

**BUCKS BEAT RIVAL HOOD RIVER** **SOFTBALL/1B**



**PENDLETON UNDERGROUND COMES ALIVE** **LIFESTYLES/1C**



**MUSIC FROM THE SADDLE** **ENTERTAINMENT/3C**

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**Veteran Tom Tangney talks about how his brother died on Heartbreak Ridge during the Korean War on Friday during the Honoring Our Veterans Day at Pendleton High School.**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Bringing sacrifice to life

Veterans' stories help high schoolers connect to Memorial Day

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

About 50 veterans from eight decades of American wars converged on Pendleton High School to remind students that the upcoming Memorial Day holiday is about more than barbecues and a day off from school.

The veterans were there as a part of the high school's Honoring Our Veterans Day, where students got a chance to hear from a number of speakers on their experiences and what it means to serve.

One of those veterans was Jennifer Olson.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**More than 40 veterans gathered to tell their stories of service to the county to students during the Honoring Our Veterans Day on Friday at Pendleton High School.**

In an interview before the event, Olson said she came from a military family spanning multiple generations of veterans.

"We have a long history with the red, white and blue," she said.

Olson served for three years



### More inside

**Avenue of Flags in Hermiston pays tribute to deceased veterans**  
**REGION/3A**

in the Air Force during the Gulf War and now works as an assistant veterans services officer for Umatilla County.

Memorial Day doesn't just commemorate those who died on the battlefield. Olson said some of the personal losses her family has felt from the after-effects of war informs her own

See **VETERANS/14A**

## Found gun, new charges in Nelson homicide

.45 discovered by ODOT work believed to be used in killing

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

Thadd Nelson's homicide on Jan. 27, 2016, outside his Meacham-area home stemmed from a drug debt, according to new records in the case.

The court filings from Jennifer Martin, assistant U.S. attorney, also asserted the people looking for Nelson that night armed themselves with seven guns and brought rope and a blowtorch. And a superseding indictment in the case added a defendant after another cut a deal for 20 years in prison and took an offer from the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office to plead guilty to manslaughter.

The discovery of a .45 caliber pistol connected to Nelson's killing was a key reason for the latest indictment.

Joseph Aaron McIver, Armando Ruben Vargas, and Edward Duarte Ayala faced multiple federal weapons charges in the wake of Nelson's homicide on Umatilla Indian Reservation land. Ayala on April 20 took a plea deal, court records show, and admitted he and at least one co-defendant fired at Nelson in his driveway and at the female passenger in Nelson's International Scout.

The bullets missed the passenger, according to the document, but Nelson died from gunshot wounds from two different firearms.

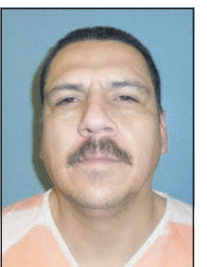
Ayala pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and use of a firearm in



**McIver**



**Vargas**



**Ayala**

See **HOMICIDE/12A**

## CTUIR, Whitman College deal seeks to strengthen relationship

College built on land ceded by tribes in Treaty of 1855

By **GEORGE PLAIVEN**  
*East Oregonian*

Forever linked by the past, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Whitman College are turning a new leaf on their relationship moving forward.

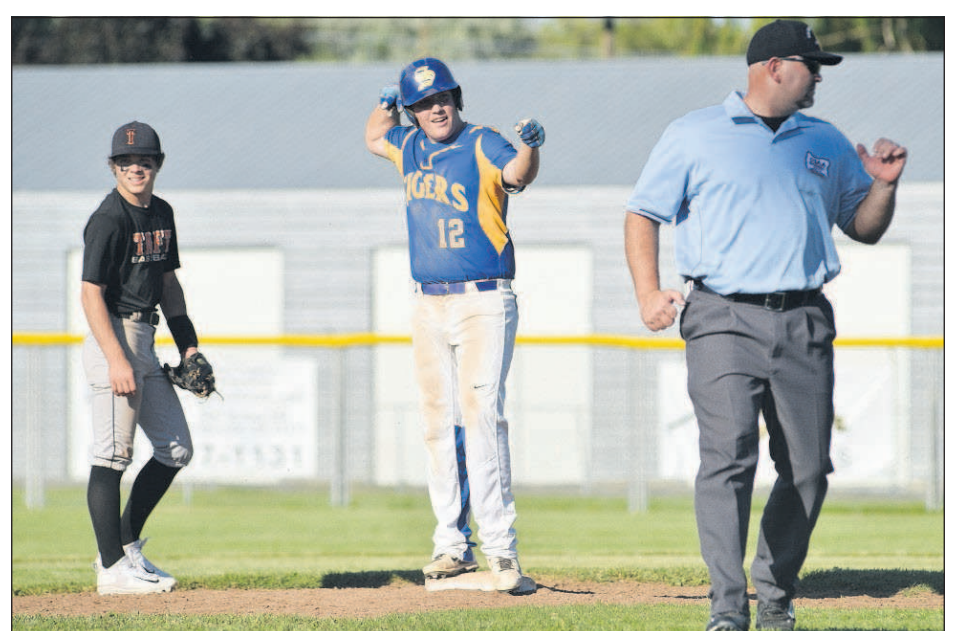
College and tribal officials gathered Friday, May 19 on campus in Walla Walla to sign a memorandum of understanding that aims to strengthen recruitment of Native students, collaborate

on research and provide a more rounded curriculum on American Indian studies.

The signing took place at Treaty Rock, which commemorates the controversial Treaty of 1855 where the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes ceded 6.4 million acres to the U.S. government in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. Whitman College — founded as Whitman Seminary in 1859 — is located within that ceded territory.

While not a legally binding agreement, the freshly inked memorandum

See **WHITMAN/14A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Big game Hunter

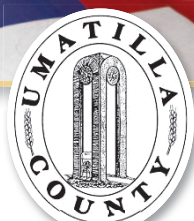
Stanfield's Hunter Barnes makes a bow and arrow gesture towards his teammates in their dugout after hitting a RBI double in the Tigers' 23-11 win against Taft on Friday in Stanfield. Barnes was five for five at the plate with four RBIs, a double and a home run. For the full story and more photos see **SPORTS 1B**.



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