

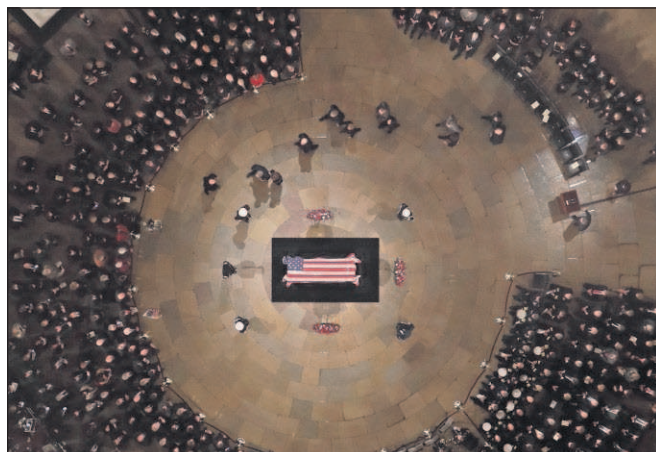
EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

143rd Year, No. 34

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Pool photo by Morry Gash via AP
Members of the Bush family walk past as former President George H. W. Bush lies in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on Monday in Washington.

More inside

President George H.W. Bush remembered as a 'gentle soul' and a 'great man'. Page 11A

Post offices to close for national day of mourning

Newspaper delivery delayed until Thursday

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The United States Postal Service is suspending operations Wednesday in remembrance of former President George H.W. Bush. The shutdown means post offices will close and not deliver mail that day.

The *East Oregonian* and

other papers rely on the Postal Service for delivery to subscribers. That delivery will not occur Wednesday, but the edition will be available on newsstands and on the e-edition at eastoregonian.com, and will be mailed on Thursday.

Bush died Friday at the age of 94. President Donald Trump signed an executive order Saturday directing federal departments and agencies to close Wednesday "as a mark of respect for George Herbert Walker Bush, the forty-first President of the United States."

The Postal Service on Monday announced it would "suspend regular mail deliveries, retail services and administrative office activity" out of respect for Bush's "vast contributions to our country" and because

of the proclamation. Kerry Schwartz, postmaster in Pendleton, said this was a national day of mourning. She referred questions to Postal Service's communications office, where Rod Spurgeon stated, "Regular mail deliveries, retail services, and administrative activity are suspended on Dec. 5," and provided the corporation's statement.

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See MOURNING/12A

Head of prison replaced following inquiry

Amsberry out, Washburn in at EOCI

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution has a new superintendent.

Sue Washburn begins her new role on Monday, according to Colette Peters, director of the Oregon Department of Corrections.

Current superintendent Brigitte Amsberry will retire at the end of the month under a cloud. Amsberry, who took the helm at EOCI in July of 2017, was placed on leave in early September and until recently was the subject of an internal human resources investigation. In addition, interim Superintendent Richard McGraw is also under investigation.

Washburn's corrections career started in 2005 when she was hired as human resources manager at the Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla and later became TRCI's food services manager, and then acting assistant superintendent of general services. Most recently, she served as superintendent at Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City. The minimum security facility has a capacity

See PRISON/12A

PENDLETON

Radiation center plans unveiled



Photo courtesy of Radiation Business Solutions

The new radiation oncology center in Pendleton will have a linear accelerator, which uses X-rays to destroy cancer cells.

Cancer treatment clinic buys land to develop near St. Anthony

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Getting diagnosed with cancer won't get any easier, but getting radiation treatment is set to become more accessible for residents of Pendleton and the surrounding area.

Through its development company RBS Evolution, Radiation Business Solutions announced it plans to open a radiation oncology center in 2019.

The Joelton, Tennessee, company already operates three oncology centers in Alaska and Oklahoma, specializing in rural areas where access to radiation therapy isn't readily available. In an area where many cancer patients have



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Radiation Business Solutions announced it plans to open a radiation oncology center in this lot adjacent to St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

to travel to Walla Walla, Tri-Cities or further for treatment, RBS thought Pendleton was a good candidate for its services.

Although RBS has no facilities in the Northwest, President Greg Merrill said the company has connections to the region through

its other services, like billing for other oncology practices.

Merrill said RBS is in negotiations to hire an oncologist to staff the center, and it expects to make a hire within the next few months.

After a year of research and planning, RBS bought a nearly 2-acre lot on Southwest 24th Street across from Rice Blakey Park.

The oncology center is being planned within close proximity to St. Anthony Hospital, and Merrill said RBS has been in discussions with hospital officials on how to collaborate with each other.

Merrill said St. Anthony will still offer medical oncology services like chemotherapy infusions, and RBS will make use of the hospital's imaging equipment.

St. Anthony President Harry Geller said the hospital and RBS

See CLINIC/12A

Sharpshooter unit training for quick response

Umatilla County Sheriff's Office puts together four-man team

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is developing a team of sharpshooters.

Sheriff Terry Rowan said the

"designated marksman program" is new but aims to fill a crucial need for crack shot officers who can respond to local crises.

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association pushed the initiative this year, Rowan explained, for sheriffs to develop teams with sharpshooting skills.

"There has been a little bit bigger push to create these regional specialized teams," Rowan said.

Beyond having interests in such a program, he said, the key was for agencies that could equip and train officers. Rowan, who serves on the association's executive committee, said Umatilla County could handle it.

The team consists of four members: Capt. Stewart Harp, Lt. Thoren Hearn, detective Erik Palmer and retired court security officer Cliff Pease, who also has a

military background. The sheriff's office has not made a public splash about the program. But Wednesday, Hearn approached the county board of commissioners for approval to purchase 16,000 rounds of ammunition for \$8,021.50. He said the bulk purchase would provide ammo for training, on-duty deputies and the designated marksman program.

See SHARPSHOOTER/12A



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