



Death rate to outpace birth rate by 2027 OREGON/2A

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

142nd Year, No. 44

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by Phil Wright
Kyle Bannick points a flashlight to where he was sleeping Saturday morning when he escaped the fire that destroyed his home in Pendleton.

PENDLETON

Fire takes everything from family

Mother in hospital with newborn as fire guts home

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Kyle Bannick was sound asleep on the couch Saturday morning when a text message from his girlfriend woke him. That text, he said, probably saved his life. "I looked up, and the flames were coming over and stuff was raining down around me," he said. "It just, like, went up in seconds."

The Pendleton Fire Department responded at about 7 a.m. Saturday to the trailer home at space 21 of Riverside Mobile Estates, 2712 N.E. Riverside Ave., Pendleton. Bannick, 24, was salvaging what he could Monday afternoon. Soot and char covered almost every surface.

He shined a flashlight on the stove flue and said the fire started there, only a few feet from where he has been sleeping.

When he realized his home was aflame, he said, he first saved the cat, then grabbed some family photos. That was about all he could save, he said. The fire even took Christmas gifts.

"All the presents just melted," he said. His pet frog, however, survived in its large tank, though smoke blackened the glass.

His girlfriend, Andi Davis, 33, and their two children were not at home when the fire began. He said they were

See FIRE/8A

Pheasant hunters bag two suspects on the lam

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

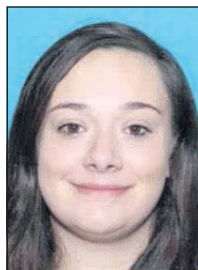
Burglary suspects on the run Sunday in south Morrow County picked the wrong canyon for a getaway.

Daniel Faustino Arce, 28, and Desireea Delane Devin, 23, ended up behind bars after pheasant hunters on TREO Ranches, Heppner, held the desperate duo at gunpoint until officers arrived. Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said a dogged neighbor also played a key role in their capture.



Daniel Arce

Nelson said Roger Britt of Heppner spotted a neighbor's garage open on the 54400 block of Upper Rhea Creek Road and their Jeep Cherokee taking off. Britt found that suspicious, Nelson said, and decided to follow.



Desireea Devin

That became a car chase, and the suspects fired one round at Britt. Nelson said Britt broke off and decided to bring in law enforcement.

Meanwhile, he said, the Jeep thieves broke into a shed on the 60100 block of Valby Road and stole gas cans. From there, they ended up stuck in a ditch and tried to set fire to the Jeep on property belonging to TREO Ranches, where owner Phil Carlson was conducting a pheasant hunt.

Carlson and his crew drew guns on Arce and Devin until officers from Oregon State Police and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrived. Carlson did not return a call for comment from the *East Oregonian*, but he posted photos of the apprehension on his Facebook page.

Police booked the pair into the

See HUNTERS/8A



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Cars from an Amtrak train lay spilled onto Interstate 5 below alongside smashed vehicles as some train cars remain on the tracks above Monday in DuPont, Wash.

Derailed on first run

Washington Amtrak train hurtles onto highway, killing several people

By RACHEL LA CORTE, GILLIAN FLACCUS
and MICHAEL SISAK
Associated Press

This image from video provided by KOMO-TV, shows the site of an Amtrak train that derailed south of Seattle on Monday.
KOMO-TV via AP



DUPONT, Wash. — An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least three people, injuring dozens and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train's speed. A website that maps location and speed using data from Amtrak's train tracker app showed the train was going 81.1 mph about a quarter of a mile from the point where it derailed, where the speed limit is significantly lower.

There were 80 passengers and five on duty crew when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths. More than 70 people were taken for medical care — including 10 with serious injuries.

See TRAIN/8A

New year to bring in taxes on bikes, vehicles

Will pay for state's new \$5.3B transportation package

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A new year will also ring in new taxes in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Revenue is reminding citizens that the taxes created to pay for the state's new \$5.3 billion transportation package kick in next year.

The package, passed by the legislature this summer, will provide billions of dollars in upgrades to the state's transportation infrastructure, but the state must raise the revenue to pay for it.

Starting Jan. 1, a flat \$15 fee will be assessed on each bicycle with at least 26-inch wheels sold for more than \$200. Businesses will collect the money during

the sale and turn it over to the state on a quarterly basis.

Two new taxes will be levied on purchases of new vehicles in January. A vehicle privilege tax, applied to car dealers in Oregon, equals .5 percent of the retail sale price of new vehicles, including RVs, motorcycles, vehicles weighing 26,000 pounds or less and leases on new vehicles. A vehicle use tax, also .5 percent, is applied to vehicles in the same categories that are purchased outside of Oregon but will primarily be used in Oregon or by an Oregon resident.

Starting July 1, a statewide transit tax will take one tenth of one percent of the wages of Oregon residents and anyone who works in Oregon. Oregon employers are required to deduct the tax, and Oregon residents who work outside

See TAXES/8A



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

A sign in front of Scott's Cycle & Sports in Hermiston advertises a Christmas special. After the end of the month bicycles with 26 inch wheels or larger costing at least \$200 will be subject to a \$15 tax.

