



**NIXYAAWII
MOVES ON,
PILOT ROCK
BOWS OUT**



PLAYOFFS/1B

**High-speed
motorcycle
chase**
HERMISTON/3A

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

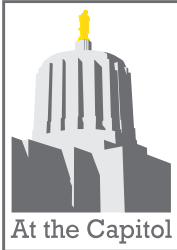
142nd Year, No. 94 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

‘Right’ to health care dies in Senate

Bill would have
needed work, with
little time in session

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A legislative referral to ask voters to amend the Constitution to make access to cost-effective and affordable health care the right of all Oregon residents lacks the votes to pass the Senate, according to Senate Democrats.



Despite proposed wording changes, “there were still concerns about individual suing the state,” said Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, D-Gresham, chairwoman of the Senate Health Committee.

“We were just down to the wire. Trying to come to an agreement on language changes was just really tough.”

The measure, called House Joint Referral 203, passed the House along party lines Feb. 13.

Monnes Anderson announced Monday that her committee would not hold a vote on the referral. Even though the committee had enough votes to send the measure to the Senate floor, there are not enough votes to pass the bill in the larger body, she said.

“The bill would have needed extensive amendments for it to get the support it needs in the Senate, and given this late timing in the session, the committee chair made the difficult decision to not move forward with it,” said Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland.

Had the referral been approved in the Legislature, the proposal would have gone to voters in the November general election.

In the House, all 35 Democrats voted for the measure, while the 25 Republicans opposed it.

Rep. Mitch Greenlick, D-Portland, who has repeat-

See **HEALTH/8A**

PENDLETON



Five members of a unmanned aerial test team from PAE in Virginia have a lively discussion over lunch Monday at Elvis’s Bar & Grill during a break from their work at the Pendleton UAS test range.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

What drones are delivering

As first jobs arrive at
Pendleton UAS Range,
local businesses are
seeing the benefit

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Four years in, the tech jobs that were expected to follow the establishment of the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range are showing up.

Along with the dozens of personnel who are using the range to test their machines and the two positions funded by state grants, several companies are looking to hire workers.

A³, the Silicon Valley subsidiary of French aviation giant Airbus, is looking to hire an integration and test technician for its Project Vahana air taxi project in Pendleton. Modern Technology Solutions Inc., an engineering company that counts Airbus, Lockheed Martin and Boeing among its clients, has two openings in Pendleton: a maintenance manager and crew chief for its experimental aircraft division.

Although it hasn’t been advertised yet, Pendleton UAS Range manager Darryl Abling said military contractor PAE is also looking for mechanics, pilots and other positions for their own project.

While it may only equal a handful of jobs now, the city is starting to see signs that the drone industry is



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Chef Peter Kaligiannis sprinkles parsley flakes on an egg-filled potato Saturday morning at the Pendleton House Bed & Breakfast.

injecting some life into the Pendleton economy.

Here to fly

Tracy Bosen is more than happy with the range.

Bosen owns the Pendleton House Historic Inn, a North Main Street bed and breakfast, which has had all six of its rooms rented out since the

fall — thanks to a UAS company on an extended stay.

With the increased demand for Pendleton House’s services, Bosen said he has hired three new employees to cook, clean and maintain the 101-year-old building, bolstering what had been a two person staff.

He declined to say which company was staying there, but estimated that their patronage meant he was doing three times the business he would normally do during the cold weather months.

“It’s been extraordinary,” he said.

Other local business owners are noticing the UAS range as a new source of customers. Over the fall and winter, Raphael Hoffman catered a few events for the drone industry employees, who also made visits to her restaurant, Sundown Grill & Bar-B-Q. The airport’s only restaurant — Elvis’ Bar & Grill — is also reporting above average traffic.

Elvis’ cook Dean Croswell said one UAS team eats at the restaurant every day they work at the range.

Whenever Airbus tests its Project Vahana vehicle, people gather at the windows of the restaurant to take a gander at the air taxi. When the work day is done, people often stop and have a meal.

“I would describe it as a symbiotic relationship,” Croswell said.

Local business owner anecdotes lend some credence to the argument made by city officials in recent months: the test range is boosting the local economy by putting heads in beds and customers in restaurants and stores.

Bosen said his lodgers go to the downtown area most nights and spend money. In the days before their return trips home, they buy chocolates and other gifts to take back to their loved ones.

Trent Aguon works with a

See **UAS/8A**

HERMISTON

Officer dragged by car, injured in arrest attempt

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

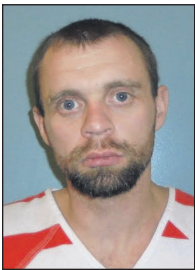
Hermiston police Cpl. Doug Gill was injured after two suspects dragged him under a vehicle after a traffic stop Saturday.

Hermiston police Cpl. Leonard Stokoe at about 3 a.m. Saturday stopped a 2014 Toyota Camry for a minor traffic violation near the intersection of Northeast Third Street and East Gladys Avenue, according to a written statement from

police Lt. Randy Studebaker. The officer reviewed documents from the driver, Nathan Olney, 36, of Hermiston, and learned the car had the wrong license plates.

“Suspecting the vehicle was stolen, he called for backup,” Studebaker stated, and Cpl. Doug Gill arrived.

Stokoe and Gill tried to detain Olney and passenger



Olney

Lucia Madrigal, 30, of Boardman. The vehicle sped away and Gill became entangled on its passenger side.

“He was dragged for approximately 30 yards before being thrown free,”

Studebaker reported.

Stokoe stayed to help Gill, and the suspects escaped.

Gill received 15 to 20 stitches at Good Shepherd

Medical Center, Hermiston, where medical staff also removed glass from his skin before releasing him.

Police soon found the vehicle, which contained stolen tools and electronics from a burglary outside the city, according to Studebaker. Officers then “developed information that Olney may be armed with a handgun.”

The Morrow County Sheriff’s Office on Saturday afternoon arrested Madrigal and booked her into the Umatilla County Jail,

Pendleton, for possession of a stolen vehicle, first-degree criminal mischief (vandalism) and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

“We are still trying to locate Nathan Olney,” according to Studebaker. “We believe that he is armed, and we are asking the public to call 911 or 541-567-5519 if they have information about his location.”

Studebaker also reported Gill is “feeling fine and intends to come back to work soon.”



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