

The sun sets over Eastern Oregon on Monday from the foothills of the Blue Mountains east of Pendleton.  
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

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## PENDLETON

# Officials hope drones can lift airport out of debt

### \$25 million investment planned at new UAS industrial park

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

On the heels of a long-term, plan-altering work session, top Pendleton city officials discussed their vision for the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport industrial area. And their view is that millions of dollars in new investment are needed at the indebted airport and its planned industrial park.

At a May 29 work session, staff reported to the Pend-

leton City Council that the city was in the running for a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to help establish new development at the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range.

While the city would match the grant with \$3 million of its own, staff estimated it would take a total of \$25.4 million to extend utilities to the UAS park, as well as build a reservoir and booster station to increase water flow

to the site.

Although the Airport Road extension is less than a decade old and was paid for with a temporary 4-cent gas tax, staff told the council that the city should prioritize the UAS industrial park instead of the property off Airport Road, which would still need additional investment before it would be shovel ready.

The council took the first step in prioritizing the UAS park by approving a \$356,359 booster station and a reser-

voir design at a meeting on Tuesday.

At a meeting with the *East Oregonian* editorial board Wednesday, Steve Chrisman, economic development director and airport manager, made the case that the UAS range is doing enough business that it requires the millions in new investment.

The federal grant would help build new hangars at the airport, and Chrisman said

See **DRONES/3A**

Excavation is underway at the west end of the tarmac in this May 1 file image of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.  
EO file photo



# Brothers die after raft hits river rock

### Father tried to save sons on Wallowa County trip

By **SHANE DIXON CAVANAUGH**  
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Cash Troyer dreamed of getting his pilot's license one day.

His younger brother Grady longed to score goals on the soccer field.

The two young siblings, 9 and 7, died during a weekend rafting trip with their father on the Grande Ronde River in Wallowa County, police and family said.

Clinton Troyer fought frigid waters and a swift current in an attempt to rescue his boys after they were launched from the vessel, authorities said.

The tragedy occurred near the end of one of the many outdoor adventures the three shared together through the wilds of northeastern Oregon.

"Dad loved those little boys with every ounce of his being," their older sister Remington Frazier, 22, told *The Oregonian/OregonLive* in an interview Tuesday.

Cash was a third-grader at Payette Primary School in Payette, Idaho, where he lived with his and Remington's mother Toiresa Frazier, the sister said.

Grady lived with their father and his mom, Brooke Neal-Troyer. He attended Imbler Elementary School outside La Grande, where his last day of first grade was Friday, according to Frazier.

See **BROTHERS/6A**

"TRUMP" and "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" are engraved on a gun grip at the Crosshair Customs booth on March 10 at the Pendleton Gun Show at the Pendleton Convention Center. A group will try to collect enough signatures to get a Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance on the ballot in Umatilla County, which would direct county government to not spend county resources enforcing any gun ownership laws the county sheriff deems unconstitutional.  
EO file photo



# Second Amendment advocates launch local initiative petition

### Umatilla County group models petition after ones passed in other counties

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

The Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance movement has come to Umatilla County.

Gun rights advocates are collecting signatures to get an initiative on the November ballot that would restrict Umatilla County from using any resources to enforce state or federal laws that will "infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms." The initiative designates the county sheriff as the authority to decide which state or federal laws meet the definition of

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unconstitutionally infringing on those rights.

Umatilla County's chief petitioners are Jesse Bonifer of Athena and Kevin Pettey of Hermiston, but Bonifer said similar efforts to pass an ordinance with matching language are taking place in counties around the state. Four — Wallowa, Coos, Curry and Wheeler counties — already have passed a Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance through their county board of commissioners or, in Coos County's case, via ballot initiative.

"This is a firewall for anyone com-

See **PETITION/6A**

