

Tuesday

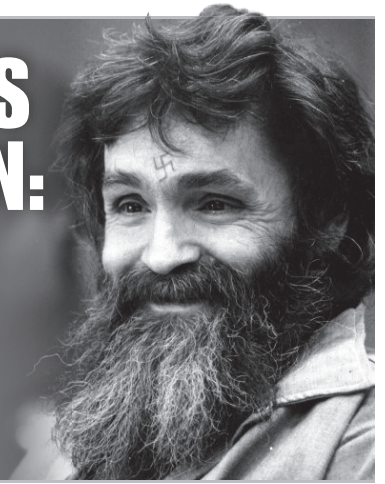


Cloudy with occasional rain
51/48

**DAWGS
HEAD TO
STATE
FINAL**
SPORTS/1B



**CHARLES
MANSON:
LEGACY
OF EVIL**
NATION/2A



EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

142nd Year, No. 25

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Getting into the Christmas spirit

Santa greets a little boy Saturday during the Altrusa Annual Holiday Bazaar at the Pendleton Convention Center. For more on regional holiday events that took place this weekend see page 3A.

PENDLETON

Urban renewal district up for debate

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

With the urban renewal district nearing the end of its lifespan, the Pendleton Development Commission met to discuss the last six years of its current term and the possibility of extending it further.

Moderated by Susan Bower of Eastern Oregon Business Source, members of the Pendleton City Council and its associated committees met Friday to consider the future of the urban renewal district: should it maintain its current path, tweak

"Let's identify what we want to accomplish and let's see if that merits extending the district."

— Scott Fairley,
Pendleton City Councilor

some of its goals and programming, or should the development commission target certain areas for improvement.

At the beginning of the meeting, Charles Denight, the commission's associate director, went through a presentation that detailed some of the urban renewal district's successes.

Since its start in 2003, the commission's investments are almost evenly split between \$2.2 million for public projects that included land purchases, gateway enhancements and parks, and \$2.1 million for private investments within the district.

The lion's share of private investments went to the façade program, which provides grants to downtown businesses and buildings interested in improving their storefronts. As Denight flipped through the slides, he showed as the stucco and wood of the pre-renewal façades gave

See PENDLETON/8A

Pendleton police ID body found Thursday

East Oregonian

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts identified the body found Thursday in Pendleton as Alfonso Alva-Reyes, 58, of Milton-Freewater.

Police worked through the weekend trying to find Alva-Reyes' relatives or someone who knew him, Roberts said. The man lived in many places but there was little information about who he knew. Police finally connected Monday with someone in Mexico, Roberts said, and that effort required a

Spanish-English interpreter.

Dog walkers found the body Thursday morning near the southeast edge of the McKennon Station fence, off the frontage road paralleling the Umatilla River. Roberts said police found no obvious signs of foul play at the scene, but the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office in Portland performed an autopsy and tests.

Roberts said the medical examiner ruled Alva-Reyes died from advanced cirrhosis and hypothermia.

Commissioners take on dangerous roads, taxes, ambulance service

East Oregonian

Ambulance service, a transient tax and the dangerous intersection at Edwards and Feedville roads will lead off the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners meeting.

The board meets Wednesday at 9 a.m. in room 130 at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton.

Commissioners will consider adopting the county's latest ambulance service plan, which the Oregon Health Authority reviewed last month. The state organization found several strengths in the plan, including clear requirements for emergency communications and

systems access.

OHA also found areas for improvement, including the need for a plan for better quality and why Weston and Athena must reply on mutual aid to cover their calls, rather than having existing agencies cover the area.

A county-wide transient room tax also is up for discussion, as well as the possibility of a four-way stop at the intersection of Edwards and Feedville roads, the site of another terrible crash two weeks ago.

Among other issues, the board will consider updating the county's policy to prohibit most animals and pets from county facilities.

Former Hermiston resident found dead in Lincoln City



Contributed photo

Jeana Beck, a former Hermiston resident and autism advocate, was found dead in Lincoln City on Friday. Beck had been visiting the coastal town for a job conference with her son.

Cause of death has yet to be determined

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Jeana Beck wore many hats, as an autism advocate, a Board of Realtors member and a friend to many in Hermiston. But according to her son, one role really stood out. "She was 'mom' to all my friends, she was friends with all my friends," said her son Jesse Smith. "Exactly what you'd want out of a mom."

Beck was found dead in Lincoln City on Friday after her son, Jacob Smith, reported her missing the night before. There were no visible marks on her when she was found, and the cause of death has yet to be determined.

The circumstances surrounding her death are still unclear, and family and friends are searching for answers. She went out on Thursday evening and did not return to the Rodeway Inn where she and her son were staying. She was later found in a canal behind the motel.

Smith said his mother was in Lincoln City accompanying Jacob to a job conference.

Lincoln City Police Chief Keith Kilian said the circumstances of Beck's death are still under investigation, and that they are waiting for the results of the autopsy report from the medical examiner's office.

"We've heard multiple things," Smith said. "We've heard everything you can think of. The truth is, we don't know."

See BECK/8A



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