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MYSTERIOUS WATER FLOWS IN HERMISTON
REGION/3A

QUERREY STUNS MURRAY IN QUARTERFINALS
WIMBLEDON/1B



EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

141st Year, No. 193

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

OSU Extension proposes new tax districts



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Programs include 4-H, Master Gardeners, farm research

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Oregon State University Extension Service is looking to taxpayers for help funding local outreach and education programs in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

A citizens advisory committee has proposed creating two new service districts for OSU Extension — one in each county. If approved by voters, the districts would tax at a rate of 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. That money would go toward

paying for things like additional staff, supplies, maintenance and utility costs. OSU Extension not only has farm and livestock agents working across both counties, but supports educational programs such as 4-H and Master Gardeners.

The Umatilla County extension district would also include OSU's Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center north of Pendleton and Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, where scientists conduct experiments to improve farming practices.

See **EXTENSION/8A**

HERMISTON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A firefighter sprays a mountain of burning cardboard Wednesday at a recycling facility south of Hermiston on Highway 395.

Cardboard goes up in flames

East Oregonian

A fire started around 1:30 p.m. at the cardboard recycling facility on South Highway 395 and spread to a nearby field. Around 5 p.m., crews were still out at the site, and fire officials said they would likely be out there for several hours.

Fire Marshal Tom Bohm said he didn't know what had caused

the fire or exactly how wide it had spread, and neither did the owner of the facility, Medelez Trucking.

More than 30 firefighters from Umatilla County Fire District, as well as fire departments from Umatilla, Pendleton, Boardman, Echo and East Umatilla County were on scene to help control the blaze. Bales of cardboard were engulfed in flames, and firefighters

were filling large containers with water to help tackle the fire.

The Oregon Department of Transportation briefly shut down Highway 395 due to smoke crossing the roadway.

UCFD Battalion Chief J.W. Roberts said no structures were affected by the blaze, though he estimated \$60,000 in losses for cardboard and \$5,000 in equip-

ment at the facility.

"It's just a pain with this wind," Roberts said. "These things don't go out. This'll burn all night."

Roberts said the fire would likely continue to burn into the grass as well, so crews would probably just burn the whole field.

Crews responded to a fire at the recycling center last year as well, Roberts said.

MILTON-FREEWATER

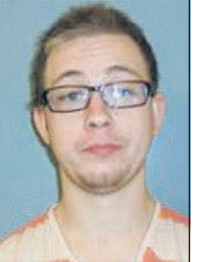
Suspect told detectives he burned body

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office late Wednesday revealed what led to the arrest and charges in the fire-related death of Marcos Jesus Gutierrez-Rodriguez in Milton-Freewater.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office in a written statement reported detectives received new information in the case that led to charging Conor Michael Dayton, 24, of Milton-Freewater, with abuse of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence.

"At the time of the fire and discovery of Mr. Gutierrez-Rodriguez's body, there was insufficient evidence to prove a criminal case," according to the statement. Deputies and detectives continued to follow leads and talk to witnesses and persons of interest, including Dayton, an acquaintance of the victim.



Dayton

Sheriff's detective Kacey Ward and Oregon State Police detective Damian Acosta on Friday questioned Dayton, according to the statement, and Dayton "provided information that he started the fire that burned Mr. Gutierrez-Rodriguez."

Firefighters and police found Gutierrez-Rodriguez's body after extinguishing an outdoor fire early May 22 under the Eastside Bridge along the Walla Walla River. The sheriff's office at the time it appeared he died from a cooking fire mishap.

The sheriff's office Wednesday stated Dayton told the detectives he found Gutierrez-Rodriguez's body at the location and started the fire to hide his drug use. The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office reported Gutierrez-Rodriguez "had very high levels of methamphetamine in his system," according to the sheriff's office, "and his body was badly damaged from the fire."

The sheriff's office reported its investigation continues with the support of the Oregon State Police, Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office, the Hermiston Police Department and the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office.

Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen set bail at \$50,000 for the case. Dayton's next court hearing is Tuesday.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

26 days until the county fair

Steven Hartsteen, of Bothum Construction, uses a saw Wednesday to cut siding for a ticket booth at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. The event center will be the site of next month's Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

Nomination of Bounds to Ninth Court stuck in limbo

Hermiston man recommended by Rep. Walden in Jan.

By **NICK BUDNICK**
Portland Tribune

President Donald Trump is expected to stock the ranks of federal judges and top prosecutor posts with hard-line conservatives. But in Oregon the process has barely started, giving rise to speculation that dark-horse picks could have a chance.

In January, Oregon's lone Republican member of Congress, U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, recommended lawyers to take over top posts in the state's federal legal apparatus.

While one of those suggestions,



Bounds

House Republican leader Mike McLane for U.S. attorney, has gotten plenty of attention, another has not. Walden has recommended a relatively unknown federal prosecutor, Ryan Bounds, to fill an opening on the powerful U.S. Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals — a choice that could rever-

berate for decades.

Bounds, from Hermiston, is a former White House adviser whose family is close to Walden. His sister is the congressman's chief of staff. Like

See **BOUNDS/8A**



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