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EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017

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Courtesy Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Two adult wolves from the Walla Walla Pack were caught on remote trail camera Jan. 2016 in northern Umatilla County.

Cattlemen vote to sue USFWS for keeping wolves on endangered list

By **KATY NESBITT**
EO Media Group

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association announced this week its intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its failure to complete an environmental study that would remove gray wolves from the endangered species list in the lower 48 states.

Citing the agency's lack of deci-

sion-making following the publication of its 2013 proposed rule in the Federal Register to remove the gray wolves from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species, Jerome Rosa, executive director of Oregon Cattlemen, said the membership voted to file a 60-day letter of intent to sue U.S. Fish and Wildlife at its Pendleton spring quarterly meeting June 2.

Rosa said the Cattlemen will be

represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation of Sacramento, Calif.

"One comment we've gotten through the years is that the cattle industry often tends to be playing defense," Rosa said. "Many of our members feel by moving forward with this we are being on the offensive side of things instead of trying to defend what we do."

See **WOLVES/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Nicholas Jennings, Richard Jennings and Perry Jennings place a paper template for the translations of Washington Elementary in both Umatilla and Weyiiletpuu on Tuesday in Pendleton.

PENDLETON

Makeover in works for Rodeo City Inn

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Nary a window remains intact at the derelict three-story Rodeo City Inn outside Pendleton.

But Umatilla County officials are hopeful its owner can bring the place back to life. Or at least clean it up.

The county in 2013 declared the site a crime property, and a lawsuit from tenants in early 2014 shut it down. County counsel Doug Olson told the board of commissioners Wednesday morning the owner said on the phone he plans to have crews there this week to start repairs and has a franchise agreement for the property.

Olson said the owner claimed he bought a number of hotels and has been renovating them. The inn, Olson said, is the last on the list. The limited-liability company Western Hospitality and Properties of El Centro, California, in 2014 bought the Rodeo City Inn for \$379,000, according to county records. The *East Oregonian* was not able to contact representatives with Western Hospitality by press time.

Rodeo City Inn sits on crumbling and pot-holed asphalt off Interstate 84 about five miles west of Pendleton. Along with missing windows, plenty of rooms lack doors. Olson said the inn was the only property the county has received multiple complaints about, including at a recent public meeting, and in spite of the property's poor shape, the county lacks the legal power to deal with dilapidated properties.

Commissioner Larry Givens suggested the county should remedy that. Fellow commissioners Bill Elfering and George Murdock agreed.

"I think it's an absolute travesty," Murdock said. "This is a gateway to Pendleton. I think it's also a safety

See **MOTEL/8A**

THE SIGNS THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The latest sign of the Pendleton School District's push to boost Native American education is quite literal.

Washington Elementary School has been adding Umatilla and Weyiiletpuu translations to internal signs throughout the school year, culminating in a Umatilla translation of the

school's name on the building's front façade that was installed Tuesday. Weyiiletpuu is a Nez Perce dialect spoken by Cayuse people, whose traditional language is now extinct.

The signs and many of the district's recent American Indian education initiatives have been paid for by state and federal grants. But with those grants expiring and not much local funding to back them up, the future of at least one of



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
All of the signage at Washington Elementary is now displayed in English, American sign language, the Umatilla language, and Weyiiletpuu, a local dialect of Nez Perce.

those programs is in doubt.

The new signs were funded through the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project grant, a state grant

that provided up to \$150,000 for initiatives to improve atten-

See **SIGNS/8A**

Long-distance relationship with legislators



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Rep. Greg Barreto and Sen. Bill Hansell hold a video conference call at BMCC on Monday in Pendleton. The pair of local politicians regularly hold the calls and they are open to the public.

Hansell, Barreto hold bi-monthly video chats

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

As they sip coffee and sit back in comfy swivel chairs, a half a dozen locals speak truth to power every other Monday morning.

Anyone can participate in these video chats with Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, and Greg Barreto, R-Cove, in the Blue Mountain Community College boardroom. The two lawmakers sit behind microphones in the Capitol's media room. This Monday, the Pendleton group included BMCC President Camille Preus, Pendleton Chamber Director Gail Nelson, Casey White-Zollman, vice-president of public relations at

BMCC, and several others.

These discussions during the Legislative session take on the air of any congenial coffee klatch among avid political junkies, despite Hansell and Barreto being 250 miles away.

On Monday, attendees scrutinized legislation dealing with the Public Employees Retirement System, transportation infrastructure, restrictions on the awarding of noneconomic damages in wrongful death claims, predictive scheduling and other topics. The list of bills has been whittled down over the past few months.

"It's all coming down to the wire," Barreto said.

Occasionally the biweekly conversations lead to concrete changes in Salem. Take Senate Bill 43, for example. An

See **VIDEO/8A**

