

**ROUND-UP HOSTS NATIONAL ANTHEM TRYOUTS**

REGION, A3

**COUPLE FINDS LOVE AND SECOND CAREER AS RESTAURATEURS**

LIFESTYLES, C1

**PILOT ROCK HIRES THREE COACHES FOR FOUR PROGRAMS**

SPORTS, B1



WEEKEND EDITION

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**Ambulance service up to voters**

Fate of higher tax rate for ambulance services to be determined Nov. 5

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — Voters in and around Milton-Freewater get to decide if they want to support ambulance service at a higher tax rate.

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing Friday morning in the small town's library to consider putting the matter on the November ballot. The ambulance district was seeking to increase its taxing rate to \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value but district board members asked the commissioners to go with \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which would generate \$736,000 a year.

"We have tried to crunch the numbers as much as we could," district treasurer George White said.

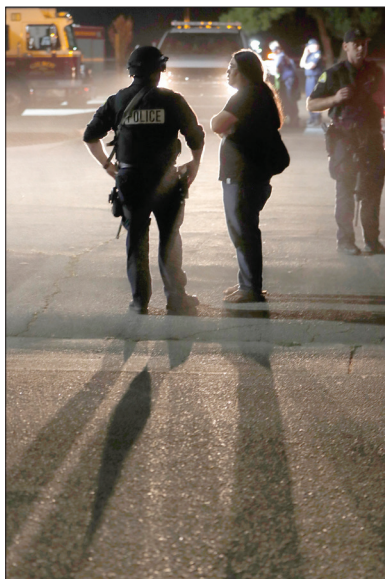
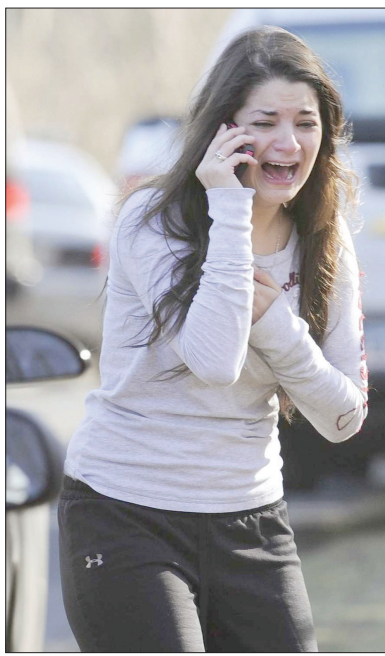
Property owners in the area now pay a rate of 25 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value to the ambulance service district, generating annual revenue of about \$137,000. The district then pays Milton-Freewater Emergency Medical Service, a private company, for ambulance service.

The \$1.10 rate means banking on the Milton-Freewater area growing at 3% a year. If that happens, White said, the district would have enough money to buy a new ambulance.

He later said the district has less than \$100,000 for the 2019-20 fiscal year and less than \$50,000 in reserves. When the money runs out, he said, "we're done."

District Vice President Wes Koklich told the commissioners and the 20 or so who attended the meeting that costs continue to climb. Ambulance crews today, he said, need to wear body armor, for example, and

See Ambulance, Page All



**EO SPOTLIGHT**

## Aiming to curb Gun Violence

Law enforcement, lawmakers, school officials offer ideas to curb gun violence

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Barely a day after back-to-back mass shootings rocked the nation, police in Hermiston on Aug. 5 were tracking down who shot and injured two teen boys.

Pendleton police three days later were chasing their own shooting suspect, who ended the pursuit when he shot himself in the head.

The *East Oregonian* and its sister publications in Eastern Oregon reached out to police chiefs, sheriffs, lawmakers, mental health care providers, school officials

and others to ask them to give their ideas for curbing gun violence. We asked them to provide no more than a few hundred words and to stay away from culture issues of violence or legal issues of gun rights.

Not everyone we asked participated. In some cases we accommodated sources who preferred short interviews. We primarily edited responses for length and clarity.

What follows are their ideas.

**Marji Lind**

Clinical director for New Directions Northwest Inc.

One possible idea to help curb gun violence across the country could be to focus on and provide more education and prevention measures

See Violence, Page All



AP file photos  
Active shooter incidents have clogged the news feeds in the last several years, including incidents in Florida, North Carolina, Maryland, California, Connecticut, Oregon, Texas, Ohio, Virginia and Nevada.

## Old schoolhouse gets first business

Former Pilot Rock Public School undergoing transformation

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Janelle Hampton has a folksy metaphor for the ongoing renovation of the old Pilot Rock Public School.

"She got her new hat last year and her new coat this year," she said.

Hampton and a team of volunteers and hired help spent Thursday afternoon putting a new coat of paint to the 114-year-old building.

Hampton and her husband, a Pilot Rock native, bought the old schoolhouse with the idea of restoring the Highway 395 building, which had fallen into disuse.

Last October, the couple hired a crew to replace the roof and used the opportunity to hold an open house, inviting former students to share their memories and memorabilia from before the school's closure in 1962.

See School, Page All



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan  
A fresh coat of paint is applied to the old Pilot Rock Public School building on Highway 395 in Pilot Rock.

