

SILVER

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an inch wide. "It's like a jackhammer only it's a lot smaller," he said. Most of the polishing, he said, happens before it's engraved. He does that "on a back porch on our house. I have a shop where I do the buffing," he said. "It's really dirty and causes a mess." Mallory also has leather items made that he spruces up with silver. He has headstalls and spur straps made at Ray Wilson Saddlery in Joseph. "He does most of my leatherwork and I just doctor it up," Mallory said.

It's not cheap

Mallory takes pride in his work, and acknowledges that his finished pieces can cost a lot. He said a set of



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Silversmith Don Mallory of Flora shows some of his silver wares at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Christmas bazaar Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, in Enterprise.

spurs go for about \$800 for ones with an overlay and \$1,100 for ones with an inlay, since they require about twice the work. Bits are around the same price. Earrings, he said, go for \$20-\$50 a set. Bracelets start at about \$65, topping

out at about \$150 for one made of 16-gauge sterling silver. Still, he said, it's not a big moneymaker. "I don't make enough off this silver stuff to justify a living," he said. "It's just a hobby."

LOANS

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producers with losses not covered by federal programs," said Megan Kempe, director of policy advocacy for the Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network nonprofit. Farmers with gross incomes of less than \$500,000 will qualify for loans of up to \$125,000 under the bill. The loan money cannot increase their total income beyond 90% of the three-year average they earned in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Due to volatility associated with the coronavirus outbreak, 2020 was excluded from the calculation.

Rep. Jami Cate, R-Lebanon, objected to the limits of \$500,000 on gross income and \$125,000 in loan amounts, arguing that larger farms are still family-owned "mom and pop businesses."

When their expenses are in the millions of dollars, farmers must also have revenues in the millions, Cate said before the House floor vote. "Having bigger farms or

higher-value crops just means you're playing with higher stakes." The rules will be different for "historically disadvantaged" farmers identified by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, which will oversee the program. Historically disadvantaged farmers will qualify for loans of up to \$150,000 if they grossed less than \$350,000 in 2021. The loans can't raise their total income beyond 95% of their three-year average revenue.

The loans will be disbursed by banks under contract with the ODA, which will rely on their experience lending to the farm industry.

"This is a new program unlike anything we've done before," said Jonathan Sandau, special assistant to ODA's director. "This will not be live next week and it will take time to get right."

Farmers who ultimately receive financial help from USDA must repay enough of the loans to bring them below 90-95% of their average annual income.

"Recipients will not be made whole or profitable under this program," Sandau

said during a hearing. The overall \$400 million legislative package focused on housing rental assistance, drought relief measures and Afghan refugee resettlement, among other issues. The forgivable disaster loan program was the largest component of the \$100 million allocated for drought relief.

Lawmakers dedicated more than \$11.6 million to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grants aimed at drought resilience and irrigation modernization. They also allocated \$6 million to several drought-afflicted irrigation districts, \$5 million for grasshopper and cricket suppression and \$8 million for Klamath basin drought assistance, among other programs.

The agriculture industry also stands to benefit from the \$25 million approved for illegal marijuana enforcement, which is meant to reduce water theft and other rural problems. Law enforcement agencies will receive \$20 million in grants to fight unlawful production of marijuana, while \$5 million will go to expand water rights enforcement.

INCOMES

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suffered fewer job losses than its urban centers. That's in large part because they're less reliant on leisure and hospitality jobs that were clobbered by waves of pandemic shutdowns.

Incomes rose fastest in Gilliam and Morrow counties, both up more than 20% last year, and most slowly in Washington and Clackamas counties, up 6%. Incomes in Multnomah County, the state's largest, rose by 8%.

A narrower measure of income, wage growth, shows a similar picture over the past decade. Erik Knoder, regional economist for the Oregon Employment Department, finds that wages grew in every one of the state's counties between 2010 and 2020 by an average rate of 22% — even after accounting for inflation.

The average Oregon worker earned nearly \$60,000 last year, according to Knoder, \$11,000 more than the average worker earned in 2010.

Klamath, Harney and Curry counties reported the slowest growth, between 10% and 12%. Knoder notes that Klamath County lost jobs in the relatively well-paying sectors of manufacturing, finance and professional services.

Growth was fastest in Sherman, Morrow and Hood River counties, ranging from 32% to 56%. Knoder said that construction and manufacturing expended in Sherman and Morrow counties, creating more professional jobs that support that work.

LAWSUIT

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— suggesting there is nothing dam operators can do to meet the target. While the lawsuit does not specifically mention breaching dams, Miller said unachievable temperature standards could be used as a

mechanism to further argue for dam removal.

"I think it gets at the motivation they're going for," he said.

Scientific research into the effect of dams on river temperatures is also mixed. In 2002, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, published a study indicating

dams might actually offer a degree of protection, since it takes longer for larger bodies of water to heat than smaller waterways.

Combined with producing carbon-free electricity, Miller says productive hydroelectric dams should be part of the solution to combating climate change and keeping waters cool for fish.

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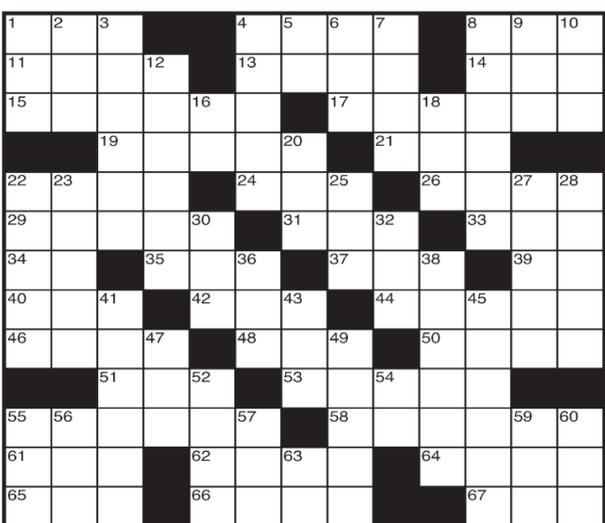
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 - 21 Reporter's query
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 - 2 Gorilla
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Answer to Previous Puzzle



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