

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

136th Year, No. 23

WINNER OF THE 2011 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

75 cents

## BOARDMAN



Staff photo by Anna Willard

One person was killed after rolling a 2008 Toyota Tundra and crashing into a power pole on Interstate 84 at Milepost 166.

## Crash kills man, cuts electricity

By ANNA WILLARD  
East Oregonian

A Pasco, Wash., man is dead after crashing a 2008 Toyota Tundra into a power pole at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday on westbound Interstate 84 near Milepost 166 in Morrow County.

The victim was Cory Melvin Savage, 35, of Pasco, Wash., said Oregon State Police Sgt. Dan Swift.

The crash also knocked out power to 3,217 Umatilla Electric Cooperative members in parts of Boardman and Irrigon and the surrounding countryside, said Steve Meyers, member services administrator for the cooperative.

Savage rear-ended a 2011 Chevrolet van while traveling east on Highway 730 about a quarter mile from Interstate 84, said police Trooper Mark Amos.

No one was injured in the crash on Highway 730, Amos said.

Police said Savage fled the scene and continued west onto the interstate.

No one was pursuing Savage when he left the scene of the hit and run, Swift said.

Witnesses told state police the pickup passed a semi-trailer and came back to the right lane. Savage tried to get off the road, hit the shoulder, rolled more than once and slid into the power pole with the driver's side door, Amos said.

The front passenger's side tire and wheel were damaged from the crash on Highway 730. Savage was pronounced dead on the scene, Amos said.

The pole held a 115-kilovolt transmission line; the cooperative restored power at 3:04 p.m., according to a cooperative press release.

The Oregon Department of Transportation reported Wednesday evening traffic on I-84 had been reopened to two-lane traffic. The Boardman rest areas were also reopened after being closed due to the power outage.



Contributed photos

Karen King (left) and Robin Alexander, both of Pendleton, were featured in a campaign to promote cancer screenings.

## Saved by a screen



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

KOHU radio personality Jeff Walker (left) talks with Bryan Wolfe while recording a public service announcement about colorectal cancer awareness at the radio station in Hermiston.

## Eastern Oregon's rate of colorectal cancer is high

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

Bryan Wolfe leaned forward in his chair and focused on the microphone a foot from his nose.

Wolfe, a farmer in faded jeans and scuffed boots, had abandoned his cornfields to drive to the radio station and record a public service announcement about colorectal cancer. When KOHU announcer Jeff Walker signaled, Wolfe started speaking.

"This is Bryan Wolfe of Her-

miston, Oregon," he said, his voice flowing deep. "Getting screened saved my life."

Wolfe meant colorectal screening used to detect cancers of the colon or rectum. It's not the sexiest subject, Wolfe knows, but studies show more screening translates into saving lives — lots of lives. Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest cancer in both Oregon and the U.S. Lung and bronchial cancer leads the list; breast cancer is third.

Wolfe and two other local spokespeople — Robin

Alexander and Karen King, both of Pendleton — are putting a human face on a public health campaign aimed at convincing people aged 50 and older to seek screening. The Oregon Health Authority focused on Morrow and Umatilla counties after the two experienced higher than average rates, both in incidence and deaths, from colorectal cancer.

Public health advertisements and brochures will

See SCREEN/8A

### When to get screened

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, begin screening for colorectal cancer after turning 50. Screen earlier if a close relative had polyps or colorectal cancer or if you've had inflammatory bowel disease or certain genetic syndromes.

## VETERANS WEEK 2011

### Vietnam veteran thrust into history

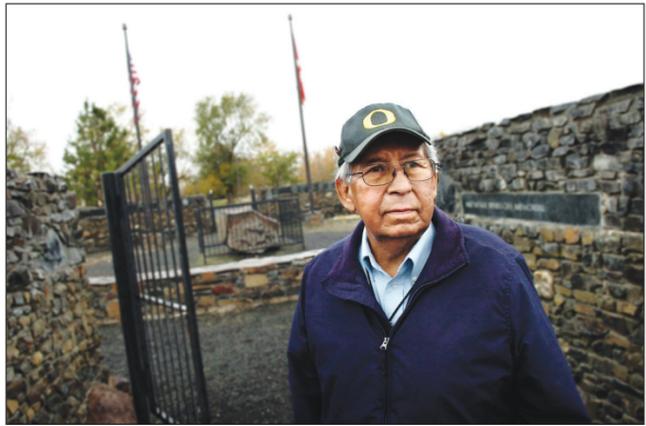
By SAMANTHA TIPLER  
East Oregonian

On Friday, Vietnam War veteran Bob Shippentower wants people to take time to remember.

"Recognize the sacrifices so many men and women have made for the greater good of our community and our country," he said. "I also ask all of us to remember those veterans who suffer from unseen scars from psychological trauma."

Shippentower, 65, during his year with the U.S. Army in Vietnam earned two Purple Hearts, one during the Tet Offensive in January 1968, he said.

"It was a situation we were called into as a draftee but I believe we all met our duties as



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Bob Shippentower earned two Purple Hearts in the Army during the Vietnam war.

we were expected to do," Shippentower said. "Basically, we were just doing our duty. I don't know how else to describe it. At that age, we didn't know about history."

He and the other soldiers he served with became a part of history. Large geopolitical and

historical forces — forces beyond their control — were pushing them toward their destinies, he said.

In 1967 at age 19, Shippentower, a graduate of Pendleton High School attending Blue

See SHIPPENTOWER/8A

## PENDLETON

### Pearce not likely to run for council next year

East Oregonian

City Councilman Justin Pearce is no longer employed at St. Anthony Hospital and is not likely to seek reelection next year.

The 36-year-old at-large councilman said he's mulling a move to Spokane, Wash., where he has majority ownership in a strip mall.

"Pendleton is a nice community but there's not a tremendous amount of growth, and where I'm at in the city council and in health care, I've concluded there's not going to be a lot of growth," he said this morning.

"Unfortunately, Pendleton and this area don't hold much opportunity for young professionals," he added.

St. Anthony Hospital communications director Larry Blanc on Wednesday said Pearce, director of medical staff development and practice man-

agement, was no longer employed at the hospital. Pearce took that job in 2008, Blanc said.

"At this time, we have no other particulars or information," he said.

Pearce had little to say, either, regarding the circumstances of his departure from the hospital.

"You know, I really can't. There's some things undetermined," he said.

He said he's also considering how active he'll remain on city council in the coming year.

He said he intends to divide his time between the city and his \$2-million project to develop his commercial property in Spokane. He cited the cost to hire a property manager as one factor in considering a move to Washington.

"The city council position has a little more limelight than I

See PEARCE/8A



Pearce

INSIDE:

Classified.....3B  
Comics.....5B  
Lotteries.....5AObituaries.....5A  
Opinion.....4A  
Public Safety Log..5ARegion.....3A  
Sports.....1B  
Weather.....2A2 SECTIONS  
14 PAGESFORECAST  
Friday  
High 54  
Low 36

# U.S. soldier retraces Afghan steps of dead brother

By DAVID GOLDMAN  
The Associated Press

ASMAR, Afghanistan — The mountainside is steep and large boulders up the slope provide perfect cover for insurgents. It's been a frequent spot for roadside bomb attacks on passing convoys.

Andrew Ferrara has come a long way to take this path. His immediate mission, as he leads his U.S. Army platoon up the mountain, is to find a trigger point from which insurgents set off the bombs. It's a treacherous climb. Several of his soldiers slip and nearly fall on the sliding gravel and loose rock.

But the 24-year-old 2nd lieutenant from California has a broader goal in being here. Here is where he can forge a bond with his older brother Matthew, who was killed in the same rugged mountains of Afghanistan's Kunar province while leading a platoon of his own four years ago.

"I know that my brother was walking the hills 10 miles from here," said Andrew, who now has his brother's initials "MCF" and date of his death tattooed on his left rib cage, the area where the bullet that killed Matthew left his body.

"You look around here and you



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Matthew Ferrara (left) was killed Nov. 9, 2007 in an ambush in the village of Aranas in Kunar province, Afghanistan. He is seen along with brothers.

Photo courtesy of Ferrara Family

understand the challenges that he found are similar to the challenges that I'm facing now," he said. "I get outside the trucks and walk up into the mountains and it really puts it in perspective. What kind of person he was, how strong he was and how much heart he had."

But it's more than a matter of experiencing the same geography. Questions over Matthew's death stirred up a swirl of emotions among his family beyond just grief. Guilt, feelings of betrayal and thoughts of revenge, even doubts over the principles that his parents tried to instill throughout their lives. Andrew, the youngest of four brothers and a sister, has been an ambassador for his whole

family, and retracing Matthew's footsteps has provided them not answers, but at least a way to absorb his death.

The date was Nov. 9, 2007. Matthew, a 1st lieutenant, was on his final patrol before moving on to a new assignment. He and his platoon went to the village of Aranas to have one last meeting with local elders he had been dealing with often for the past months. On the way back, they were ambushed. The battle lasted an hour, killing Matthew and five other soldiers. It took two days to retrieve the bodies because of the difficulty of the terrain.

It was in the backyard of the Ferrara family's Torrance, Calif.,

home, that members of Matthew's platoon told his father Mario about that day. Matthew didn't have to go on that patrol, he just wanted to say goodbye to the elders.

From everything he's learned from the platoon members, Mario believes that the reasons for Matthew's death go back to a previous battle, 10 weeks earlier.

In that battle, roughly 100 Taliban led by a local commander named Hazrat Omar attacked Ranch House Outpost, where Matthew was stationed. Matthew and his platoon found themselves locked in fighting with Taliban only 10 yards away, firing small arms and rocket-propelled grenade. During three hours of intense combat, Matthew directed the return of fire, coordinated the evacuation of the wounded and called for airstrikes perilously close to his own position, ultimately repelling a force three times the size of his own.

In the end, Omar and 10 of his fighters were killed. No U.S. soldiers lost their lives. Matthew received the Silver Star, awarded posthumously.

Omar's father is one of the top elders in Aranas. Mario is convinced the village elders with whom his son had long worked

drew him into a trap. Matthew was the first one killed in the ambush as he left Aranas. "They knew who Matt was, they targeted him. They set him up," says Mario.

Now, Mario says: "I'd be going for Hazmat Omar's dad."

"It's an innate rage thing. I can't help it. I know better but I can't help it," he said. "I look at myself and say 'Why can't you practice what you preach?' But it's just there."

Mario and his wife Linda, who run a bakery business, sought to instill in their children that all humanity is one tribe. Growing up in the Ferrara home meant mandatory readings of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" — a tale of the dangers of vengeance — along with teachings from Hinduism's Bhagavad Gita scriptures. Theirs was a self-described "glass-half-full kind of family."

In the wake of Matthew's death, Mario found himself tormented by the thought that after teaching his children the value of trust, his second eldest son may have lost his life in a betrayal of trust.

"The guilt had come from the sense that we had tried to instill in them that people are good, and I felt I had betrayed them," says Mario.

## SCREEN: Only 59 percent of people get screened for colorectal cancer

Continued From 1A

feature Wolfe, Alexander, King and several others from high-risk areas of the state. Hermiston physician Derek Earl also appears in promotion materials.

### Relative life-saver

Wolfe, 67, believes an uncle diagnosed with colon cancer may have saved his life.

"My uncle did me a great favor by encouraging me to get screened," he told his radio audience. "My doctors found and removed polyps in my colon in time to prevent cancer."

Alexander, 47, had a similar story. Colorectal cancer touched her when a family member, also an uncle, died at 63. His death prompted Alexander, benefits manager at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, to shove her squeamish-

ness aside and get screened.

The reward, she said, was peace of mind.

King, 60, bowed to pressure from physicians and finally got screened about five years ago. Colorectal cancer had never affected her family, but passing age 50 is also a risk factor.

"Both my doctors kept bugging me about screening," said King, regulatory specialist for the city of Pendleton. "I thought, 'I don't need that — it's going to be uncomfortable.'"

She finally caved, a good thing, since her surgeon found pre-cancerous polyps.

The numbers say King was wise to undergo screening.

From 1997 to 2006, Oregon had an average of 48.5 new cases and 17.9 deaths per 100,000 people, lower

than Morrow County (65.2 new and 21.8 deaths per 100,000) and Umatilla (53.2 new and 20.8 deaths per 100,000). The numbers are the latest available.

### Habit forming

Janet Jones, educator with Umatilla County Public Health, hopes screening for colon and rectal cancers will become as automatic as mammograms and cervical cancer screening.

"We've gotten the message about screening for breast cancer and cervical cancer," she said, "but only 59 percent of us are screened for colorectal cancer." That compares, she said, an 81 percent rate for mammograms and 82 percent for cervical cancer.

Colorectal cancer can go for years without exhibiting signs. Once symptoms appear, such as bowel obstruction or bleeding, the

cancer often has already become advanced. If colorectal cancer is caught early, however, prognosis is excellent.

So, why does anyone resist screening? Maybe, like King, its squeamishness about the exam, during which a doctor inspects the colon using a fiber-optic cable, tiny light and camera. The technology allows the physician to pinpoint pre-cancerous polyps and remove them immediately.

"It's not the most pleasant test in the world," Wolfe agreed. "But, for the peace of mind it gives you, it's a small price to pay."

In the studio, the recording light blinked off and Wolfe smiled, relieved he hadn't stumbled over the word "colorectal."

With Walker's thumbs up, the recording session ended in one take. Wolfe headed back to his corn.

## Dollhouse, Hot Wheels, blanket join hall of fame

The Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Is Linus jumping for joy?

The blanket, an all-purpose plaything as well as a comfort for generations of thumb-suckers like Charlie Brown's best friend from the "Peanuts" comic-strip, has landed in upstate New York's National Toy Hall of Fame, along with Hot Wheels and the dollhouse.

The trio take their places at The Strong, a children's museum in Rochester, alongside 46 classics ranging from the bicycle, kite and teddy bear to Barbie, Jack-in-the-Box and Mr. Potato Head.

Curators said the blanket was a special addition in the spirit of two earlier inductees, the cardboard box and the stick. They praised its ability to serve either as recreational raw material or an accessory transformed in myriad ways by a child's imagination.

The 13-year-old hall was acquired by the museum in 2002 from A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village in Salem.

Ten other nominees that fell short in 2011 included more than a few heavyweights, including the puppet, the pogo stick and Rubik's Cube.

Longevity is a key criterion for getting into the hall. Each toy must be widely recognized, foster learning, creativity or discovery through play, and endure in popularity over generations.

Trying to create a toy that would be as big a success with boys as Barbie was with girls, Elliot Handler hit upon an idea for miniature die-cast vehicles with sleek designs. Hot Wheels were introduced in 1968 and the brand became a big hit.

Handler, who died in July at age 95, grew Mattel Inc. into the nation's largest toy maker along with his wife, Ruth, who created the Barbie doll in 1959.

The dollhouse evolved from 16th-century "baby houses," wooden cabinets in which wealthy European women displayed their collections of miniature furnishings.

## SHIPPENTOWER: Earned his first Purple Heart for being hit with shrapnel

Continued From 1A

Mountain Community College, was drafted in the Army.

After initial training, Shippentower assigned him to the Ninth Infantry Division operating base camp at Vung Tau, Vietnam, on the Mekong Delta.

Shippentower turned 20 during his year in country. His fellow soldiers, most draftees, were all about his age; their commanding officer, one of the oldest, was 23.

Shippentower described his unit as being "actively engaged with the enemy."

In December 1967 he earned his first Purple Heart when a grenade sent shrapnel at him. After a month in a hospital, Shippentower returned to his unit in mid-January 1968.

At the end of that month, Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces launched the Tet Offensive, a surprise attack on U.S. and allied forces across South Vietnam. Though the communists eventually lost the battle, it was a turning point in the war. During the offensive, Shippentower

was wounded again, this time by small arms fire, earning him a second Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces that are "wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy," according to the Military Order of the Purple Heart website.

Being caught up in the war, Shippentower said he saw many civilian casualties and victims. Later in life, he said, he came to believe the war was unjust, but at the time he was a young soldier doing his duty.

"I believe I matured in a very significant way," Shippentower said. "It gave me more of a sense of responsibility. ... It gave me a deeper insight of myself."

He returned home in 1968 and finished his time in the Army as a non-commissioned officer at Fort McClellan, Ala., training infantry soldiers. He left the Army in 1969 at age 21.

Shippentower later used the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Oregon, where he graduated in 1982. His worked a career

in forestry and at Wildhorse Resort & Casino before being elected to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees as an at-large member. Shippentower is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 922 in Pendleton and a member of the American Legion, George St. Dennis Post 140, on the reservation.

Shippentower said he identifies with the long history of American Indian

warrior culture and military service. He also believes all military members should follow a warriors' code of conduct defined by courage, honesty, integrity and justice.

"It's hard to understand trying to kill each other, but you can live by a code of honor in how you do it," he said. "It's central to everyone's character, whether you're a soldier, an airman, seaman or a Marine — male or female."

**Order Your Favorite Holiday Smoked Turkey!**

Place your order by Nov. 14th!

Great for gifts, parties & gift baskets! Gift certificates available

**E.O.M.S.**  
Eastern Oregon Mobile Slaughter  
541-567-2011  
253 W. Hermiston Avenue, Hermiston

**Letters To Santa**

**KIDS** - e-mail Santa your Christmas wish list to [LettersToSanta@eastoregonian.com](mailto:LettersToSanta@eastoregonian.com). All letters will be forwarded on to Santa in time for Christmas and they will be published in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald's special section on Dec. 24th. Deadline is Dec. 14th!

**Hermiston Herald**  
800-522-0255 EAST OREGONIAN  
211 SE BYERS • PENDLETON  
333 E. MAIN • HERMISTON

## PEARCE: Won't run for second term on city council

Continued From 1A

like," he said.

Pearce said he wants to finish remodeling the home he owns on Gilliam Avenue before he, and his wife, Kristin, consider a permanent move.

He said he talked over his reelection plans several weeks ago with City Councilwoman Becky Marks before weighing against a second run. Pearce was elected to council in 2009, after being appointed to fill Cheryl Marier's seat after her resignation. His current term ends in 2012.

Pearce holds a law degree from University of Idaho and a master of business administration from Washington State University.

**38th Annual FARM FAIR & TRADE SHOW Edition**

To include your business call **1-800-522-0255** by November 6

**EAST OREGONIAN Hermiston Herald**  
PUBLISHES NOVEMBER 26th

**KIDS & CHRISTMAS**

This Section Publishes on Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24th

Deadline: December 13th 3pm

Each greeting will be uniquely designed for your business by our local school children.

Fun for children & readers alike who will enjoy getting a Christmas Greeting from their favorite business and reading letters from Santa!

1/4 Page block - \$125 (20% discount for each additional block)

**Hermiston Herald**  
EAST OREGONIAN

Call Your Sales Representative Today!

Chris	541-966-0812	Linda	541-278-2687
Shane	541-966-0806	Jeanne	541-564-4531
Shane	541-278-2678	Chelle	541-564-4538
Jodi	541-278-2670	Terri	541-564-4530