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'This was like a war'

Witnesses remember day Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed

By **ADRIAN SAINZ**
and **KRISTIN M. HALL**
Associated Press

Clara Ester's eyes were fixed on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as he stood on the concrete balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

King was in Memphis to support a sanitation workers' strike, and Ester, a college student, had been marching alongside the strikers as they sought better pay and working conditions. She and some friends had gone to the motel for a catfish dinner when she saw King chatting happily, not far from where she stood.

Then Ester heard the shot. It was 6:01 p.m. on April 4, 1968.

"I'm still looking at him," Ester recalled. "He looked like he was lifted up and thrown back on the pavement. Next thing I remember, I was stepping over his body, and I'm noticing that he's struggling for air."

King's death changed the world and altered the lives of those who lived through it. Some would spend the rest of their lives fighting for racial equality and economic justice. Others, including Ester, would struggle to come to terms with what they saw.

See **KING/8A**



AP Photo/
Charles Kelly
**Dr.
Martin
Luther
King Jr.**

King's work led the way for future generations

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

For John Carbage of Hermiston, remembering the untimely death of Martin Luther King Jr. is personal.

Carbage, president of the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Club, didn't have a chance to get to know the civil rights icon personally. But as a black man who grew up in Arkansas, he credits King with changing the America he grew up in for the better.

"I wouldn't be in the place I am today," he said. "He opened the door for us to have better-paying jobs, better housing, better education."

While many think of the civil rights movement in terms of desegregation of schools and buses, King also fought against economic inequality and worked to combat housing discrimination and poverty. When he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, he was in Memphis to support a strike by sanitation workers for higher wages and better working conditions.

See **WORK/8A**

Demonstrators, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stream over an Alabama River bridge at the city limits of Selma, Ala., during a voter rights march on March 10, 1965. King's participation in the 54-mile march from Selma, Ala., to the state capital of Montgomery elevated awareness about the troubles blacks faced in registering to vote.

AP Photo/File



PENDLETON

Burnswell withdraws pot grow application

Rezone denied for
another marijuana
operation

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The local battle over cannabis didn't end when Oregon voters legalized it in 2014 or when Pendleton voters approved selling it in 2016.

Instead, the battle has shifted to the Pendleton City Council and the Pendleton Planning Commission meetings, where marijuana businesses and residents spar over land use laws and how they apply to the town's growing crop of cannabis dispensaries and farms.

The latest conflict was set to take place at a Tuesday meeting, where the council would decide whether to approve a conditional use permit for Burnswell Family Farms, a proposed Highway 11 marijuana grow that would take the place of the old Riverside Nursery.

The Burnswell application has been bouncing between the planning commission and the council since August and has been subject to appeals from both the applicant and its opposition.

Although he said he was confident he could win approval, Burnswell co-owner Brandon Krenzler withdrew the application Monday.

Also a co-owner of the Kind Leaf Pendleton marijuana dispensary, Krenzler said his company's business model was changing and the owners didn't want to be tied to a land use that didn't encompass their new ideas.

Krenzler said he still intends to use the land for something, but declined to share the owners' plans beyond an assurance that it would be a "better, more efficient" use for the property.

He said he wasn't frustrated that a resident appealed the planning commission's Dec. 28 decision to approve the Burnswell application, adding that it was commonplace for people to object to marijuana developments and he has grown used to it.

The Pendleton resident who appealed the planning commission decision was Bonnie Bischke, although she isn't one of the homes or businesses located near the property.

See **POT GROW/7A**

April means spring cleaning for Hermiston

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

It's spring cleaning month in Hermiston.

"Clean-sweep" events over the course of the next three weeks offer opportunities to get rid of junk, weeds and litter community-wide before code enforcement takes notice.

"We have three components, none of which are new, but they're enhanced," parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said.

The first is Sanitary Disposal's clean-up week, which runs April 1-7. Umatilla County residents can dump loads up to 454.5 pounds and 2.5 cubic yards for free, excluding tires. Cash customers can receive \$14 off larger loads. The loads can

be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

The transfer station is located two miles north of Hermiston at 81144 N. Highway 395. For more information, call Sanitary Disposal at 541-567-8842.

For recyclable items, all Umatilla County residents can take advantage of the city's free recycling event Saturday, April 14 in the Umatilla Electric Cooperative parking lot at 750 W. Elm Avenue.

"We're taking all the standard recyclable items we've taken in the past, the bulk of which are tires," Fetter said.

This year, however, tires do not

See **HERMISTON/7A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Garbage lays underneath a tree in an open lot off Southeast Fourth and East Tamarack on Tuesday in Hermiston. It's part of the area targeted for cleanup this month.

