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PENDLETON

DA: Police justified in shooting theft suspect

Two BB guns found at the scene

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff determined Pendleton police Sgt. Tyler Reddington was justified in shooting Matthew Lucas Hoisington.

The shooting took place the night of Nov. 29 near the Pendleton Walmart, where

Reddington and Pendleton police Cpl. Jon Lehman responded to a report of a theft. Shirtcliff in a written statement reported Hoisington, 38, of Mission, pointed a gun at Reddington during a foot chase. The officer fired his gun, shooting Hoisington twice.

Police found two BB guns at the scene, Shirtcliff stated, and both looked like real .45-caliber semi-automatic handguns. Shirtcliff concluded the



Hoisington

officers' conduct that night, including "Reddington's decision to fire his weapon at Hoisington followed standard police protocol regarding use of force and was completely justified."

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said the finding is good news for the officers and department, but the actions of that night may weigh on Reddington

See SHOOTING/10A



Matt Hoisington allegedly stole two BB guns that resembled handguns from Walmart in Pendleton. Hoisington was shot by police while running and turning to point one of the guns at the officers, according to the Baker County District Attorney.

Photo courtesy Baker County District Attorney's Office

State audit critical of efforts to boost graduation

75 percent of high school students graduate on time

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

The Oregon Department of Education has failed to help school districts use data to identify students most at risk of not graduating on time, according to an audit released Tuesday by Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

For instance, pupils who change school districts during high school have graduation rates about 30 percent worse than those who remain in the same school system. The group makes up more than 25 percent of high school enrollees, yet the education department does not track, analyze or report their graduation performance.

The percentage of Oregon students who graduate on time has inched up for the past five years — even with increases in the number of credits required — but the rate remains third worst in the nation. Only 75 percent of Oregon public high school students graduate on time. The average rate nationwide is 84 percent.

"We need Oregon's Department of Education to step up its game and assume its leadership role to make Oregon a leader in education," said Secretary of State Dennis Richardson. "Oregon students deserve a world-class education, and it's ODE's job to show how to get there."

See AUDIT/10A

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

La Ley 99.5 FM general manager Gaudencio Filipe watches customers in the parking lot of Fiesta Foods from the roof of the store Tuesday in Hermiston. Filipe has been camping out on the store to raise donations for families in need.

ROOF TOP RADIO

La Ley manager camping on Fiesta Foods to raise Christmas donations

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

La Ley 99.5 radio station is getting dispatches from an unusual location this week — the roof of Fiesta Foods in Hermiston.

Gaudencio Felipe, the Spanish-language station's manager, climbed up to the roof on Sunday and will be there until 5 p.m. on

Wednesday night (a total of 99.5 hours). "He's even got a little tent up there," said Fiesta Foods manager Leo Leal, who gave permission for the unusual campout.

Felipe is broadcasting from the roof to draw attention to a Christmas campaign to collect food and clothing for children in

See ROOF/10A

"The reason he's up there is he is transmitting live, and asking people to donate food and clothing for needy children."

— Clara Bea Fitzgerald, city councilor and member of the city's Hispanic Advisory Committee

PENDLETON

College freshmen talk roommates and re-dos at high school



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton graduate Joshua Mendoza talks to students about attending Western Oregon University while sitting on a panel of graduates Tuesday at Pendleton High School.

Discuss the importance of managing time and schedule

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

It was their first winter break back from college, and a handful of recent Pendleton High School graduates were ready to share their newfound wisdom.

Sitting in front of a group of high school students who were their peers a little more than six months ago, the first-year college students explained the challenge of living independently for the first time, including making time to sleep, eat and maintaining a schedule.

Avery Madril of Western Washington University said he was nervous to meet his roommate for the first time, someone

whose name he had only known for two weeks before he moved into the dorms. He eventually learned that they have much in common.

Hailey Kendrick, a first-year student at Oregon State University, said her roommate's snoring was prevalent enough that she contemplated shoving and kicking her.

"Obviously, I didn't because we're still friends," she said, adding that she's able to sleep now with the aid of ear plugs and fans.

Blue Mountain Community College student Emily Griffin only lives a few blocks away from the college's Pendleton campus and doesn't have to worry about living with people she doesn't know, although she admitted it was a fun idea.

Griffin encouraged her former peers

See COLLEGE/10A

