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EAST OREGONIAN

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MILTON-FREEWATER



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Gib Olinger Elementary School is the first new school to open in Milton-Freewater since 1922.

Gib Olinger is a GO

New elementary school gets ready to open on Sept. 4

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Rob Clark's favorite room in Gib Olinger Elementary School is in the third grade section on the second floor.

Clark, the superintendent of the Milton-Freewater Unified School District, peered through the classroom's window to the softball fields that now encompass the east end of campus.

"I told the teacher that she can't sell tickets when the weather gets yucky in March," the self-described "sports guy" said.

Clark led a tour through Friday afternoon, just hours before he would help cut the ribbon on the district's first new school in nearly a century.

During the tour, Clark took a call from representatives from the Valley Foundation, the nonprofit that offered \$20 million if the district passed a bond.

Voters complied, and combined with a grant from the state, the district raised \$31.5 million to build Gib Olinger and renovate the rest of the district's aging schools.

That eight figure sum allowed the district to not only build the school, but



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Milton-Freewater Superintendent Rob Clark looks out the expansive library windows Friday at Gib Olinger Elementary School, the city's first new school in almost 100 years.

stock it with the latest technology.

Clark said Gib Olinger is the first school in the Pacific Northwest that has a large interactive touchscreen in each room.

Resembling a large flat screen TV, Clark said teachers can write out a problem on the touchscreen and then bring it to the students so they can solve it themselves. Clark compared it to a

commentator using a telestrator on a football broadcast to map out a play.

During the design process, Clark said district staff traveled to Pendleton, Hermiston and the Tri-Cities, where they could take note of schools that were built in the past decade and get a sense of what they did right and wrong.

See OLINGER/12A

New law allowed 42 gun seizures

Two local protection orders filed by family, law enforcement

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton police in February learned about Oregon's new law to take weapons from citizens who are a serious threat to harm themselves or others. Sgt. Tyler Reddington used that law on March 27 to obtain an extreme risk protection order after questioning a man he arrested.

"He was going to shoot his boss," Reddington said. "That was of course by his own admission."

Reddington and other officers responded that day to a disturbance on the 1700 block of Southwest Third Street. According to the police report, the man said he tucked his .22 caliber handgun into his waistband and was heading out to kill the boss who just fired him. His sister confronted him outside their home. He threatened to kill her if she didn't get out of his way.

She grabbed the car keys from her brother, bolted for the door and hid the keys in the house. She took off in her car for the safety.

The man told police the clash with his sister made him change his mind, so he hid the gun in the storage shed in the back yard. Police took the gun, which was loaded and had a round in the chamber.

Reddington arrested the man for disorderly conduct, unlawful use of a weapon and menacing. During the interview with police, the report states, the man said he only threatened to shoot his sister because he was angry, but he would not have done it.

He was serious about shooting his boss.

Reddington said two elements factored into his reason for seeking the protection order. First, the man told police he shot at people when he was a juvenile living in Portland. Police were not able to verify that, perhaps due to the difficulty accessing juvenile records.

See GUNS/12A

Jobs plentiful, candidates 'scarce' locally

Regional employers have difficulty keeping lower-wage positions filled

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

On Wednesday, Wildhorse Casino and Resort sent out a press release that would have been unfathomable 10 years ago: dozens of jobs are available and Wildhorse and the rest of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation was having trouble filling them.

In a press releases entitled "Jobs plentiful, candidates scarce," Wildhorse states that the low unemployment rate "translates to headaches for recruiters and business owners in Mission, Pendleton, and across the country."

At more than 1,700 employees, the CTUIR is the second largest employer in Umatilla County, which is currently sporting a 4.5 percent unemployment rate.

According to the press release, the CTUIR and its various enterprises had 66 job vacancies as of mid-August, ranging from bus drivers to archaeologists.

In a statement, Wildhorse employment manager Dorothy Cyr said passing a background check can be a barrier for some candidates while also pointing to local housing

See JOBS/12A

BOARDMAN

Judge rules Lost Valley dairy can continue operating

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

A controversial Boardman dairy will not be shut down despite violating a settlement agreement with farm regulators over wastewater management.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Kelly Skye has accepted attorneys for the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Lost Valley Farm to come up with less drastic remedies that will get the facility into regulatory compliance.

"I'm not inclined to order an immediate shutdown of wastewater," Skye said at a court hearing in Portland on Friday.

However, the judge did find that Greg te Velde, the dairy's owner, had willfully violated his deal with ODA to maintain enough wastewater storage capacity.

As a "lifelong dairyman," te Velde "should know what it takes to get his dairy into compliance" with regulations, Skye said.

A follow-up hearing on reme-

diaries for the violation has been scheduled for Aug. 30.

Oregon farm regulators had asked a judge to order Lost Valley to stop generating wastewater, which would effectively shut down the facility.

During the court hearing, the former farm manager of Lost Valley Farm testified that he quit on moral grounds after being asked to unlawfully spread wastewater to a field.

Jedediah Aylett said he

See DAIRY/12A



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