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EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Bar lowered, fines raised for distracted driving

More than 3,100 people die every year in cell phone-related crashes

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Answering a text could cost you a pretty penny after Oregon's new distracted driving law takes effect on Oct. 1.

The more important thing, Oregon State Police emphasize, is it could cost you your life.

That's why starting in October, using a handheld electronic device while driving will cost you \$260 to \$1,000 for your first offense, \$435 to \$2,000 for your second and up to 6

months in jail for your third.

"I think the message is very clear that the state takes distracted driving seriously," OSP Sergeant Michael Berland said.

Previous distracted driving laws in Oregon only covered texting and talking on the phone. Since those laws were put in place, however, drivers have come up with an increasingly long list of reasons to take their eyes off the road. They send photos of the scenery via Snapchat, search Google for nearby restaurants, scroll through a playlist for their favorite song, send work emails or post updates to Facebook.

Berland said one incident that stands out in his mind was a rollover crash he responded to a few years ago where the female driver was killed.

"We found her iPhone and she was in the middle of making a grocery list," he said.

Instead of spelling out every type of use, the legislature took a more comprehensive approach this year by passing a bill banning all use of mobile electronic devices while driving. Just holding a phone in your hand while driving is a violation, even if you're not actively using it when an officer spots you. You can use it if you're legally parked on the side of the road, but not while stopped at a red light or stuck in a traffic jam.

More than 3,100 people die every year in cell phone-related crashes, according to the Centers for Disease Control. They leave behind thousands



Photo contributed by Hermiston Police Department

Jonathan Newkirk was killed June 25, 2011 in what police suspect was a distracted driving crash on Umatilla River Road near Hermiston.

See **DRIVING/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Steve Brown of Hermiston performed CPR on a man who collapsed Monday evening at Desert Lanes bowling alley in Hermiston.

LANE 1 LIFESAVER

Hermiston man uses CPR to rescue fellow bowler

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Steve Brown thought he was in for a quiet night of bowling, but it didn't quite work out that way.

Brown, a league bowler who rolls at Desert Lanes Bowling Center in Hermiston several times a week, is credited with

saving a man's life Monday night by administering CPR.

"I was down at this end of the alley when I heard someone yelling to call 9-1-1," Brown said.

Bob Lewis was the manager on duty when the man collapsed and called for an ambulance.

"He just went down straight on his face," Lewis said.

Brown ran over and found the man he had just met a week prior, Neal Pearce, struggling for breath. Bystanders thought he may have had a heart attack. Brown checked for vital signs.

"He had shallow breathing, and after about one minute he completely stopped breathing and lost his pulse," Brown said.

Brown and another man rolled

Pearce onto his back and Brown began chest compressions.

"I got his heart working again, and got him breathing. I probably did chest compressions for about 10 minutes, and his breath probably stopped five or six times," Brown said. "Just as the medics got here, he started breathing again."

Brown said that in the process of doing chest compressions,

See **CPR/8A**

PENDLETON

REACH to lease old police station

City approves \$1 a month deal for youth outreach group

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

A new facility for REACH Pendleton is within its grasp.

At a meeting Tuesday, the Pendleton City Council agreed to lease the old police station at 109 S.W. Court Ave. for \$1 a month for 12 months to the youth outreach nonprofit. REACH will have the option of renewing the lease for an additional 12 months, but the city retains the right to terminate the lease at any time if another party wants to purchase the building.

REACH had been using the Pendleton Recreation Center, but the controversy surrounding the displacement of other community programs caused the nonprofit to hone in on the police station.

The city's right to terminate was not a part of REACH's original proposal, and some councilors were concerned about the possibility of taking a surplus property off the market. City Manager Robb Corbett said the city has received two offers on the vacant property, but both of the potential buyers broke off negotiations once the city came back with a counteroffer.

Councilor Dale Primmer asked if REACH board member Joe Jackson if he would be amenable to a month-to-month contract or a shorter lease, but

See **PENDLETON/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A pair of wild turkeys walk through a yard recently in Pilot Rock.

PILOT ROCK

City council sets sights on wild turkeys

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock city leaders heard two choices for dealing with the town's growing population of turkeys: Harass the birds or kill them.

The surest method, state wildlife biologist Greg Rimbach said, is killing them.

Rimbach, of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, addressed the city council during its meeting Tuesday night. He said Pilot Rock residents have complained to him about the local turkey

population, which has fattened up like a bird for Thanksgiving dinner over the last few years.

Residents estimated there are more than 60 turkeys around the town most of each day.

"I think the biggest problem is turkey scat on cars, roofs and decks," he said, also noting that the birds tend to damage property in other ways too.

So what to do about it?

Hazing turkeys can be effective, he said, if the harassment outweighs than

See **TURKEYS/8A**



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