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
and **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

On the night of April 12, 2016, Mike Roxbury drove his red Corvette off the road and through two fences at Third Street just west of Ferry Road outside Umatilla.

Roxbury was the chief of the Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District at the time, but had been on paid medical leave since December 2015. He did not call emergency services for help after he crashed that night.

Sometime after, he called Geico, his insurance company, according to the investigative report from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, which the *East Oregonian* obtained through a public records request.

Someone at the company on April 13 contacted the property owner — the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Corps employee Brandon Frazier took that call and at 12:53 p.m. that day told the sheriff's office someone during the night crashed through the fences and damaged other Corps property. Frazier also said he did not think the driver reported it. Deputy Nathan Good investigated the case as a hit and run.

The stretch of road is not treacherous or difficult to drive. Photos from the report show swerving tire marks on the paved road crossing into the wrong lane before the car headed deep into a grassy field. The deputy found red exterior car pieces

See **CRASH/12A**



Roxbury



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sen. Bill Hansell looks as Oregon State Police Capt. Alex Gardner, director of the forensic services division, points out a piece of dust that made it's way through the ventilation system at the Oregon State Police crime lab on Friday in Pendleton. Dust and small insects frequently make their way through the building's ventilation system and end up in the lab.

LAB PARTNERS

Move to BMCC may spare Pendleton crime lab from elimination

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Law enforcement, educators and lawmakers are lining up behind a plan to give the Oregon State Police crime lab in Pendleton a new home on old grounds.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown proposed closing the lab at 405 S.E. Eighth St. and moving its staff to forensic facilities in

"I think it would be cost effective in the long run."

— **Sen. Bill Hansell**

Bend, Portland or Central Point. Local police and prosecutors oppose the plan, as do Eastern Oregon lawmakers. Rep. Greg Barreto of Cove

and Sen. Bill Hansell of Athena, both Republicans, toured the lab Friday morning and then a possible site for a better lab at the Pendleton campus of Blue Mountain Community College. They said they see the potential for a partnership that would provide state police with a new facility and the college with teaching, learning and job opportunities.

"Plus," Hansell said, "I think

it would be cost effective in the long run."

The move also would bring the lab back to where it began.

Calvin Davis is the forensic scientist in charge of the Pendleton lab. He said the state opened it in 1970 at Blue Mountain, then in 1986 moved it to the Emigrant Avenue facility.

But the lab's days there are

See **CRIME LAB/12A**

Kilkenny believed in UO's Altman

Former athletic director remains one of Oregon's biggest fans

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

As the Oregon Ducks manhandled the powerful Kansas Jayhawks at the Sprint Center last Saturday, one could almost hear the last persistent doubts about Coach Dana Altman fall away.

Pat Kilkenny, the guy who hired Altman during a 39-day search in 2010, shared in the celebration after the wild Elite Eight win. The former Oregon athletic director climbed the ladder at the invitation of the team and snipped off part of the net as Coach Altman looked on in the confetti-strewn arena.

It's well documented that Altman wasn't Kilkenny's first or even second choice. The Heppner native initially courted his friend,

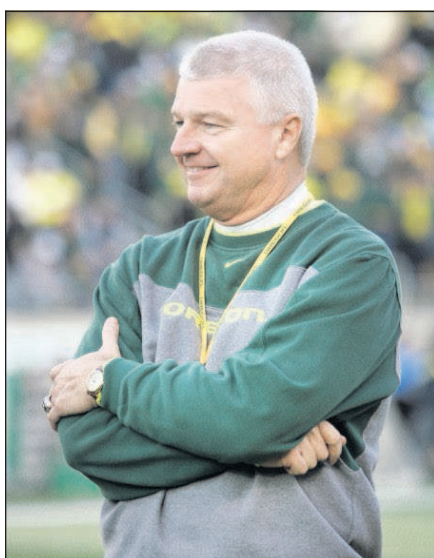


Photo by Eric Evans

Heppner native and former UO athletic director Pat Kilkenny hired Dana Altman and remains a fan.

See **KILKENNY/2A**

Murder suspect feigned insanity to avoid prison

By **LES ZAITZ**
Malheur Enterprise

He got away with it. After feigning insanity for years to stay out of a prison cell, Tony Montwheeler finally confessed his scheme. Now, no longer judged mentally ill, he would walk free from the Oregon State Hospital even though officials were told he was dangerous.

That day, state psychologist Brian Hartman warned the state board considering Montwheeler's release what might happen.

"His risk of violence would be high and it would



Montwheeler

He was prophetic.

Police say that a month later Montwheeler kidnapped his ex-wife in Idaho, drove her to an Ontario convenience store and stabbed her to death in the front seat of his pickup.

See **MONTWHEELER/11A**

be most likely to target his intimate partner or other family member," Hartman testified in December.