

Golden Eagles on quest for repeat

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2A tourney comes to town

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EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

142nd Year, No. 96 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Houfmuse seeks release before trial

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Murder defendant Tyree Houfmuse of Hermiston is seeking release from jail while the state has asked to delay his trial as it waits for more work by the crime lab.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office on Tuesday filed a motion that would stall the trial — now set to begin April 30 — until November. The DA's office claims the delay is necessary because more tests are still needed from the Oregon State Crime Lab, while Houfmuse's attorney says he should at

least be given the opportunity to make bail.

Houfmuse, 35, faces murder, first-degree manslaughter and weapons charges in the May 2017 shooting death of James Cragun. Houfmuse has been in the county jail in Pendleton since his arrest in June with bail set at more than \$1 million.

Defense attorney Kara Davis in a motion filed Wednesday claims if the state gets the delay, her client will have been in jail almost a year-and-a-half while being presumptively innocent.

See TRIAL/8A



Houfmuse

BOARDMAN

Dairy on edge of shutdown over ODA violations

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

The Lost Valley Farm near Boardman has again landed in trouble with Oregon's water regulators, who have sought a temporary restraining order against the facility for continued wastewater violations.

In January, the Oregon Department of Agriculture levied a civil penalty of more than \$10,000 against the year-old dairy for unauthorized wastewater discharges and failing to maintain adequate manure lagoon capacity.

Subsequent inspections in February found that the dairy continued to violate the terms of its "confined animal feeding operation" permit by allowing lagoons to overflow, according to ODA.

The agency has filed a lawsuit against Greg te Velde, the facility's owner, seeking to stop the dairy from generating wastewater until it complies with permit conditions and proves its wastewater systems are fully functional.

Due to the risks posed by pathogens and nitrate pollution, ODA claims that a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against wastewater production are necessary to protect the environment and human health.

Lost Valley Farm opposed the agency's request, arguing that such a temporary restraining order would effectively "shut down its dairy operation" since it's not possible to sanitize equipment, clean barns and maintain cows without generating wastewater.

"As a result of the above consequences, See DAIRY/8A

Port of Morrow general manager to retire after nearly 30 years



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Port of Morrow general manager Gary Neal has announced his plans to retire at the end of the year.

Neal's final year

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

As the Port of Morrow's footprint expands, manager Gary Neal's successor will have some big shoes to fill.

"Since 2007, we've had pretty constant, pretty active growth in a sizable way," Neal said.

Neal has been a big part of that growth since he took the helm in Boardman in 1989. He will retire

More inside

Morrow County Grain Growers breaks ground on \$15-\$20M terminal. Page 3A

in December 2018, just shy of 30 years in the position at what is now the second largest port in the state.

Neal said he was approached about a job at the Port of Morrow when he was the manager at the Port of Clarkston in Washington.

At the time, he said, the Port of Morrow was fairly small, but he was attracted to its potential.

"There's a freeway, railroad mainlines, a transportation grid, irrigated agriculture," he said. "It was just — we can do more with these products than just grow and ship. We can do value added. There were a lot of pieces of the puzzle, and it looked like a good opportunity to figure that out."

See NEAL/7A

"He took sand and sage-brush and turned it into the second largest port in the state."

— Greg Smith, state representative and former Port of Morrow employee

PENDLETON

Pot tax revenue for potholes?

Council considers how to spend \$200,000

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

As the city starts to collect thousands of dollars from taxes on recreational marijuana sales, the Pendleton City Council's interest in how to spend the money is starting to bud.

At a city council workshop Tuesday, City Manager Robb Corbett said the city is projecting to generate \$203,367 in marijuana revenue in the 2018 calendar year and he wants direction on how it should be spent.

The idea that gained the most traction was Mayor John Turner's proposal to spend 50 percent of revenue on street maintenance and repair, or "pot for potholes" as Councilor Paul Chalmers referred to it. The council is currently trying to figure out how to increase its road repair budget from \$781,000 to \$1.2 million, which would stop street conditions from eroding further. Turner said that some of the marijuana money could help in that area.

While Turner's was the most popular, other councilors pitched their own ideas.

Chalmers suggested the council put half of marijuana tax revenue toward a fund that would provide replacements for capital expenses.

When it came to city vehicles breaking down or equipment failing, Chalmers said the city was often reactive instead of budgeting for their eventual replacement.

Councilor Scott Fairley wants to save the money while the council gets a better hold of their longterm budget outlook.

Fairley pointed to a projected decrease in the beginning fund balance, the money the city uses to cover operating expenses between the start of the fiscal year in July and getting property tax revenue in November.

City staff is projecting the beginning fund balance will fall from \$3 million in the 2018-2019 fiscal year to \$1.8 million in

See POTHOLE/8A

PENDLETON

Theft charges pending for former Tonya's House director

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Umatilla County grand jury indicted the former director of the Pendleton nonprofit Tonya's House for stealing more than \$10,000 from the organization.

Shawn Elizabeth MacGregor, 56, of Pendleton, goes to court Tuesday for an arraignment on charges of one count of first-degree aggravated theft, seven of first-degree theft and one of second-degree theft.

MacGregor is now a health educator at Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She did not immediately return a phone message Wednesday.

Tonya's House provided temporary shelter and care to teen girls in crisis. The nonprofit closed in May 2017. Casey White-Zollman chaired the Tonya's House board of directors. She said at

See THEFT/7A



MacGregor

