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EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

142nd Year, No. 39 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

PENDLETON Downtown railroad gets new fence line

Part of Pendleton Enhancement program

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

After starting off with subtraction, the Pendleton Enhancement Project is in the midst of adding to the 500 block of South Main Street. The project — a collaboration between several local organizations and government agencies — is behind the installation of new iron

fencing around the railroad tracks. According to a press release from the Pendleton Downtown Association, one of the organizations involved with the project, the fences will run from behind the Heritage Station Museum toward Main Street. From Main, the fence will proceed eastward toward Southeast Third Street. Additional fencing will be installed at the site of the former Webb's Cold Storage building and on the north side of the Eagles

See **FENCES/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Gabriel Chavez, left, and Dan Woellmer, both with Jimco Fence of Salem, unload sections of fencing while installing a fence along the north side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on Monday in downtown Pendleton.

HERMISTON City adds fee for 'lengthy' records requests

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Public records fees for the city of Hermiston have expanded to include email and other digital formats. The city council voted Monday to add \$35 per hour fee to cover staff time for "lengthy" records requests that take more than 15 minutes to fulfill. The fee will be charged in increments of 15 minutes.

Previously, fees were mostly based on reimbursement for the physical record — such as a printed page or DVD — instead of based on the staff time it takes to compile the information then redact or format as needed. A memo to the council estimated the city spends \$21,000 of staff time on records requests each year. City Manager Byron Smith said the city once fielded a request for certain types of emails that took \$2,000 of staff time to complete but the person did not pay anything because they received electronic copies.

He said the most common form of records request was police reports, about 60 percent of which are requested by insurance

See **HERMISTON/8A**

PENDLETON Police chief would rather release names involved in shooting

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said if he had his way, he would release the identities of the suspect and officers involved in the Nov. 29 police shooting.

Two Pendleton police were involved that night with chasing down a theft suspect from the Walmart, according to Roberts, before one officer opened fire after seeing what police described as "a dark colored pistol."

Roberts said he would prefer to release the names of everyone involved, but the "standard operating procedure" nationwide in police shootings is to keep information from the public. Getting to this point probably involved plenty of lawyers and case law, he said, but the standard does not square with how police agencies claim to operate in a transparent manner.

The circumstances make it look like police are trying to hide something, he said, when that is not the case. Police and district attorney offices often protect identities of officers involved in shootings for the sake of the investigation and not to

See **SHOOTING/8A**

NOT FORGOTTEN

Helix students show gratitude by laying wreaths on veterans' graves

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

The graves at Olney Cemetery normally sit in peaceful environs disturbed only by the muffled noise of passing cars.

On Sunday, a bugle playing "Taps" pierced the hush. The Wreaths for Remembrance ceremony, which also included Christmas music, a reading and the posting of the colors by two members of Let 'er Buck Post 922, was a preamble to the main purpose of the gathering — laying wreaths on the graves of veterans buried in the sprawling Pendleton cemetery.

Before sending his contingent of teenagers forth, Griswold history teacher Lorin Kubishta instructed his students to pause after laying each wreath and say the veteran's name. "A person does not truly die until their name is never spoken again," Kubishta said.

Armed with cemetery maps, the teens started at the cemetery's American Legion section then dispersed far and wide around the grounds looking for veterans' graves. Community members paid \$20 apiece for the ribbon-festooned wreaths. Students set them gently at the base of each gravestone.

"It was really an honor. These were men and women who have fought and sacrificed so much for our country."

— **Alyssa Keene,**
Griswold High School senior



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A Griswold High School student lays a wreath on Sunday at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton as part of the Wreaths for Remembrance.

See **WREATHS/8A**

PENDLETON Holiday Stroll features Santa and tree lighting

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Santa Claus cruised into downtown Pendleton on Saturday in a big red city fire engine. His shiny black boots hit the pavement outside the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon on Main Street, and eager children clamored around the jolly old elf while parents positioned for photos.

His arrival marked the beginning of the Pendleton Downtown Association's second Holiday Stroll, an

event to draw the community to downtown for treats, fun and shopping.

Local merchants said last year's stroll worked in spite of the harsh winter weather, and this year's seemed to be going as well or better.

Mark Royal served up sugar cookies and fresh pretzels at his Rolling Stone Bakery, 215 S. Main St. While the stroll was not underway until 3 in the afternoon, he said the shop already had an uptick in

See **HOLIDAY/8A**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Caleb Hinkle, 3, poses with Santa as his mom takes a photo Saturday during the Pendleton Holiday Stroll.

