



EAST OREGONIAN

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142nd Year, No. 168 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

PENDLETON

Bankruptcy filing stalls Hamley auction

Co-owner Woodfield severs partnership before date of sale

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The auction to control Hamley businesses turned into a no-ride. For the time being.

The Hamley western store, cafe and steakhouse are fixtures of Pendleton's downtown. Hamley owners Parley Pearce and Blair Woodfield are battling each other in court over the future

of the businesses. HIPO, an Idaho limited-liability company, bought about \$1.4 million of Hamley debt earlier this year and planned to auction the memberships that

control the business entities Monday in Portland to recoup that expense. But Woodfield on Friday filed for bankruptcy protection, effectively blocking the sale. "I needed to stop the sale because of the need to protect my interests, so I filed

Chapter 11 reorganization," he said, "and it's a personal Chapter 11 reorganization." Woodfield on his filing lists the HIPO debt, \$1.5 million to Banner Bank and almost \$3.7 million to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, which provided the loan for the Hamley steakhouse more than a decade ago. Woodfield said he and Pearce personally guaranteed the debts and owe them jointly and separately.

See HAMLEY/6A

HERMISTON



Erik Navarrete Campos

Homicide inquiry begins in shooting

East Oregonian

Erik Navarrete Campos, 26, was taken off life support Friday night and died soon after at Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland, Wash.

An autopsy determined the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head, and police are investigating the shooting as a homicide, according to Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston.

Police responded to the residence of Navarrete Campos in the 500 block of Hartley Avenue in Hermiston about 1:20 a.m. on June 4 after a report of gunshots and found Navarrete Campos injured. He was taken to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Wash.

Police have not released additional information about suspects or the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Navarrete Campos's family and friends held two car washes over the weekend to help raise money for his medical expenses and have set up a GoFundMe page online. He was a lifelong Hermiston resident.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The fire charred hallway on the west end of the Hermiston Adventist Church on Monday in Hermiston. An early morning fire gutted the building Sunday morning.

Lamp blamed for church fire

Hermiston congregation will move to school while considering options

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

A fire early Sunday morning destroyed much of the Hermiston Adventist Church, as flames and extensive smoke damaged the decades-old house of worship.

Umatilla County Fire District Marshal Scott Goff said investigators think the fire was caused by a lamp that was too close to a wooden table. Foul play is not suspected.

"It was a long, slow, smoldering fire that kind of cooked the whole building," Goff said.

As flames engulfed the west side of the building before dawn on Sunday, some church members were quick to jump to action.

Larry Hanson, a former head elder in the church, helped fight the fire as a volunteer for the Echo Fire Department.

"It's kind of hard to say how long it had been burning," Hanson said.

He arrived around 5:15 a.m., close to an hour after UCFD reached the church, and remained on site until about 9 a.m.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Flames erupted out of these doors on the west end of the Hermiston Adventist Church on Sunday in Hermiston.

Hanson, a longtime member of the church, said the building was constructed in the mid-1960s. Hanson said on Monday that they wouldn't know the extent of the damage until an insurance adjuster arrived Tuesday.

Goff said he estimated the damage at \$3 million. Hanson said the church's insurance would cover those costs.

While the building is under repair, he

See FIRE/6A

PENDLETON

Administrators try to break trend of slow enrollment decline

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton School District is losing more students than it's taking in, and in many instances, there's little the district can do about it.

On Monday, district staff presented the Pendleton School Board with a "mobility report," a set of

data that showed how many children enrolled in the district in a school year versus how many left. It also included information about why students left.

The report shows that out of the 266 students who dropped out of the district over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, 57 percent moved out of town.

Another 21 percent unenrolled automatically because they missed 10 straight days of school and 12 percent transferred to another school district. Much smaller percentages graduated early, entered a treatment program, started home school, went through an expulsion or left for an extended vacation before the last day of school.

The figures for total new enrollment appear to show the district making up for lost students with some new ones, but an overall drop in students is backed up by the district's enrollment reports.

The 2,973 students enrolled in June was a 27-student decrease

See SCHOOL/6A



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