

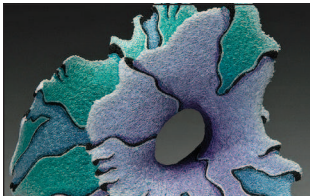


EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

142nd Year, No. 92 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Your Weekend



- Sculpture exhibit opens at Betty Feves Gallery
- "Annie" performances at BMCC's theatre
- Zwickelmania at Ordinance Brewing

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
37/30	42/33	43/25

PENDLETON



EO file photo

Judge leaves legacy of adventure and service

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

For years, Dick Courson, Bob Stangier and Richard "Doc" Johnson met for coffee at the Rainbow Cafe. They discussed politics, the weather and whatever else came up under the glow of the Rainbow's neon lights. When Courson had to stop driving, Stangier or Johnson drove him to the cafe. Eventually, when Courson's health deteriorated further, the trio met at the McKay Creek Estates where Courson lived of late.

"We decided to go to him," Stangier said.

The three men made an impressive coffee klatch. Courson, Umatilla County district attorney and later a district court judge, had survived the fierce Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. Stangier flew B-25 bombers

See COURSON/8A

Bill strips guns from stalkers, abusers

OSP would have to notify others of attempted illegal buys

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A bill to strip gun rights from convicted stalkers and intimate partners convicted of abuse passed the Senate 16 to 13 Thursday, Feb. 22. The legislation goes to Gov. Kate Brown who says she intends

to sign it into law. Brown urged U.S. lawmakers to enhance protections against gun violence nationwide in the wake of a deadly mass shooting Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. The latest in a string of attacks on U.S. schools has sparked

unprecedented demonstrations across the country for stronger gun laws. "Now's the time to enact real change, and I'm encouraged to see students in Oregon and across the nation engaged and joining the call for gun safety legislation," Brown said in a statement. "It's long past

More inside
In Washington D.C., Trump calls for raising age of assault rifles.
Page 6A

time we hold the White House, Congress, and legislators accountable." House Bill 4145 closes the so-called "boyfriend" or "intimate partner loophole,"

in state law that omitted stalkers and abusers in some intimate relationships. Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, who presented the bill on the Senate floor Thursday, said that his sister was murdered by a boyfriend with a gun and urged his colleagues to support the new protections. The legislation also would require

See GUN BILL/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Female inmates sleep on mats in a recreation area at the Umatilla County Justice Center on Thursday in Pendleton. The jail, which was designed to hold a maximum of 180 inmates, currently is housing 229.

No room for mental crisis

Sheriff to ask Friday for state funds to revamp jail

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan has a small ask from the Oregon Legislature: \$1 million. The money would pay for a major revamp at the county jail in Pendleton to allow the intake and temporary housing of offenders suffering mental crisis, medical issues or addiction. "Those three areas seem to be significantly on the rise," Rowan said.

The jail was designed 20 years ago to hold some 130-180 inmates. Thursday morning's shift started with 229. Much of that fulfills Rowan's promise to hold offenders in jail until they see a judge. But people with mental illness are an increasing part of the offender population, and their crimes are often petty — such as throwing rocks at windows. "To me, it makes perfect sense some of that popu-

lation never land in jail," Rowan said. The Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Pendleton used to take some of those offenders, but the center closed in 2014. Local police lament how officers can spend hours on a shift dealing with a lawbreaker in a mental state. Those offenders also are often high or drunk as well. Detoxification centers won't take someone in the middle of a mental episode, and mental health providers

won't take someone under the influence. That leaves the jail. But Rowan said the jail lacks the capacity to handle inmates who are delusional, drugged or both. That person may need to be alone in a holding cell, he said, and the jail's intake center has two holding cells for multiple inmates. Jail staff has already converted one of two small strip search rooms into a small cell. "What we're seeing is a bottleneck in the booking area," Rowan said. The fix would be an

\$800,000 renovation to help accommodate inmates with mental health problems. That does not include the cost of moving and installing security cameras and the like. LCA Architects, Boise, designed the jail, and Rowan said he had the company visit last year. That led to a proposal to convert one of the jail's two sally ports into new holding areas and a book-in site. That would provide space for someone in a crisis. The plan also uses existing space to add eight

See JAIL/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Brandon Hammond, Rein Stocker, Tyson Stocker, 14, and Ron Gibbs participate in a roll-playing activity while taking the QPR suicide prevention training Thursday at Good Shepherd in Hermiston.

"It's important to have individuals trained as suicide prevention gatekeepers,"

— Amanda Walsborn, Umatilla County Health prevention education coordinator

HERMISTON

Save a life by questioning, persuading and referring

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

When in doubt, ask. That's the message those attending the QPR suicide prevention training Thursday learned. About 85 people attended one of five sessions at Good Shepherd Medical Center, where they learned how to identify signs of someone who may be at risk for suicide, and learned methods for de-escalating the situation and referring them to someone who can help. The training, called QPR, stands for "Question, Persuade, Refer" — the three steps that people can take to help a person they think may be suicidal.

Trainings were led by Umatilla County Health Prevention Education Coordinator Amanda Walsborn, and included information about how to recognize warning signs for suicide, and a role-playing session. Walsborn led the class through an exercise where they were asked to recognize myths and facts about suicide. A common myth, she said, is that talking openly with someone about suicide will put the idea in their mind. "It's a really common fear," Walsborn said. "But the majority of folks feel relieved that someone has recognized they're suffering, and

See QPR/8A



7 294671 10001 5