



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**FARM CITY PRO  
RODEO KICKS OFF**  
SPORTS/1B

**Whistleblower  
settles with  
Hanford for \$4.1M**  
NORTHWEST/2A

# EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

**PENDLETON**

## City could split street funding

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

Following months of debate, the Pendleton City Council may have coalesced around a way to spend the potential \$1 million the city could get annually from a 5-cent gas tax and a \$5 per month street utility fee.

The council came to a consensus regarding a ratio for street spending at a work session Tuesday: The two new revenue sources would go toward residential streets, with 70 percent reserved for streets in good condition and 30 percent earmarked for poorly rated roads.

The \$300,000 the city currently receives from the state and federal governments would continue to pay for repairs of Pendleton's most traveled streets.

The city council seemed much more receptive to the ratio than city staff's initial proposal, which designated the utility fee for well-maintained streets and the gas tax for roads in bad condition, roughly a 50/50 split.

See **PENDLETON/8A**

## Idaho, Oregon push new way to pay for wildfires

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**  
Associated Press

**BOISE, Idaho** — A bipartisan effort seeking to change the way the country pays to fight disastrous wildfires has been renewed after stalling repeatedly from lawmakers hesitant to approve letting firefighting agencies use dollars meant for natural disaster rather than money set aside for fire prevention.

Over the years, firefighting agencies have been forced to borrow money set aside for forest thinning and other fire prevention projects as wildfire seasons have ballooned in activity and costs.

Republican Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch of Idaho and Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon announced Wednesday that they are getting ready to pitch bipartisan legislation to Congress this fall.

"This is not a partisan issue," Risch said at a news conference at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. "Our eastern and southern

See **WILDFIRES/8A**

## ROCK & ROLL CAMP X



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Max Verdin, 18, of Pendleton warms up on the bass guitar before a recording session in the old Christian Science building during Rock & Roll Camp X on Wednesday in Pendleton.**

## Ten years old and rockin' a new venue

By **JONATHAN BACH**  
East Oregonian

Sophie Arnold gently lifts up her voice in what used to be a church.

The guitar chords are warm, the lyrics somber. The 15-year-old's music, born of what she calls a "personal conflict," rises over maroon carpets with crumbling paint chips, up to a dilapidated stained glass window and into a microphone set up in front of her. Just feet away, camp counselor Levi Cecil of Portland, works the soundboard while others listen.

**"It's all about creating your own stuff, which I think is fun."**

This week marks the tenth anniversary of the Pendleton Center for the Arts Rock & Roll Camp. With that birthday came an addition to the yearly program's operation: space at the old Christian Science church, 13 S.W. Byers Ave., where counselors teach budding teenage musicians about studio recording.

Earlier this week, camp organizers transformed the space into a studio replete with guitars,

— **Malcom Luis, Rock & Roll Camper from Portland**

See **CAMP/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Joseph Olson, 12, of Pendleton plays the drums with councilor Sarah Fennell of Portland during a rhythm class Wednesday at Rock & Roll Camp X in Pendleton.**

**EO AUDIO**  
Pendleton Center for the Arts Rock and Roll campers take over our podcast this week. Have a listen at [www.eastoregonian.com/eo/podcasts](http://www.eastoregonian.com/eo/podcasts)

## Hermiston couple wins fair barbecue contest

By **SEAN HART**  
East Oregonian

Cooking for the entire Hermiston High School football team paid off for a local grilling team.

Mike and Deannie Simon, from team Smokin' Hot & Saucy, placed in all four divisions at the Umatilla County Fair Backyard BBQ Contest Wednesday and took home the top prize of a new grill.

Competing against more than 10 other teams, the couple won the beef division with a tri-tip recipe Mike Simon has had many opportunities to perfect. He said he cooked meals of roughly 100 tri-tips multiple times last year: for several Hermiston football games in the regular season and all of the postseason games.

"I use Spade L seasoning. You can get it basically at any grocery store," he said. "I just a tenderizer and then I smoke it

### BBQ contest winners

**Overall and beef division winner:** Smokin' Hot & Saucy (Mike and Deannie Simon)

**Lamb division winner:** Conestoga (Jeff and Denise Marks)

**Potato division and onion division winner:** Die Hard BBQ (Tim Watts, Bob Crow and Corey Ashbeck)

really heavy for about two hours at 225 (degrees), and it just comes out perfect every time."

Simon said the key to grilling is simplicity. The type of grill used isn't particularly important either, he said. Although he now has several grills, including a four-rack trailer that can cook

See **BBQ/8A**



Staff photo by Sean Hart

**Mike Simon cuts up the tri-tip that won the beef division and helped propel team Smokin' Hot & Saucy to the overall victory in the Umatilla County Fair Backyard BBQ Contest Wednesday.**



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